



News Digest

December 2013, Issue No.6

OASIS Scholarship Submissions Due January 31, 2014

In recognition of the philanthropic/voluntary contribution of OASIS leaders, three scholarship funds were established. We encourage individuals in OASIS member agencies to apply for these bursaries, which will be awarded at the 2014 Conference in London. I hope that Executive Directors interested in receiving one of the OASIS scholarships have started working on their submission, which is due **January 31, 2014**. For more information and the application form, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>

President's Message

Thank you to Mr. Deepak Soni and the staff at Corbrook Awakening Abilities in Toronto for hosting the last meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors on December 4-5, 2013.

During the meeting, Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) Board member Jim Smith presented us with an outline of the Australian Disability Insurance Scheme and the advocacy process that brought it to fruition. We were pleased to have Chris Beesley, CEO Community Living Ontario join us for this presentation.

Representatives from the Office of the Fire Marshal provided an update on Ontario Regulation 150/13 that included background information on why the regulation was developed and an overview of the Compliance Schedule. Look for more information on Regulation 150/13 in upcoming issues of the News Digest. We plan to have a session on this topic at the 2014 OASIS Conference and AGM in London.

At the beginning of December OASIS issued an MPP Bulletin focusing on the significant operating pressures faced by our member agencies. To read the bulletin go to <http://oasisonline.ca/documents/mpp-bulletin/>

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent OASIS Key Messages survey. We have taken your input and are working with a government/public relations firm to further polish and refine those Messages.

Stories paint a powerful picture that helps to amplify our messages. We invite you to share stories that tell of your good work, and also stories that share the hardships faced through service reductions or by those who linger on waitlists. For a guide to storytelling for non-profits, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/a-guide-to-storytelling-for-non-profits/>

Members are always welcome at 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.

On behalf of the OASIS Board of Directors I would like to wish you All The Best for the Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Jane Joris
President, OASIS

Scholarship Winner Dwayne Milley

The 2013 recipient of the Gerry Sutton Award was Dwayne Milley, District Executive Director of Christian Horizons for the Toronto, York and Simcoe communities. Dwayne used his scholarship award to attend the highly acclaimed Queen's/OASIS Advanced Leadership Program last March. The intensive five day Program provides an in depth understanding of the competencies that determine superior job performance as developed under the leadership of the Provincial Network on Developmental Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Annie Oliver Award

The Annie Oliver Award for Excellence, named after the founding President of OASIS, Annie Oliver, is awarded each year for outstanding contributions to the work of OASIS. Do you know an individual or organization that:

- Demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector and best exemplifies the interests and mission of OASIS;
- Demonstrates the highest administrative competence and professionalism and in so-doing has provided an inspiration to others; and
- who, by a combination of perseverance, determination and positive attitude has assisted OASIS in achieving the goals inherent in its Mission Statement.

Award nomination packages will be sent out in January, 2014.

Call for Nominations

Also in January, look for a formal Call for Nominations to the OASIS Board of Directors.

Select Committee Public Hearings

Members of the OASIS Board of Directors will be participating in the work of the Select Committee on Developmental Services and would appreciate receiving copies of any presentations made by member agencies to the Committee. This will ensure that OASIS Board member presentations are aligned with and reinforce those messages.

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 attachments. As always, we encourage members to add their questions and comments by logging in at <http://oasisonline.ca/login-page/> and clicking the Discussion Board link on the right side of the page.

Social Media

OASIS has both Twitter and Facebook accounts. For those 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.



Save the Dates! Conference 2014

May 7-9, 2014

London Convention Centre

Book your hotel accommodations: <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/hotel-accommodations-for-the-2014-oasis-conference/>