

## **Breaking News!!!**

### **Registered Disability Savings Plan Exempt in Ontario.**

A major stumbling block for people with disabilities in Ontario has been removed. The McGuinty Government announced that changes were being made to the social assistance programs that will make both Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) assets and RDSP withdrawals fully exempt from affecting ODSP benefits. Ontario has followed the lead of other provinces in ensuring that participation in the RDSP will not negatively impact on provincial social assistance programs.

The RDSP's purpose is to assist families in accumulating money, tax deferred, to support the future needs of children and adults with disabilities. The plan was well received by many but its major stumbling block was that an RDSP would eliminate a person's entitlement to the Ontario Disability Support Program. This fact would make the RDSP entirely meaningless in our province. This announcement means that people in Ontario who qualify for the Disability Tax Credit will now be able to be the beneficiary of the RDSP without losing their entitlement to ODSP benefits. Call your financial investor for further information.

### **WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE BAR IS BACK!**

**Due to last year's  
success, we will be  
selling bars in the  
community to help  
fund Summer School.**

Do you know of a  
business with a high  
traffic area which would  
be interested in promoting  
the sale of our chocolate  
bar for \$1.00??? If so,  
please call the office. We  
need lots of locations as  
soon as possible!

### **"MANAGING BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOP SERIES"**

*March 25<sup>th</sup>  
April 29<sup>th</sup>  
May 27<sup>th</sup>*

*More Details to Follow*

### **AGENCY AWARDS**

Nominations are now open for this year's entries to the awards initiated during our Anniversary year. Awards will be presented at the Spring Gala at the Holiday Inn on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The criteria and nomination process is listed below. We welcome all entries from our membership.

1. Employer of the Year Award - This award may be presented annually to recognize a local employer who has shown ongoing support of an employee with Down syndrome and/or shown excellence in supporting the Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough.
2. Inclusive Education Award - This award may be presented annually to recognize a local teacher, support worker or school who has shown outstanding support for full inclusion of students with Down syndrome.
3. Volunteer Award - This award may be presented annually to recognize a volunteer who has made a significant donation of time and/or expertise to promote awareness of the Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough.

Nomination Process:

- Submit the full name, address, and phone number of the individual or organization that you believe meets the award criteria as well as the award.
- Provide a brief description as to why you feel the individual or organization is a worthy recipient of this award.
- All nominations will be considered by the Awards committee.

Deadline for Submissions: Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009.