

**For Immediate Release  
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## **Grimsby residents discuss community inclusion with MPP Oosterhoff**

**Grimsby, ON** – Roberta Fitzpatrick and Clem Bezemer made the most of their meeting with Sam Oosterhoff when they met with the Niagara West MPP at Queen’s Park on Monday, May 6th. The Grimsby residents brought forward several ideas on how to make their town and surrounding area more welcoming and inclusive for everyone, including people who live with a developmental disability.

Fitzpatrick and Bezemer, who are members of the self-advocacy group *All United Voices*, stressed the need for more activities than what currently exist in the community, as well as the importance of establishing low-cost transportation that connects people to their family, friends, and events.

Additional affordable housing options and the involvement of area landlords and builders were also raised during the 30-minute meeting, along with an increase to ODSP income support and enhanced employment incentives for people who have a disability who can work.

“I think our concerns around housing and entertainment were heard,” said Fitzpatrick, who felt the meeting with the MPP went well. “Being in the community with people of all abilities is a priority for us.”

During the meeting, Oosterhoff committed to facilitating another discussion that would include community leaders in his riding to expand on the ideas that were highlighted and to explore additional options.

“It was important to get our foot in the door,” added Bezemer, “and we look forward to following up with Sam on what we talked about.”

The meeting has held in conjunction with *Community Living Day at the Legislature*. The annual event, which is intended to mark achievements in making Ontario a more inclusive province,

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was organized by Community Living Ontario and attended by members of provincial parliament, their staff, and representatives from agencies from across the province, including Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln.

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*Founded in 1965, Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln provides person-centred services to more than 300 children, youth, and adults living with developmental disabilities. The agency's goal is to promote the rights, dignity and inclusion of people with diverse abilities as they live, learn, work and participate in all their community has to offer.*

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