



News Digest

June 2015, Issue No. 26

Message from the President

I am pleased to advise that OASIS has confirmed a meeting with the Minister of Labour to discuss the current crisis in relation to Pay Equity. Our members have indicated that they want MCSS and the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues to be actively involved in this process. In effect our members are asking that we have each of the three ministries fully engaged in finding a solution to this long simmering problem. We are hopeful that our efforts will bear fruit.

Our meeting with Assistant Minister of Finance Mitzie Hunter to discuss the proposed Ontario Defined Benefit Pension Plan (ODBP) was very enlightening and most helpful. Having served on the Special Committee on Disability she had a firm understanding of our sector and we could communicate in terms that were immediately understood. We explained the challenges of our union agreements and the necessity such that should this matter go forward, of a lengthy introduction period of the ODBP. In addition, we mutually acknowledged that as a "Not-for-Profit" TPA, our resources were at a premium and having to make additional expenditures on compliance, administration, fees to the Ontario Pension Commission, fees to the Canada Revenue Agency in addition to funding an additional pension plan on top of our existing commitments, would most definitely result in staff terminations and a decrease in our ability to provide service in our community. Either we will need additional funding from the Ministry of Finance to pay for this new plan or given that no final decision has yet been made as to what would constitute a comparable plan, a favourable decision regarding Defined Contribution (DC) plans currently in place.

In closing, we informed the Minister that the OASIS Labour Relations Committee would be pleased to host a session with her ministry to respond to proposed rules, regulations and such other requirements before they are enacted so that she could get a full understanding of their impact on our agencies and the general Not-For-Profit Sector.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on September 9-10, 2015 in Hamilton. 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 – June 10-11, 2015 – Hamilton, ON
Communications & Public Relations***

Matthew Lombardi from OASIS' Communications and Public Relations firm, Edelman, joined the Board meeting to provide an update on recent communications with government and how they tie into upcoming strategies such as the Queen's Park information day this Fall, future information webinars for members, and an Earned Media Strategy. Edelman will be developing a plan over the summer that includes the optimum way for agencies to demonstrate unity under the OASIS banner at the Queen's Park information day.

OASIS Newsletter e-Blast

The first OASIS bi-monthly Newsletter e-Blast was circulated recently to members, partner organizations, key public servants, political staff and influencers and key media contacts . The issue included agency stories, messages to government, community news, and is intended as a resource that recipients can refer back to. Work is already underway on the second e-blast, which will highlight training and information webinars, meetings, purchasing groups, and family/agency stories.

Developmental Services Advisory Group (DSAG)

The first DSAG Reference group meeting took place on May 13th, followed by a meeting of the DSAG Direct Discussion Group on May 15th. The draft Terms of Reference were discussed in detail and potential topics identified for the draft Workplan.

Labour Relations Committee

Provincial conference calls continue to take place every two weeks, and additional tentative and ratified agreements are ongoing around the province. Utilizing the government wage funding to meet pay equity obligations continues to be a point of contention in many situations, and very few unionized organizations have been able to include pay equity with the increase.

Pay Equity Committee

Pay Equity Committee Co-Chair, Donna Marcaccio, attended the meeting and provided the Board with an update. The Committee will continue to meet with members of Parliament to remind them of the Pay Equity issue, and inform new MPP's who may not be aware of the situation in our sector. The Committee has consulted with a number of lawyers, who will explore what options are available, including a possible civil suit or class action suit.

Educational Component

We are pleased to share the news of our successful candidates for the Annie Oliver award and the third annual OASIS Scholarships by posting the following stories on Facebook and on Twitter:

<http://oasonline.ca/top-stories/annie-oliver-award-winner-michelle-palmer/>

<http://oasonline.ca/top-stories/2015-presidents-scholarship-award-winner-krista-haiduk-collier/>

<http://oasonline.ca/top-stories/2014-2015-george-braithwaite-scholarship-winner-judy-pryde/>

<http://oasonline.ca/top-stories/2014-2015-gerry-sutton-scholarship-winner-marion-graves/>

Please help spread the word of Michelle, Krista, Judy and Marion's successes through your Facebook and Twitter feeds!

Are you interested in receiving a scholarship valued at \$5000? Or attend the OASIS/Queen's Leadership Program in 2016? If so, you will need to submit your application PRIOR to January 31st, 2016 (Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year). Information can be found at <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>.

Rotman School of Business

MCSS is fully subsidizing a Leadership Course (Institute on Leadership and Management) through the Rotman School of Business (University of Toronto) for 12 OASIS participants. This program is valued at \$12,500.

The course is a six module executive leadership program for those in the Broader Public Sector, designed to develop knowledge, practical skills and strategies required to be successful in leading their public service entity (Agencies in Developmental Services, Long Term Care, Children's Aid, etc. and Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Education, Community and Social Services, and Information Technology) to excellence in service delivery. The course content includes: Setting the Foundations of Leadership and Management; Communications/Stakeholder Management; Finance and Transparency; Strategy and Change; Governance Essentials; and Developing Self and Others.

Twenty-three applications were received from OASIS member agencies to attend the next course at the Rotman School of Business. Following a thorough review and vetting process, twelve candidates were selected to attend the session, which is scheduled to begin in Toronto on July 6, 2015.

Congratulations to the successful applicants!

OASIS Webinars

OASIS is committed to providing our members with information, knowledge and an opportunity to share ideas. To this, we will soon be hosting our first training webinar on Group Purchasing. Content may include an introduction to what group purchasing is, why you would want to consider this, how do you go about doing this, what are some key considerations etc. This webinar will be coming to you in the near future and will also be saved and posted on the OASIS website in case you missed the webinar the first time. Watch for details in the coming weeks!



Introducing OASIS Board Member, Sherry Parsley

Sherry Parsley is very pleased for the opportunity to join the OASIS Board of Directors and to work with OASIS member organizations as we partner to advance our service delivery systems. Sherry is the Executive Director of Community Living Hamilton, and joined that organization in 2011 following over

15 years with leadership roles in the health care sector. She holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Social Work from McMaster University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree conferred by Memorial University of Newfoundland. In addition to her volunteer role with the OASIS Board, Sherry is a member of the Board of Directors with Ancaster Community Services, and is a volunteer for the upcoming Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games.

