

Disabled are getting a raw deal study finds

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The provincial government is ignoring the needs of 1,000 disabled people living in chronic-care institutions, a consultant's report says.

As well, care in the community for the physically disabled is often woefully inadequate, a research team headed by Dr. John Lord says.

The Centre for Research and Education in Human Services interviewed 176 disabled people and 174 attendants in eight Ontario communities for the report. It was commissioned by the government to help it develop a multi-year plan for community living for people with physical disabilities.

Vary widely

The report, released yesterday, found that services for the disabled are often poorly funded and vary widely from region to region.

For instance, the report says the demand for attendants' care is as much as 10 times greater than the services now available.

The 188-page report recommends the government:

- * Improve support services for people who are living independently in the community.
- * Do a study to determine how many disabled people in institutions, chronic-care hospitals and nursing homes should have the opportunity to move into the community.
- * Eliminate within five years the "inappropriate" placement of physically disabled adults into nursing homes and other institutions.

Community and Social Services Minister John Sweeney pledged the report will be used to improve services.

Sweeney last month said Ontario would give financial help to the Red Cross homemakers program, which helps about 180,000 elderly or disabled people who would otherwise be cared for in hospitals or nursing homes.