



***OASIS INFORMATION BULLETIN
TO ONTARIO MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT
June 2001***

Dear Member of the Ontario Legislature:

OASIS agencies provide service to intellectually handicapped citizens in your riding. As part of OASIS's ongoing efforts to communicate issues of importance for our member agencies, we have prepared this special Information Bulletin briefly outlining two recent activities in the Legislature affecting the Developmental Services sector. We appreciate the positive feedback that we received from MPP's regarding both the first issue of the Bulletin in October 2000 and the recent April 2001 issue, and look forward to continuing discussions with both MPP's and the Ministry of Community & Social Services on these matters.

Ontario Budget

OASIS would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our member agencies, to express our appreciation to all MPP's and their staff for their support and assistance leading to the announced infusion of almost \$200M into the developmental services sector over the next five years. OASIS agencies across the Province met with their local MPP's and their staff and were encouraged by their willingness to become informed about the Developmental Services sector and its needs. We also thank the members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, who heard our presentation in Ottawa on the staffing crisis in our sector. Finally, we thank the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Honourable John Baird, and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty for publicly recognizing that it is up to government to ensure vulnerable people in our society have support, and for the statement that it is a priority of this Government to care for the vulnerable. The Budget Speech correctly identified the challenges facing many parents of developmentally disabled children, and we view this announcement as an endorsement of the importance of valuing the services provided. While it is acknowledged that this amount will not solve all of the problems facing the sector, it is a significant investment of funds that will have a direct impact on the services being provided to some of the most vulnerable citizens of Ontario, and the creation of more services for many more of these citizens.

Homes For Retarded Persons Act (HRPA)

Again, on behalf of our member agencies, OASIS would like to assure all MPP's of our support for Minister Baird's announced intention to take legislative action to repeal the Homes For Retarded Persons Act (HRPA). As has been identified on many occasions over the years, the HRP is legislation that is outdated both philosophically and pragmatically with the current practices of organizations within the Developmental Services sector across the Province. In fact, OASIS along with other provincial organizations, has worked with many ministry officials over the years in an effort to have the Act repealed. OASIS remains committed to working with MCSS officials to ensure that the remaining legislation and regulations affecting our sector are comprehensive, flexible, accountable and complete. We urge you to support the Bill when it is presented in order to ensure swift approval.

We hope that you find this summary to be of assistance as you continue to meet your responsibilities within the Legislature and debate issues of social concern to the people of Ontario. We encourage you to obtain further details on these matters from the OASIS website at: www.dhagencies.on.ca.

Sincerely,
Sue Dolan, President