



OASIS Newsletter June 2017



The OASIS newsletter is a bi-monthly newsletter keeping you up-to-date on our member agencies and the Ontarians they serve.

This month's edition includes:

- A Message from Ann Kenney, OASIS President
- Welcome: Kevin Costante is the newest member of the Patron's Council
- 2017 Provincial Budget Highlights
- OASIS Grassroots Provincial Awareness Campaign
- OASIS 20th Anniversary Conference
 - Outcomes
 - Awards

A Message from Ann Kenney, OASIS President:

I wanted to take a moment to express my thoughts on the state of the developmental services sector today and the public policy changes OASIS, in partnership with our member agencies, must continue to advocate for.

It's no accident that we themed our 20th Annual General Meeting and Anniversary "From Surviving to Thriving". We have come a long way in our 20 years and to a certain extent we are thriving, but too many Ontarians with developmental disabilities and their families are just surviving. We know that agencies are being stretched thin in a variety of ways. Today's unpredictable economic climate is making fulltime work more precarious and more people are having to work several jobs to make ends meet. In addition, shifting demographics make it increasingly difficult for agencies to attract and retain talented people, both paid and volunteer.

In the face of these challenges, agencies are struggling to generate income, attract and retain qualified staff, and ensure the future sustainability of the service delivery. This is why we need provincial policies and funding levels that recognizes the need for a developmental services sector that has the capacity to help those in need before they are in crisis. In part, this is why we will continue to call for a 2.5%

increase in base funding to agencies over the next three years.

With a provincial election just one year away, the OASIS Communications Committee will be launching a member-led grassroots awareness initiative to show, at a local level, the wonderful work that our members are doing for those most in need in our province. Together, we will continue on our journey from surviving to thriving.

Sincerely,

N. Ann Kenney

OASIS President

OASIS Welcomes Kevin Costante to the Patron's Council

OASIS is thrilled to announce that Kevin Costante has become the newest member of our Patron's Council. His public policy background and expertise will be extremely useful to OASIS as we continue to find ways to advocate on behalf of our Members and the people that they serve.

Having retired after 35 years with the Ontario and Saskatchewan public services, Kevin is an accomplished public sector senior leader with more than 20 years at the senior executive level.

In 2014 Kevin Joined Queens University's School of Policy Studies as an Adjunct Professor. Prior to joining the School of Policy Studies, Kevin had served for two years as Deputy Minister of Government Services, Associate Secretary of the Cabinet, Secretary of Management Board and Chair of the Public Service Commission in the Ontario Public Service. From 2009 to 2012, Kevin was Ontario's Deputy Minister of Education.

Kevin also served in that role in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, Cabinet Office (Policy), the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Prior to joining the Ontario Public Service in 1988, Kevin worked nine years in the Saskatchewan Public Service in the Department of Education, the Department of Advanced Education and the Department of Finance (Treasury Board).

Kevin attended Queen's University and has a BA (Hons) and a Master's of Public Administration (1979).

Kevin lives in Toronto and is also on the Board of Directors of several non-for-profit organizations.

SUSTAINABLE SERVICES MATTER

2017 Provincial Budget Highlights

On April 28, Ann Kenney attended the Budget Lockup on behalf of OASIS and used the opportunity to meet with provincial officials and reiterate member priorities. Government officials expressed their willingness to continue to advocate with the Provincial Network, OASIS and Community Living Ontario to ensure that the Pay Equity issue of our sector remains on the radar.

As to the substance of the budget, it must be recognized that OASIS applauds the government for taking immediate action and investing \$677 million over four years to help keep people out of crises and give more people the supports that are right for them. In particular, the 2017-18 investment will be over \$130 million annualized dollars plus an additional \$5 million in infrastructure funds.

However, we are looking at a tough year for agencies who are facing a 9th year of no funding increases to deal with the cost of living increases in operating their services nor any funding to address the pay equity issue. We have agreed to have continued dialogue on this issue with the Ministry, as funding around agencies is reaching the critical stages.

If you would like to read the budget in full, you can do so [here](#).

COLLABORATION MATTERS



OASIS Grassroots Provincial Awareness Campaign

We know that clear and consistent messaging and well-established relationships are key to helping raising awareness of the needs within our communities. As well, it is important that we help government and our community understand the importance of agencies in providing high quality employees who will help facilitate a healthy and inclusive Ontario.

With candidate nominations underway we are well aware that we are entering “election season”. Provincial party platforms will start to take shape over the course of the next 6-8 months in the lead up to the June 2018 election. We at OASIS want to make sure that our voices are heard and our member needs known. In view of this, OASIS will be rolling out a member-led initiative to connect our members with those seeking elected office. We are calling this initiative **Go-Local** as it will connect members with their local candidates and will allow candidates to learn, first hand, stories about the needs and the struggles of families in their communities.

If you are an agency with well-established Public/Government Relation approaches and 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 20th ANNIVERSARY



There can be no doubt that Ontario is now a much better place for individuals with Developmental Disabilities than it was before OASIS' founding 20 years ago. In that time, our membership has grown from 6 members to 191, and we have transformed from an organization focused on “Surviving” to one that is “Thriving”. Now, 20 years later, it's time to renew and refresh our organization and vision. To

do so, OASIS is developing a new strategic plan to guide the Board of Directors, its committees and its membership towards 2020.

Through consultation with our target audiences the OASIS Board of Directors is establishing a strategic vision and road-map called "OASIS 20-20". This initiative will help align our voices and priorities so we can better define the future of the developmental sector and help our Member agencies become stronger and healthier. We continue to engage all stakeholders – our members, our partners, and our government ministries – to discuss our role and our shared future supporting people with special needs in Ontario. While some aspects of OASIS will change, our core belief that Agencies Matter will not.

OASIS' 20th Anniversary Conference was a tremendous success!

As a community, we can help improve the lives and futures for people with disabilities and we can move our society from one that is **Surviving** to one that is **Thriving**. In efforts to learn more about best practices and advancements that went beyond our immediate communities and our province, OASIS 2017 Conference took steps to help broaden our collective learning to an international level.

During the conference, we were delighted to host an international panel of experts from Germany, Australia and Canada and honored to have Minister Carla Qualtrough share stories that ignited our passions and raised awareness of possibilities. Many thanks to those that helped us to make this happen.

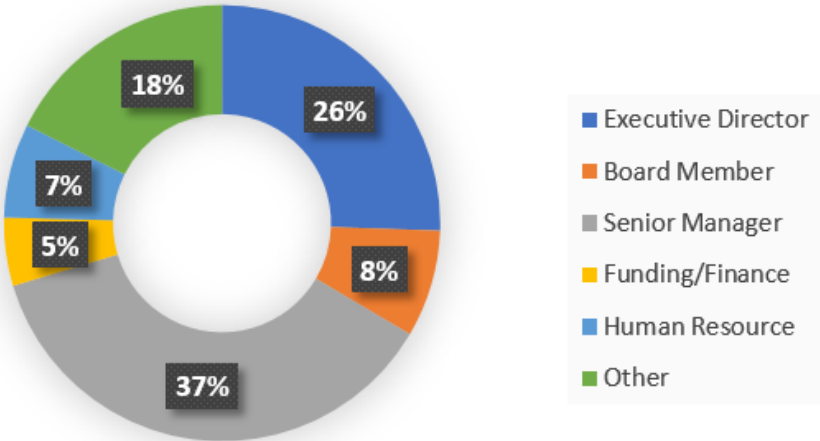
Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities Carla Qualtrough has been mandated to pass the *Canadians with Disabilities Act*, and recently released a report entitled, "[Creating new national accessibility legislation: What we learned from Canadians.](#)" The report summarizes the input received following Canada-wide

consultations to inform the development of new planned federal accessibility legislation.



Some 502 people attended the Annual General Meeting and 20th Anniversary. By category, they included:

Participants by Category



Highlights of Awards

Each of this year's award winners exemplifies the spirit of OASIS' journey over the past 20 years, from surviving to thriving. Congratulations to the Award recipients!

George Braithwaite Scholarship Award Recipient:

Dione Schumacher, Community Living South Muskoka

The winner of this year's George Braithwaite Scholarship Award is Dione Schumacher of Community Living South Muskoka. Dione has been a dedicated and hardworking staff member and manager at Community Living South Muskoka for 24 years. Dione has led the DSW apprenticeship program, sits as Co-Chair to the Georgian College Advisory Committee for their DSW program, the lead of the Safe Management Group Trainer, Chair of the Regional Family Home Network, a member of the Poverty Reduction of Muskoka Planning Team, and participated in of the Provincial Working Groups who reviewed the recommendations from the Guy Mitchell inquest.



Dione Schumacher with Karen Chan-ADM MCSS and Past-President, George Brathwaite.

Gerry Sutton Scholarship Award Recipient:

Karen Bolger, Community Living Essex County

The winner of this year's Gerry Sutton Scholarship Award is Karen Bolger of Community Living Essex County. Karen has over 30 years involvement in the Developmental Services Sector, and is currently the Director of Community Living Operations. Karen is involved in local, regional and provincial activities including the Windsor- Essex Service Provider Collaboration Committee, Local Enhanced Community Response Network Co-chair, Windsor-Essex Compassionate Communities Committee, Regional ECR Committee, and the Enhanced Specialized Services Planning Committee.



Karen Bolger with Karen Chan-ADM MCSS and Past-President, David Barber

President's Scholarship Award Recipient:

Mark Snedden, Ottawa - Carleton Lifeskills Inc.

As a forward thinker, Mark has been influential in connecting with organizations searching for suitable programs for individuals they serve. Through his continued networking efforts, he was instrumental in securing a solid partnership with Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization Non-Profit Housing Corporation. Mark intends to use the funds to participate in a 5-day leadership development program called “Community Shift” hosted by the University of Western Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre in partnership with KPMG. This leadership development program is designed exclusively for leaders of non-profit organization.



Mark Snedden with Karen Chan-ADM MCSS and Past-President Judy Reid

Annie Oliver Award Recipient:

Donna Britten, Community Living Toronto

This year's winner of the Annie Oliver Award is Donna Britten. For more than 40 years, Donna has been an active member of Community Living Toronto. Donna has fought for inclusive education opportunities not only for her son David, but children everywhere. Her belief in the importance of family connection is evident in her role as a founding member of strongly family oriented groups such as Extend-a-Family and Pilot Parents (now FamilyLink). Donna was also a key advocate for Project 81—an innovative program that created residential and day services in Scarborough for adults with complex intellectual and physical needs.



Annie Oliver Award Winner Donna Britten with Ann Kenney and Karen Chan, ADM, MCSS

Member Group of Distinction Leadership Award for providing - Excellence - Innovation – and Leadership in the developmental services sector:









Community Living Essex County

OASIS created a new Member Leadership Award this year to recognize an organization who demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector and best exemplifies the interests and mission of OASIS. Community Living Essex is well known in the sector as a partner and innovator dedicated to supporting people to achieve their goals and dreams since its inception in 1961. Its REAL Change, a demonstration project for the developmental services sector, has inspired other innovative and ambitious undertakings. More than 20 organizations have already connected with Community Living Essex County for guidance and inspiration and is an outstanding example of an organization challenging itself to reach for more, to think bigger, and to propel the sector into a new era.



The newly created Membership Leadership Award was presented to Community Living Essex County. Nancy Wallace-Gero and staff accept their award.

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