

## Public Messaging for the ASD Diagnostic Hubs regarding the extension of the hubs for 2018-19:

- Diagnosing children earlier and more quickly is critical to help children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) access the services they need as quickly as possible.
- To that end, in June 2016, the ministry committed \$2.75M per year over two years, for a total of \$5.5M, to implement five regional ASD diagnostic hubs. The hubs launched in January 2017 and were originally intended to be time-limited until March 2018.
- The hubs are improving the availability of more timely assessments so that children can start accessing services as quickly as possible by:
  - Providing approximately 1,000 diagnostic assessments per year, in addition to the assessments they and their partners are already providing;
  - Increasing the number of professionals able to conduct ASD diagnostic assessments by offering more training;
  - Building on existing diagnostic capacity by partnering with other organizations and professionals, and offering multi-disciplinary assessments; and,
  - Connecting families with the appropriate services in their communities as quickly as possible.
- The ministry understands the value and importance of an early diagnosis of ASD, and the hubs have had excellent results in reducing wait times, and offering a multi-disciplinary approach to diagnostic services for children, youth and families.
- This is why the ministry is committing \$2.75M per year over the next three fiscal years to continue to fund the diagnostic hubs. The hubs will receive a total of \$2.75M per year in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- The five hubs are:
  - Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York (Central Region)
  - Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)/Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre (OCTC) (East Region)
  - Child and Community Resources (North Region)
  - Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (Toronto Region)
  - Hamilton Health Sciences (West Region)- *Formerly Child and Parent Resource Institute*
- For more information, please contact the hub in your area or your local Ministry of Children and Youth Services [Regional Office](#)