



News Digest

February 2016, Issue No. 32

Message from the President

Most of our efforts of recent date have been in preparing our response to the Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee (GWGSC) after having met with them on January 12, 2016. Bob Butella our OASIS GWGS Committee Chair, Donna Marcaccio our OASIS Pay Equity Committee Chair, Ann Kenney VP OASIS Volunteer, Michelle Marshall VP OASIS ED and I met with the GWGS and were instantly impressed with both the scope of their mission and their sincere interest in seeing not only our most pressing issues resolved through recommendations that they are able to make directly to the Premier but also, their expanded understanding of many of the issues faced by women in our sector and women with an intellectual disability who are supported in our agencies. The conversation lasted for one and one half hours and was very positive and up-beat. Their time lines to conclude their activities and forward their recommendations are such that we will be able to have a comprehensive fulsome report in their hands that will enable them to capture all of our many challenges with respect to wages, up-ward mobility, staff retention, professional designations and a host of other challenges.

The Budget Finance Committee is once again touring the province looking for input into suggestions for the 2016 Province of Ontario budget. We were fortunate to be able to provide a preliminary report to David Ferguson Chair of the OASIS Labour Relations Committee, CEO of OACPDD, in his presentation to the committee in Ottawa. OASIS has asked to make a formal verbal presentation to the committee in Toronto and in any event, will present our written report.

The OASIS Labour Relations Committee Information Session of January 20th at the Holiday Inn, Toronto International Airport was an immense “sold out” event that garnered significant interest and overflow participation. The topics included Health and Safety and the great work OASIS has done in partnering with PSHSA to bring to our website a host of interactive programmes designed to help agencies and their staff meet those requirements. Check it out at <http://oasisonline.ca/>; right on our home page. You do not want to miss this interactive training opportunity.

Other items included Pay Equity, WSIB, Ministry of Labour, ORPP Survey Results and Collective Bargaining. If you missed it, you missed it. It was exciting, informative and the best such meeting I have ever attended and since 85% of the people were still there after lunch, it had punch. Thank you to David Ferguson, Judy Pryde, Nancy Allan and Eugene Versteeg of the OASIS Labour Relations Committee and their volunteers for a well-organized and very successful day.

We are rapidly moving forward with our preparations for our 2016 OASIS Conference/AGM in Niagara Falls and we expect this to be our very best ever. Register early as you will not want to miss out on this one.

Please note that our MCSS Guests at our February OASIS meeting will be ADM Erin Hannah and Barbara Simmons from Policy.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on February 17-18, 2016 in Hamilton. 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 president@oasisonline.ca or by phone at 1-800-961-9144.

Sincerely,
L. David Barber
President, OASIS

Call for Nominations

At this time of notice, there is one Executive Director vacancy on the OASIS Board of Directors. For further information and the Nomination Form go to: <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/call-for-nominations/>. Knowledge and experience in the area of Finance would be considered an asset.

2016 Pre-Budget Consultations

Once again OASIS was invited to be part of the 2016 Pre-Budget Consultation process by making a submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. To read OASIS' submission, go to: <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/2016-pre-budget-submission/>

Educational Component

Who will be 2016's OASIS Scholarship Recipients?

Have you submitted your application yet for the 4th Annual OASIS Scholarship Awards for 2016? These are the ***Gerry Sutton Scholarship***; the ***George Braithwaite Scholarship***, and the ***President's Scholarship***.

We encourage Executive Directors and/or senior staff to submit their application for any one of these scholarships. Information can be found at <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>. You have 2 months left to submit your application! All applications are **due by March 31st, 2016**. We look forward to hearing from the 2015 Scholarship winners about your scholarship experiences at the 2016 conference in Niagara Falls.

OASIS – Queen's Advanced Leadership Program

OASIS is very pleased to announce another session of the highly acclaimed OASIS - Queen's Advanced Leadership program, which will take place April 10-15, 2016. Space is limited to

60 participants at the Executive Director, CEO and Senior Manager level. The course fee is \$3,950 payable in advance, and a rebate of \$1,200 for the first 25 agencies applying will be offset against the registration fee. Registration for the program will open on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 8:00am. For more information and registration details, go to: <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/oasis-queens-advanced-leadership-program-2/>

Governance Webinar Series

OASIS, in partnership with the Provincial Network, is pleased to announce a new professional development webinar series, The Board: A Winning Team™. The series is facilitated by Gay Douglas, a Niagara-based board governance consultant with more than 25 years of experience as a volunteer serving on boards and as an Executive Director reporting to boards. Her practical, hands-on knowledge of how effective boards work will provide you with handy tips, tools and techniques you can apply in your organization. Her energetic facilitation style will keep the sessions lively and interactive.

In order to help us improve the webinar experience, we ask that you please fill out a short survey found here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCS86PH>. We welcome your feedback and are always looking for ways to improve our webinars.

Materials and webinar from the first session are available to those who registered by going to the OASIS website at: <http://oasisonline.ca/> and clicking the Governance Webinar Series link on the home page.

If you have not signed up for future sessions, here are the details of the upcoming sessions:

Workshop Session 2 – Choosing & Designing Your Board’s Governance Style

Wednesday, February 17th 2016 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Workshop Session 3 –Call to Order™: Strategies and Tools for Productive Board Meetings

Wednesday, March 23rd 2016 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Workshop Session 4 – The Art of Chairing™: Leading for Results

Wednesday, April 27th 2016 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Bonus Session – A Delicate Balance: How Board Members and Executive Directors can Support each other for Strong, Effective Leadership

To be held at the OASIS conference in May, TBD

Registration information:

All sessions will be facilitated through an interactive webinar. To register, please email matthew.beck@edelman.com and provide the following:

Name(s) of everyone who will be participating from your agency.

Name of Agency:

Mailing address:

Dates of sessions you wish to attend:

Log in detailed will be sent out to participants one week prior to each session.

Cost: The sessions are free for MCSS funded Developmental Transfer Payment Agencies who have registered through OASIS.

Books: Agencies who register will receive a set of three books: The Board - A Winning Team™, Call to Order™ and the Art of Chairing™. One set of books will be provided to each agency registered.

Space is limited to 100 spots per session.

OASIS 2016 Conference – Registration is Now Open!



Save the Date!

The 19th Annual OASIS Conference will be held on **May 4 – 6, 2016** in beautiful **Niagara Falls** - one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Our Annual Conference is a forum to learn, connect, share, and grow. It is an opportunity for leaders in the developmental sector to come together and share new information, experience and best practices that build dynamic, responsive, and empowering organizations. The theme for OASIS 2016 is **“Generate the Power, Capture the Energy, and Inspire the Future”**

Mark your calendars and prepare for a ground-breaking conference.

Accommodations

Accommodations for the 2016 OASIS Conference are available at the luxurious 4-Diamond/5-Star Sheraton on the Falls Hotel. The Sheraton on the Falls Hotel combines a great location, the best Fallsview and delicious food, making each visit a truly unique Niagara experience. Book your guest room now, using our conference code.

Sheraton on the Falls

5875 Falls Avenue

Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3K7

www.sheratononthefalls.com Reservations

Phone: 1-800-519-9911

Reservations Link: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/OASIS16>



Don't be disappointed . . . book NOW to reserve your room!

Room block closing date: **April 1, 2016**

Register Today!

[Click here to register.](#)

[Click here for more information on this event.](#)

Interested in up to the minute updates about our Conference? Check out the Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs Facebook Page!



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If you have questions please contact:

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