



# OASIS Board Highlights

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As a companion to our ongoing publications, we have launched a new feature that will be emailed to members and posted online on OASIS' website after each Board of Directors meeting. It covers some of the key highlights and presentations made at its meetings. If you are interested in or have questions about these items, please contact Monica Zeballos-Quiben, Executive Coordinator Consultant at 647-533-1269 or by email at [executivecoordinator@oasonline.ca](mailto:executivecoordinator@oasonline.ca).

The functions of the Board of Directors are as follows:

- To articulate the mission, vision, values, principles, strategic priorities and overall direction of OASIS
  - To develop policies to establish a framework for the actions and decisions of OASIS
  - To monitor the effectiveness, quality, efficiency and financial stability of OASIS as a means of ensuring accountability to the OASIS members
  - To promote the needs of its member agencies and the developmentally disabled
  - To promote effective governance through board recruitment, orientation, development and evaluation
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The Board of Directors met on:  
October 25-26, 2017 in Hamilton, ON

Next meeting:  
December 6-7, 2017 in Hamilton, ON

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## Membership Update

The Board approved a new membership from Community Living North Perth. As of October 25, 2017, OASIS supports a total of 196 member agencies. To view a list and member agencies map, click [here](#).

***OASIS membership dues are still outstanding from a number of agencies, please provide your payment for your 2017-18 membership fees as soon as possible.***

## OASIS Go Local Campaign

Cameron MacKay Senior Vice President – Public Affairs Lead from Edelman joined the Board for this discussion. OASIS continues to work on a multi-jurisdictional grass roots initiative to engage our member agencies in an advocacy campaign that will help unify and strengthen the voice of our sector. On October 4, 2017 OASIS held a webinar to update Phase 2 lead agencies on group activities since our Think Tank in June 2017. The webinar, reviewed the new pillars, Go Local Toolkit, and preparations for Queen's Park Day agenda.

## Next steps:

To build on messages shared at the OASIS Queen's Park Information Day and Provincial Network Communication Strategies implemented at the recent MCSS Regional Engagement meetings, The Provincial Network on Developmental Services, Community Living Ontario and OASIS have come together

to unify and strengthen our voices. In consultation with the Provincial Network, OASIS has agreed to take the lead in developing a comprehensive communication campaign that will raise awareness of the Crisis of Developmental Service Agencies and call for immediate action. The OASIS Labour Relations Committee and the Provincial Network will be co-hosting an Information Forum on November 22, 2017 to update you on the work that has occurred since the July 5th Forum and introduce you to the key messages and unified ASK foundational to this multi-faceted campaign. To participate in this Campaign, YOU will be asked to use traditional and social media tools to help all of us push this up the agenda of Ontario's top political parties. The goal of this initiative is to work together as a cohesive sector that will help raise awareness of the immediate and long-term funding commitments required to ensure that people with disabilities have access to the services they need for their health, wellness, and access to their community. We know that together our voices are more powerful.

### Queen's Park Day

On October 19, 2017, OASIS held its third annual information day at Queen's Park. It is an opportunity to educate policymakers about the challenges facing the developmental services sector, our member agencies, their employees, and the families we work with every day. Meetings were held with the following individuals:

James Janeiro	Senior Policy Advisor Office of the Premier
MPP Bill Walker	PC Critic Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and former Critic of Ministry of Community and Social Services
MPP Monique Taylor	NDP Critic Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities and Children and Youth Services
Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek	Ministry of Community and Social Services
MPP Randy Pettapiece	PC Critic Ministry of Community and Social Services
Alyssa Brierley	Senior Advisor on Labour Relations Treasury Board
Sebastien Prins	Legislative Assistant and Issues Manager to the President of the Treasury Board



Conversations focused on the issues facing the sector including the nine years of base budget freezes, unfunded liability of pay equity, waiting lists and Bill 148. We also discussed need to address a long-term strategy to provide adequate funding to the sector that gives consideration to cost of living increases on an ongoing basis. In addition, we recommended that the Ministry become more proactive in providing supports to people on the wait list with lower support needs reducing the risk of family breakdown or crisis

which may reduce the economic impact and significantly reduce wait lists.

The day was a huge success that included a question being asked during Question Period by MPP Randy Pettapiece to Minister Jaczek on behalf of OASIS and a lunch reception that was attended by a number of Cabinet Ministers, MPPs from all parties, public servants. A few member agency representatives, Bob Butella, ED Sunbeam Centre, Nancy Wallace-Gero, ED Community Living Essex County and Trevor MacGregor, ED Community Living Stratford attended Question Period and our lunch reception.



Ann Kenney, Michelle Marshall and Darren Connolly also had a successful meeting with the Janet Menard, Deputy Minister and Rupert Gordon, Assistant Deputy Minister on October 18, 2017.

The Board looks forward to continuing our dialogue regarding the immediate and long-term investments needed for community agencies and working with government to ensure the protection of our community agencies.

Click below to view:

1. [Letter from MPP Randy Pettapiece to MCSS + response from Minister of Labour](#)
2. [Hansard Transcript for Question Period](#)
3. [Video of Question Period, specifically the question asked by MPP Pettapiece to Minister Jaczek](#)
4. [Photos from Queen's Park reception](#)

Click each Pillar to review our new postcards:



### Bill 148 Media Release

On October 30, 2017, a [Media Release](#) was developed in collaboration with Community Living Ontario and Provincial Network. The release focused on the estimate that the Ontario Government's Bill 148, will divert an estimated \$55 million away from direct service provisions for people with developmental disabilities. Following the circulation of our media release, we initiated a social media campaign ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)) to raise awareness of this very important issue, that if implemented will have a significant negative impact on the Developmental Services Sector. We asked colleagues to share this release and we have experienced a record-breaking response from the sector and our supporters. Thank you to all that shared our message and release.

**Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs**

During our Board meeting on October 26, we received notice that the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs intended to hold public hearings in Toronto between Monday, October 30, 2017 and Thursday, November 2, 2017.

The Board is pleased to confirm that OASIS was successful at securing a spot on the [October 30 agenda](#). David Ferguson attended and relayed our recommendation that the Committee, and the Government consider a slower implementation timeline for the minimum wage increases. We also sought a commitment from Government, to fiscally support OASIS member agencies, & other not-for-profit organizations that are dependent upon Government funding, by funding the cost increases that will arise from Bill 148's provisions. David highlighted that agencies cannot absorb the additional costs of Bill 148 without there being a further erosion of the Developmental Services system in Ontario. The presentation also highlighted the possible ramifications of Bill 148 on developmentally disabled individuals who have obtained jobs.

**Labour Relations Committee/Operating Pressures Survey**

The DSAG subcommittee met concerning Picketing Protocols. Members of the Labour Relations Committee also met with Rupert Gordon, ADM on October 23, 2017. They had an informative meeting that covered various items such as but not limited to: the history of the committee, DSAG, the compensation study, Picketing Protocol, Dynamics of Ministry interference during recent strike, Operating Pressures Survey, Bill 148, Bill 145, Pay Equity, DSPDT and workforce stability and the Executive Salary leak.

The Board reviewed the Operating Pressures Survey. The survey was launched on August 18 and was distributed throughout the DS sector and gathered information regarding agency financial pressures, plans for managing these costs and the impact on the supports and services being provided. This information will be utilized in ongoing efforts to advocate for additional funding and changes for the DS Sector. The outcomes and statistics consolidated through this survey were used to anchor our conversations during the OASIS Queens Park Information Day, as well as, all key messages used during the Go Local Campaign and other strategies. Thank you to all who have taken the time to complete the survey to date. Together our voices are stronger. The survey results will be distributed Nov. 20, 2017.

**OASIS 2020 – Strategic Goals and Priorities**

The Board reviewed a report and implementation plan for OASIS 2020. Committees will be working on terms of references and current and future work plans to ensure they align with the OASIS 2020 strategic goals and priorities. They will report back to the Board at the December board meeting at which time the implementation plan will be approved and a report will be shared with member agencies and other stakeholders. We continue to collaborate with all stakeholders – our members, our partners, and government ministries – to discuss our value and our shared future supporting people with special needs in Ontario.

**Every Canadian Counts (ECC)**

Ann Kenney provided the board with ECC's policy framework and position paper: Building the Framework for an Inclusive Future for People with Disabilities and their Families in Canada as well as the latest ECC Newsletter: Volume 3, Issue 2

**Transformation Partnership Table**

Darren Connolly provided the Board with the most recent minutes from the Transformation Partnership Table meeting on September 19, 2017.

**Ontario Brain Institute (OBI)**

On September 27-28, 2017, Darren Connolly participated in Canada's first Neurodevelopmental Disorders Priority Setting Partnership. [OBI](#) asked people living with neurodevelopmental disorders, their families, carers, and health/education professionals how research can best meet their needs.

They received 1200+ questions from the community and worked with the group to rank which questions were most important. Here are the priorities from the neurodevelopmental disorder community [Top 10 research questions for neurodevelopmental disorders](#). OBI is a provincially funded not-for-profit research centre maximizing the impact of neuroscience and establishing Ontario as a world leader in brain research, commercialization and care.

**Pay Equity Committee**

The Board would like to remind agencies to share a copy of the recent Pay Equity survey completed for the Ministry with the Pay Equity Committee so they have current data to assist them in advocating on this issue on behalf of the sector. Please send your survey to Donna Marcaccio, she is the Chair of the Equity if Fairness committee- [dmarcaccio@rygiel.ca](mailto:dmarcaccio@rygiel.ca)

**PHSFA Affiliate Program**

Click [here](#) to view the AP Report

Click [here](#) for information concerning the Online Resource Management Tool for the Affiliate Program

**Education Committee**

The Board approved a survey to be sent to agencies in regard to our programs and specifically concerning interest in a Queens Advanced program in Spring of 2018.

**Individualized Budgets**

The Board received an update on the Individualized Budgets Project from the project team at Community Living Toronto. The presentation included details on the lessons learned during the end to end testing results at Community Living Toronto.





Game Changer is theme for OASIS 2018 and co-hosts, Community Living Essex County and Community Living Windsor are asking that you mark your calendars and pack your jeans and jerseys! OASIS Game Changer 2018 will be held at Caesars Windsor, May 2-4, 2018 and will bring together innovators, thought leaders and experts that will focus on ideas that effect a significant shift in the current manner of how we think and about the developmental services sector.

*We hope you find this issue useful. As we continue to develop and grow the newsletter, your continued support and feedback is welcome. Feedback can be provided through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/75FzMQsNUffZECAC2>*



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