



News Digest

March 2017, Issue No. 41

Message from the President

Over the past month the realities of the issues related to Pay Equity were brought to the forefront. For the first time, OASIS and Community Living Ontario partnered together to issue a joint media release with regard to the developments in Tillsonburg. Chris Beesley and I also had several conversations with Ministry officials regarding the situation and the information contained within our media release. In addition, I sent a letter to Minister Flynn congratulating him on the establishment of the working group to review the recommendations of the Gender Wage Gap Committee and express our support of the selection of Janet Noel-Annable, Chair of the Provincial Network, as a member of this working group. Janet brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this committee and OASIS has offered her the support of the Pay Equity Committee should the need arise. For many years, Developmental Service agencies across the province have been struggling to meet the legislated requirements of Pay Equity. The work of this group is essential in developing a long term strategy to address the unintended consequences being seen in the developmental services sector and resolving the Gender Wage Gap issue in Ontario and OASIS eagerly awaits its commencement.

The Board of Directors commenced its strategic planning with a working session of the Board on February 15. See the note below on how you can participate in the process. We need to know the needs of our members to effectively advocate on your behalf. A copy of the current strategic plan is on the OASIS website along with the accomplishments and work still to be completed.

This month OASIS will commence recruitment for an Executive Coordinator Services Consultant. OASIS has grown from an original membership of six (6) agencies to one hundred & ninety (190). During that time the stature of OASIS as a well-respected provincial organization within the developmental services sector has grown, and so has the workload of the Board of Directors. During OASIS's infancy, member agencies banded together to provide the support necessary to ensure that members were kept up to date on current trends, took an active role in advocating for positive change for the developmental sector with the Government and peers, and being visible to the members. With the growth in membership it has become exceedingly difficult to carry out the work of OASIS with only volunteers. Given the activities and responsibilities of OASIS there is now a need to establish consistency of process to ensure that the administrative and communication to member agencies and others are addressed in a different manner. If you know of someone who would be a valuable asset in fulfilling the role of Executive Coordinator Services Consultant, please encourage them to apply for this position as outlined in the following link: [Executive Coordinator Services Consultant](#)

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on March 22-23, 2017 in Hamilton, Assistant Deputy Ministers Karen Chan and Director Barb Simmons will attend the March 22nd portion of the meeting. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings, please contact Amanda Brown administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca to let us know you will be in attendance and we will provide you with the meeting details. 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 705-645-6290.

Sincerely,
Ann Kenney
President, OASIS

OASIS 2020 – Your Input Needed!

This year is the 20th Anniversary of OASIS and this is an important and exciting time to renew and refresh our organization and vision. OASIS is developing a new strategic plan to guide the Board of Directors, its committees and its membership towards 2020. OASIS believes that agencies matter. OASIS 2020 will be our roadmap to the future in our support of all our members.

We are excited to launch this visioning and planning process. We have hired an external consultant, Kerr Consulting, to guide this process and collect information to assist us with our planning. Over the next three months, we will be engaging with all of our stakeholders – our members, our partners, and our government ministries – to discuss our role and our shared future supporting people with special needs in Ontario.

We value your input into this process and over the next two months there will be several opportunities for you to provide input into this process. All 190 members will receive an online survey and at our AGM in May, there will be in-person opportunities to provide ideas and advice. All of our major external stakeholders including partners and government will be consulted as part of this process.

The project is being led by a strategic planning committee of the OASIS Board of Directors. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ann Kenney at president@oasisonline.ca or by phone at 705-645-6290.

OASIS Scholarship Awards - 2017 Applications Due March 10, 2017

To support succession planning within member agencies, the OASIS Board of Directors has opened up the President's Scholarship and George Braithwaite Scholarship to senior managers this year in addition to the Gerry Sutton Scholarship. A graduate program has been developed with Queen's University and is open to new participants and those who have already completed the first program. I encourage agencies to apply for these valuable scholarships.

[Presidents Scholarship 2017 Application Form](#)
[George Braithwaite Scholarship 2017 Application Form](#)

[Gerry Sutton Scholarship 2017 Application Form](#)

Annie Oliver and Member Leadership Award Nominations Due March 24, 2017

Nominations are open for the Annie Oliver Award and the Member Leadership Award. Please give consideration to nominating a person or member agency for these awards. A \$1,000 cheque is also provided to the recipient's organization for each of these awards.

For further details, go to:

[2017 Annie Oliver Award Nomination Package](#)

[1st Annual OASIS Member Leadership Award Nomination Package](#)

COMING SOON....OASIS Grass Roots Provincial Awareness Campaign - We Will Need YOUR HELP

We are currently in the process of finalizing an OASIS Advocacy Toolkit and associated "How-To" Webinar that will help us roll out a multi-level awareness campaign. The first 2 Phases of this initiative will be piloted during March and early April within targeted Ridings and with approximately 7 Agencies who have well established Public/Government Relations approaches. With the completion of these first 2 phases we will receive feedback from the pilot agencies and complete final edits to the toolkit before our full-engagement of all of you.

How can we come together to make a difference?

As an organization made up of member agencies throughout the province, we see it as being extremely valuable to conduct outreach leading up to the 2018 election, as our collective advocacy has the potential to influence policy development at the grassroots level. Political party platforms will start to take shape over the course of the next 12-16 months in the lead up to the June 2018 election. Once policymakers are elected and sent to Queen's Park, through our advocacy we will have made our industry's issues top of mind for elected officials.

If you are an agency with well-established Public/Government Relation approaches within your community and would like to participate in the Phase 2 pilot or if you would like to learn more about how you can help please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Marshall-OASIS VP-ED at mmarshall@phdurham.com .

OASIS Website Redesign

The Website Redesign Sub-Committee has been tasked with the oversight for the evaluation, re-development and implementation of a the OASIS website. Our first activity was to gather feedback from the current website visitors on their experience. Each of the OASIS listserves were asked for their participation via Survey Monkey. Information is tracked by link, not by respondents, therefore, information is anonymous.

To date, there have been 62 responses. The ED Listserv has been the most responsive so far, followed closely by the HR group and then the Finance group.

The closing date for feedback is Mar 16, 2017 at 8am, so there is still time to provide feedback. Below are the links for you to provide feedback to help make improvements on the website look, feel and content.

ED: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Listserv_ED

HR: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Listserv_hr

Finance: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Listserv_fin

IT: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Listserv_it

Agency Board: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Listserv_agencyboard

Others: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WEB_OASIS_MEMBERS

Non Members: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Website_visit

Feedback will be received at our next subcommittee meeting in early April. Thank you in advance for those who have responded to the website review on Survey Monkey.

OASIS 2017...is Already More Than 50% Sold Out!



If you haven't registered yet, here are our top actions for you to take TODAY!

- [REGISTER HERE](#)don't be disappointed!
- We have a pre-conference activity to suit every taste....check them out [HERE](#)....these too are filling up quickly.
- Check out our two keynote speakers: [RON TITE](#) and [LORRAINE BEHNAN](#). We know they will be adding great value to your conference program!
- Do you want multiple chances to win a "PERFECT DAY" experience valued at \$500? Check it out! [PERFECT DAY](#)
- Be sure to pre-purchase your RAFFLE TICKETS when you register! Yes, they will be available on-site, but why not look after this when you register!

And finally,

- We have 2 exciting evening programs lined-up:
- Wednesday evening features the amazing [MOLLY JOHNSON](#)
- Thursday evening highlights OASIS' 20th anniversary celebrations....an evening not to be missed!

We look forward to welcoming you to OASIS 2017!

List Serve Etiquette

- Information posted should not be for personal gain of the individual posting the information.
- Post questions on the OASIS Discussion Board and send out email to members letting them know you have posted a question and that responses are to be made on the Discussion Board. This will enable responses to be gathered in one place including attachments if policies, etc., are provided and is available on a permanent basis.
- If offering congratulations for accreditations, or agency achievements please REPLY ONLY TO THE PERSON who provided the information, not to the entire list serve.
- If you would like to reference OASIS material please contact Amanda at administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca for the link to the website rather than redistributing material.

[Link to Latest Discussion Board Topic: Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey](#)

Links Included in this Issue...

PSHSA OASIS Affiliate Page Web Tutorials: [Chemicals Web Tutorial](#)

OASIS January Board Meeting Minutes: [January 2017 Board Meeting Minutes](#)

OASIS Four Pillars: [Four Pillars](#)

OASIS Board and Executive Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017: [Meeting Schedule 2016-2017](#)

OASIS Strategic Work Plan 2013-2016, Updated May 17, 2016: [OASIS Strategic Work Plan 2013-2016](#)

OASIS 2016-2017 Board of Directors Contact Information: [OASIS Board of Directors 2016-2017 Contact Information](#)

Current OASIS Membership List: [OASIS Member Listing](#)

Government of Canada Consultation – [What Does an Accessible Canada Mean to You?](#)

Provincial Network January Meeting Minutes Summary - [January 2017 PN Meeting Minutes Summary](#)