



**Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs  
Agences ontariennes de soutien pour les personnes qui ont des besoins spéciaux**

***INFORMATION BULLETIN  
TO ONTARIO MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT***

*November 2006*

**Dear Member of the Ontario Legislature**

OASIS agencies provide services to citizens with an intellectual disability in your riding. We appreciate the feedback that we received from MPP's regarding previous issues, and look forward to sustaining that dialogue. As part of OASIS' ongoing efforts to communicate issues of importance for our member agencies, we have prepared this Information Bulletin, briefly outlining current topics of most concern for your reference and consideration.

**OASIS' Impact:**

In the past, OASIS has been asked by MPP's for the details of the services provided; membership size; and, the funding provided. OASIS has collated this information during the recent membership renewal process, and is pleased to share the details here for the first time:

Number of member organizations – 120 (as of the time of publication)

Total number of individuals with an intellectual disability being supported – 34,623

Total number of employees – 25,000 (full-time, part-time & casual)

Total operating budgets - \$695,000,000

**Sector Viability:**

George Braithwaite, then President of OASIS, publicly acknowledged the Government's budget increase of \$84 M for the developmental services sector in May 2006. However, the sector remains challenged financially as it gears up for a significant Transformation. OASIS would like to ask for a Government commitment, and the support of the opposition MPP's, to ensuring the long-term viability of the developmental services sector. Multi-year funding commitments; increased operating budgets; increased services for those individuals on waiting lists; and, competitive compensation levels with the broader public sector are all critical areas to address in order to ensure that individuals with an intellectual disability continue to be able to live in communities across Ontario.

In addition to the final Transformation Paper, the 2007 Provincial Budget will be a crucial document with regard to the future of the Government's support of some of the most vulnerable citizens in Ontario. We look forward to meeting with MPP's across the Province over the next several months to discuss these matters further.

We hope that you find this summary to be of assistance as you assume or resume your responsibilities within the Legislature and debate issues of social concern to the people of Ontario. We encourage you to obtain details on these matters from the OASIS website at: [www.oasisonline.ca](http://www.oasisonline.ca)

Sincerely,

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President

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