



# News Digest

January 2014, Issue No.7

## ***OASIS Scholarship Submissions Due January 31, 2014***

In recognition of the philanthropic/voluntary contribution of OASIS leaders, three scholarship funds were established. We encourage individuals in OASIS member agencies to apply for these bursaries, which will be awarded at the 2014 Conference in London. I hope that Executive Directors interested in receiving one of the OASIS scholarships have started working on their submission, which is due **January 31, 2014**. For more information and the application form, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>

## ***President's Message***

On behalf of the OASIS Board of Directors I wish to extend greetings for a very Happy New Year to all of you! I hope that you, your family and your friends enjoy a prosperous and productive 2014.

The next Board meeting will take place on January 15-16, 2014 at the Bob Rumball Association for the Deaf in Milton. On the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>, a group from the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) will join the meeting to discuss the potential of a National Disability Insurance Plan for Canada, similar to the system in Australia. 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 [tjoris@execulink.com](mailto:tjoris@execulink.com) or by phone at 519-786-2151 ext. 5502.

Recently you received information and a nomination form for the 2014 Annie Oliver Award for Excellence. This award is presented at the Annual Conference of OASIS. The objective of this award is to recognize and honour an individual or organization:

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

For further information and the nomination form, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/an-opportunity-to-recognize-an-outstanding-individual-or-organization/>

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent OASIS Key Messages survey. We have taken your input and are working with a government/public relations firm to further polish and refine those Messages. Stories paint a powerful picture that helps to amplify our

messages. We invite you to share stories that tell of your good work, and also stories that share the hardships faced through service reductions or by those who linger on waitlists. For a guide to storytelling for non-profits, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/a-guide-to-storytelling-for-non-profits/>

Sincerely,  
Jane Joris  
President, OASIS

### ***Scholarship Winner Michelle Marshall***

The 2013 recipient of the George Braithwaite Award was Michelle Marshall, Executive Director at The Participation House Project – Durham. With her scholarship, Michelle attended the National Consortium on Developmental Disabilities week long Leadership Institute at the University of Delaware. The program offers future leaders from organizations across North America and internationally, the opportunity to come together with a faculty of national experts on progressive supports for people with disabilities. The Institute supports the development of skilled leaders who are passionate about quality, have the leadership, management and financial skills needed to run solid not-for-profit businesses and government agencies, are capable of assembling top-notch teams of caring staff, and have a solid commitment to progressive values that assured lives of meaning and impact for the individuals receiving support.

### ***Call for Nominations***

Coming soon, look for a formal Call for Nominations to the OASIS Board of Directors.

### ***Select Committee Public Hearings***

Members of the OASIS Board of Directors will be participating in the work of the Select Committee on Developmental Services and would appreciate receiving copies of any presentations made by member agencies to the Committee. This will ensure that OASIS Board member presentations are aligned with and reinforce those messages.

### ***OASIS Website***

The agency information on the OASIS website is extremely useful in the advocacy work of OASIS on behalf of our member agencies, their employees, and the people they support. It is particularly important that data regarding annual budgets, number of people using services and number of employees is accurate. It would be appreciated if you would take a moment to verify your agency's information by logging in to the site and clicking the "Edit Your Agency Listing" on the right side of the page.

### ***Discussion Board***

In response to feedback from members the OASIS Discussion Board now has the capacity to include attachments. As always, we encourage members to add their questions and comments by logging in at <http://oasisonline.ca/login-page/> and clicking the Discussion Board link on the right side of the page.

### ***Social Media***

OASIS has both Twitter and Facebook accounts. For those who use social media, we encourage you to click the links below and follow and/or friend us. It will help us to share information and raise interest from media centres, especially leading up to elections etc.



### ***Save the Dates! Conference 2014***

May 7-9, 2014

London Convention Centre

Book your hotel accommodations: <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/hotel-accommodations-for-the-2014-oasis-conference/>