



News Digest

January 2014, Issue No.8

President's Message

Thank you to Karen Chambers, Executive Director at the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf, for hosting the OASIS Board of Directors meeting in Milton on January 15-16, 2014.

The Board was joined by a group from the Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD), Terry Mooney, Robert Mitchell and Jessica McCuaig, who shared information about the potential of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for Canada. Once again, we were pleased to have representatives from Community Living Ontario join us for the NDIS portion of the meeting, Chris Beesley - Chief Executive Officer; Roy O'Leary - Board Chair; and Gord Kyle - Director of Social Policy & Government Relations.

OASIS recently enlisted the services of government and public relations firm, the Devon Group, to assist in the development of an election readiness campaign. The campaign includes finalizing our key messages, and assisting in the development of a pre-budget presentation, a Select Committee presentation, and response to the Ombudsman's report which is scheduled for release in mid-2014. Training materials will be developed to assist OASIS members in the coming weeks.

Representatives from the Board met with the Select Committee on Development Services on Monday, January 20, 2014. The hard realities of what our sector is facing were presented, along with three solutions:

- Proactive Systems Changes
- Additional Investments
- Inter-ministerial and Cross-sector Collaboration

Immediately following the presentation, a press release was issued over the Canada Newswire, Ontario Comprehensive Network. To read the press release, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/oasis-advises-government-select-committee-on-way-forward-for-developmental-services-in-ontario/>

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on February 19-20, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Vaughn. DSO Provincial Network Chair, Lea Pollard, will join the meeting on the 19th to discuss some of the issues facing the DSOs, and any assistance that OASIS might provide.

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

Last Call for OASIS Scholarship Submissions

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. Submissions are due this **Friday, January 31, 2014**. For more information and the application form, go to <http://oasionline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>

Scholarship Winner Jocelyne Paul

The 2013 recipient of the OASIS President's Award was Jocelyne Paul, Executive Director at Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills. This scholarship is available to Executive Directors to utilize for travel, accommodations, meals and registration fees for a course of their choosing. Jocelyne utilized the \$5,000 scholarship to invest in executive coaching sessions, and continues to share her learning with the people in her organization to further their succession plan and within the Developmental Services sector.

Annie Oliver Award

This award is presented at the Annual Conference of OASIS with the objective to recognize and honour an individual or organization:

- who/which demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector and best exemplifies the interests and mission of OASIS;
- who/which 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.

For further information and the nomination form, go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/an-opportunity-to-recognize-an-outstanding-individual-or-organization/>. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of the OASIS Board of Directors by **Friday, March 21, 2014**.

Call for Nominations

Recently you received a formal Call for Nominations to the OASIS Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the Board, you are encouraged to complete and submit the Nomination Form, which can be found on the OASIS website at <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/call-for-nominations-to-the-oasis-board-of-directors/> At this time, there are two Volunteer and one Executive Director vacancies. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, March 21, 2014**.

2014 Pre-Budget Consultations

As part of 2014 pre-budget consultations, representatives from the OASIS Board of Directors will meet with Finance Minister, Charles Sousa, on February 3, 2014 to share our input on the creation of plans for Ontario's Path to Jobs and Growth. We encourage those who have already prepared presentations to share them with the membership by posting them on the OASIS Discussion Board.

Labour Relations Information Session – March 6, 2014

The OASIS Labour Relations Committee will host an Information Session in Toronto on Thursday, March 6, 2014. Session topics include:

- Strike Preparation and Management
- Legal Aspects of a Strike
- Replacement Worker/Security Firms
- Sector Discussion

For more information and Registration Form, go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/labour-relations-committee-information-session-march-6-2014/>

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. OASIS' submission to the Select Committee on Developmental Services is currently posted on the Discussion Board. Look for other member's Select Committee presentations on the Discussion Board shortly.

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://oasonline.ca/top-stories/hotel-accommodations-for-the-2014-oasis-conference/>