

May 15, 2009

Autism Canada Foundation
P.O. Box 366
Bothwell, Ontario, N0P 1C0

Dear Parents & other Stakeholders:

I am writing to clarify some of the information in the May 14, 2009 posting by the Autism Canada Foundation. Parents of children with autism have been asking for good evidence-based clinical decisions that are both transparent and consistent because all children on the autism spectrum deserve effective intervention.

Transition from Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) in Ontario continues to be a clinical decision, which is based on an overall clinical assessment. Treatment is evaluated for its effectiveness. The clinical information used includes changes in a child's learning rate, and changes in autism severity. This use of a range of clinical information is consistent with the standard that clinical directors are held to as registered members of the Ontario College of Psychologists.

The Benchmark Panel worked to create a uniform, transparent, and consistent approach to clinical decision making within IBI treatment programs and benchmarks to ensure that all children on the autism spectrum receive effective, evidence based intervention.

The Panel unequivocally supports the development of a broader continuum of both comprehensive and skill-focused service models that use Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and other evidence-based interventions to meet the service needs of all children on the autism spectrum.

The benchmarks have not been implemented anywhere in the province and it is our understanding that the Ministry is carefully reviewing the Clinical Practice Guidelines (2007) and the Benchmark Development Report (2008). The full report and the benchmarks can be found at www.autismontario.com.



Dr. Nancy Freeman, C. Psych.

Chair, Benchmark Panel