



Minister Smitherman, it is such an honour for Ontario Diabetes Action Partnership to have collaborated with you and your Ministry staff for this important day.

The Ontario Diabetes Action Partnership formed April 22, 2004 as a result of the cries for help from the many type 1 diabetics, diabetic families, and the diabetic health care teams. In essence, ODAP has given and projected the voice and visibility to both the patients in need and the impact of diabetes related complications within this province.

The Government of Ontario clearly recognizes the needs of children with Type 1 diabetes. This government announced as part of the 2006-2007 budget on March 23, 2006 that Ontario would develop a new program to provide funding for the purchase of insulin pumps and related supplies for these young people. Speaking on behalf of the ODAP partners, ODAP thanks Minister Smitherman for having the ability to see our vision and put it into action.

We reiterate from our Press Release at the time of the budget, "Members of ODAP would like to acknowledge the combined efforts of everyone who either partnered with us or supported our efforts. We also thank Minister Greg Sorbara and Minister Dwight Duncan for listening and clearly understanding the ODAP submissions. This is an important step forward for children with Type 1 diabetes in Ontario. The use of an insulin pump is a tremendous contributor to a child's ability to live a full and active life while at the same time lessening a parent's worry."

Honourable Minister's and your staff, you now begin to help the children who are or may suffer from diabetes, it's severe complications and the related medical costs.



Thank you does not seem large enough for the announcement in the 2006 Budget and today's announcement of the roll out of this program. We would be remiss if we did not mention there are over 1000 thank you's being bestowed from throughout the province at this moment. ODAP would also like to thank all of the parents and young people who have waited patiently during the development of this pump-funding program. **This government did listen, and they did act on your needs.**

Ontario leads the way. Minister Smitherman, we can only hope the other provinces will follow the Ontario lead and take measures to assist children who need help, at the very least.

ODAP partners throughout this great province anticipate a positive outcome for all the parties involved in this historical and groundbreaking program. Again we say thanks.