



News Digest

April 2014, Issue No.11

President's Message

On April 4, 2014 I had the opportunity, along with Allan Mills, OASIS Vice President Executive Director, to attend a presentation by Minister Ted McMeekin where funding to address growing waitlists in the developmental services sector was announced. The proposed funding includes an \$810 million investment over the next three years, the largest ever funding increase to the developmental services system in Ontario. Immediately following the announcement OASIS issued a press release over the Canada Newswire (CNW) thanking the Government for this critical investment. To read the press release go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/oasis-praises-ontario-government-for-funding-earmarked-to-address-waitlists/>. We will continue to work on behalf of our membership to ensure the proposal receives support from all three parties.

The 17th Annual Conference is just around the corner! New at this year's conference is the OASIS Hub, where you will have an opportunity to network with colleagues, get information about membership benefits and talk with Board members. If you haven't done so already, register online today at www.oasionline.ca. Go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/hotel-accommodations-for-the-2014-oasis-conference/> to book your hotel accommodations. We look forward to seeing you in London!

During the Board meeting on April 2-3, 2014 in Windsor we were joined by representatives from public relations firm, the Devon Group, who provided an update on the development of our Key Messages in preparation for a potential upcoming election. Materials are also being developed for OASIS members that will help ensure we are communicating consistent messages throughout the election process.

We would like to remind members about the Discussion Board on the OASIS website. Although this might feel like an extra step in the process, if members post and answer questions there, all the information about a topic is in the same place and easily accessed. If you use the listserv it would be appreciated if you not "reply all" for requests for information or congratulations. This fills up people's in box and discourages use of the listserv.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members to OASIS who were approved at the April Board meeting: North Hastings Community Integration Association and Counselling and Support Services of Stormont, Dundas and Grenville. This brings our current membership to 173.

Thank you to Elizabeth Esposito and Harmony in Action for hosting the OASIS Board of Directors meeting in Windsor on April 2-3, 2014.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on May 6, 2014 at the London Convention Centre. As always, Members are welcome to attend Board meetings. 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 tjoris@execulink.com or by phone at 519-786-2151 ext. 5502.

Sincerely,
Jane Joris
President, OASIS

Brighter Future Pledge Reminder

We are pleased to inform you that to date, over one third of our member agencies have chosen to take the pledge. Some of our members have inquired as to the rationale for the pledge, and as such we want to explain the idea behind it. Our pledge is based on the rule of commitment. The rule of commitment is a social norm that helps us ensure that we follow through with something after we have made a public commitment. By making a public declaration of our support for the principles espoused in our pledge – and later, having the option to adopt an online badge of honour signifying this declaration – we are setting a public goal, and giving ourselves a regular reminder to stick with it. We hope that you will join us in taking the pledge, which is of course optional!

OASIS and The Disability Network Collaborate

OASIS is happy to announce our recent alignment with The Disability Network. With a shared goal to change culture and attitudes that can positively impact diversity, employment, and social accessibility we are asking our members to take a moment to complete the short questionnaire included below.

Dear Valued TDN partners, associates and followers,

As many of you know, The Disability Network (TDN) has been awarded a Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) license to operate a 24 hour television network with a mandate to inform, educate, entertain, advocate for, and employ persons with disabilities. This will be the 1st station of its kind in Canada, and we have a unique opportunity to represent the voices and opinions of persons with disabilities that for far too long, have been underrepresented throughout society.

We need you to help us make this network successful. We need your ideas with regards to the kind of programming we should offer. We must stand high atop the dial for those with disabilities, to ensure we create a line up of shows that do what we say....inform, educate, entertain, advocate for and employ our community. Your opinion matters to us. We will not only hear, but we will 'listen' and our content will reflect the type of television you want to watch.

We have a short survey we want to have circulated throughout the disability community. We are hoping to reach the widest audience of groups, charities, community organizations and tens of thousands of individuals whose voices need to be heard, and heard loudly.

This initiative will run from Monday April 14th-Friday April 18th. It is simple to execute, this is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YXPM3RM>

*We are asking you to send this TDN survey out to your communities, your followers, your social media friends and families, everyone you would identify as a viewer on our network. **Your participation is vital** to making this 'the hub' for communicating to the disability marketplace and a place we want to spend time watching relevant programming each day.*

This is a true game changer. The more viewers, the more power. The more power, the greater the change.

*Respectfully,
Jay Stoyan
CEO & Programming President
T : 647.339.6847
www.disabilitynetwork.ca*

Social Media

OASIS has both Twitter and Facebook accounts. The Communications and Public Relations Committee invites Members with a passion for social media to participate in our social media campaign. If you are interested, please contact OASIS President, Jane Joris at tjjoris@execulink.com. For Members who use social media, we encourage you to click the links below and follow and/or friend us. It will help us to share information and raise interest from media centres, especially leading up to elections etc.



OASIS Website

The agency information on the OASIS website is extremely useful in the advocacy work of OASIS on behalf of our member agencies, their employees, and the people they support. It is particularly important that data regarding annual budgets, number of people using services and number of employees is accurate. It would be appreciated if you would take a moment to verify your agency's information by logging in to the site and clicking the "Edit Your Agency Listing" on the right side of the page.

Discussion Board

In response to feedback from members the OASIS Discussion Board now has the capacity to include file attachments up to 1MB in size. As always, we encourage members to add their questions and comments by logging in at <http://oasionline.ca/login-page/> and clicking the

Discussion Board link on the right side of the page. The most recent posts include attachments to assist in evaluating and selecting new Board members.