

\$50 million geared to special education needs

BY TERESA LATCHFORD
Staff Writer

The province is pumping \$50 million into school programs to help students with special needs, it has been announced.

The money will help more quickly assess if a student requires special education and get the help he needs with trained educators.

It comes a little late for some people, however.

"The technology and teaching aids we are now looking at would have helped my son when he was in school," said executive director for the Learning

Disabilities Learning Association-Lynn Ziraldo, who has two children with special needs.

This money will help a great deal of students, she added.

According to Ms Ziraldo, this will eliminate waiting lists for assessment, make it easier to create a universal design across school boards, enhance accountability and get the parents and community involved.

Although the York Region District School Board is unsure how much money will come to the region, Ms Ziraldo is excited about the opportunities.

"We will have the poten-

tial to try different teaching strategies, technology and eliminate any barriers," she said.

This is a chance to get schools, parents and services working together for the student, she added.

Plus, the chance to have psychologists design programs geared for each student's needs and allowing

teachers to enhance professional development will bump up the chance of success, Ms Ziraldo said.

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