



News Digest

April 2015, Issue No. 24

Message from the President

On Monday, March 30, 2015, Vice-President Michelle Marshall and I met with MCSS Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek, Policy Advisor Jonathan Bradshaw, ADM Karen Chan and Director Christine Kuepfer. We discussed the following: aspects of the OASIS Operating Pressures Survey, key OASIS Messages including strengthening agencies, OASIS participation on the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Developmental Disabilities (as identified in the Select Committee on Disability Report) being created into the future by MCSS Parliamentary Assistant Soo Wong, and the impact of the proposed Ontario Defined Benefit Pension Plan. It was a very positive and fruitful meeting where we were well received and encouraged to actively contribute our ideas and suggestions to the unfolding Transformation Agenda. The week prior to this meeting I participated in the Press Conference held in Kitchener where the Minister announced that they were well ahead of their projected schedule for reducing the Waiting List.

Stemming from our meeting with MCSS, we are in the process of engaging Minister Tracey MacCharles, Minister of Women's Issues (insofar as 92% of our staff are women) and Children and Youth Services, to talk with her about OASIS Agencies concerns regarding Pay Equity. In addition, we are attempting to have a meeting with Assistant Finance Minister Mitzie Hunter to further indicate our concerns in the Not-for-Profit Sector, regarding the Ontario Defined Benefit Pension Plan. In addition to the added real cost of the employer contribution, there are a number of other concerns including but not limited to the host of compliance requirements including filing an Annual Information Return with the Ontario Pension Commission. These are approximately \$5.00 per member and a Tri-Annual Cost Certificate which will need to be filed with the Canada Revenue Agency at an approximate cost of \$2,500. Who will pay these costs? Who will pay for the additional administration expense within each agency to ensure that you are in compliance? And since the Auditor General has recently reported that 92% of all such plans are underfunded, where will the additional revenue be found to keep the plan solvent?

There are a variety of training opportunities available to the sector. In addition to our long standing relationship with Queen's University for a week long OASIS Advanced Leadership Program (<http://oasonline.ca/top-stories/oasis-queens-advanced-leadership-program/>), there are additional opportunities through the Rotman School of Business (<http://oasonline.ca/top-stories/rotman-school-of-managment/>) as well as Delaware University <http://www.nlcdd.org/>. OASIS offers three scholarships. See below for more information on this. As further details become available for Rotman School of Business and/or Delaware University, these will be shared with all.

Our OASIS AGM/Conference is sold out and we have created a Waiting List so that where space becomes available, we can contact those who would like to attend as quickly as possible. Please contact Susan Mason (susanm@innovcc.ca) to have your name added to the Waiting List. I look forward to seeing you there.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on May 5, 2015 in Richmond Hill. As always, members are welcome to attend Board meetings. We welcome you to join us or contact me prior to the meeting to share your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by email at president@oasisonline.ca or by phone at 1-800-961-9144.

Sincerely,
L. David Barber
President, OASIS

Board Meeting Highlights – April 1-2, 2015 – Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON Conference 2015

Heather Reid of Innovative Conferences and Communications joined the meeting and provided the Board with an update on the upcoming Conference in Richmond Hill. At the time of the meeting there were approximately 20 spaces left. Since then the Conference has sold out! President David Barber confirmed that the Minister of Community and Social Services, Dr. Helena Jaczek, will attend the Dinner and Awards Celebration on May 7th to say a few words.



Conference 2016

2016 Conference Planning Committee member, Andrew Lewis of Niagara Support Services and the Niagara Training and Employment Agency, joined the meeting on April 2nd to provide an update to the Board. The Conference will take place at the Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls, May 4 – 6, 2016. Stop by the Hospitality Suite at this year's Conference on May 7th from 5:30 to 6:30pm to learn more.



OASIS Board Nominations

Following the call for nominations in January, five nominations were submitted for one Volunteer and one Executive Director vacancy on the OASIS Board of Directors. The selection Committee, consisting of Jane Joris (Chair), Brian Dunne, and Judy Pryde, reviewed the submissions and conducted lengthy interviews with all five candidates. The Committee's recommendations were approved by the Board, and the newly elected Directors will be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on May 8th.

OASIS Scholarships

At the 2012 Conference in Huntsville, the OASIS Board of Directors announced the establishment of three scholarships. The recipients of the third President's scholarship, Gerry Sutton scholarship and George Braithwaite scholarship have been selected and will be presented at this year's Conference in Richmond Hill. We continue to encourage Executive Directors and/or senior staff to submit their application for any one of these scholarships. Information can be found at <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>. Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year, however, applications must be received by end of March to be considered for the upcoming year.

Annie Oliver Award

The Annie Oliver Award is presented annually to recognize and honour an individual or organization:

- a) who/which demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector and best exemplifies the interests and mission of OASIS;
- b) who/which demonstrates the highest administrative competence and professionalism and in so-doing has provided an inspiration to others; and
- c) who, by a combination of perseverance, determination and positive attitude has assisted OASIS in achieving the goals inherent in its Mission Statement.

This year, five nominations for the Annie Oliver award were received. The selection Committee, consisting of OASIS Board members David Barber, Michelle Marshall and

Donna Britten, reviewed all five submissions and the winner will be announced at the Conference Dinner and Awards Celebration on May 7th.

Welcome New OASIS Members

The following new member applications were reviewed and approved by the OASIS Board of Directors:

- *Community Living North Perth - Listowel*
- *Quad County Support Services - Wardsville*
- *Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton - Hamilton*
- *Community Visions and Networking - Belleville*
- *OPTIONS Northwest – Thunder Bay*
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This brings the total number of member agencies to 185.

2015-2016 OASIS Membership Renewal

A reminder that 2015-2016 OASIS Membership renewal packages were sent out at the beginning of March. Thank you to the 124 members who have already renewed their membership. If you haven't done so already, please make cheques payable to OASIS and send to:

Amanda Brown
OASIS Administrative Support
c/o Community Living South Muskoka
15 Depot Drive
Bracebridge, ON P1L 0A1

