



# News Digest

*June 2013, Issue No.1*

## ***President's Message***

Welcome to the first edition of the OASIS Digest. Please let us know how you like the new look and if this communication format meets your needs by adding your comments to the question posted on the OASIS Discussion Board at <http://oasisonline.ca/forums/forum/oasis-discussion-board/>. The next issue of Focus newsletter will be issued shortly. Following that we will be re-designing Focus to reach a broader audience while using this Digest to communicate more frequently with members.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the four new members who were approved at the May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> Board meetings: YWCA Hamilton, Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley, Rotary Cheshire Homes Inc., and Community Living Manitoulin. This brings our current membership to 173.

Congratulations to the 2013 Conference Committee on putting their best foot forward! What a great experience for everyone that attended.

OASIS issued two press releases recently; the first one regarding the Provincial Budget and the second congratulating Christine Elliott for her Private Member's bill. OASIS received a response from an MPP wanting to know if any agencies in their riding were facing the challenges we identified in the MPP Bulletin. A follow up was made with the agencies in that riding and contact information provided to the MPP's office.

Members are always welcome at the 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](mailto:tjoris@execulink.com) or by phone at 519-786-2151 ext. 5502.

Sincerely,  
Jane Joris  
President, OASIS

## ***2013 – 14 Board of Directors***

The OASIS Board of Directors as elected on May 10, 2013 can be found at [OASIS Online | Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs | OASIS Board](#)

## ***2013 Provincial Budget***

OASIS extended congratulations to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal Government on recognizing the needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities and their families in the 2013 Provincial Budget. The budget was backed by the NDP and passed on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

While the government is increasing the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption to small employers to \$450,000 beginning January 1, 2014, and eliminating the exemption for private sector employers with annual Ontario payrolls over \$5 million, this should not impact most OASIS members. The government did exempt registered charities and they are able to continue to claim the exemption at all payroll sizes. The press release congratulating Premier Wynne can be found at [OASIS Online | Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs | Ontario Budget Press Release – May 3, 2013](#)

### ***Private Members Bill***

On May 17, 2013 MPP Christine Elliott's Private Member's Bill calling for the creation of a Select Committee on Developmental Services received all Party support. We encourage members to email and Tweet to Premier Wynne and Andrea Horwath to establish this committee as soon as possible.

#### **Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne**

Phone: 416-325-1941

Email: [kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

Twitter: @Kathleen\_Wynne

#### **NDP Leader Andrea Horwath**

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Twitter: @andreaorwath

To read the press release congratulating Christine Elliott go to [OASIS Online | Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs | Developmental Services Leaders Congratulate MPP Christine Elliott](#)

### ***Operating Pressures Survey***

Funding has been approved for a second operating pressures survey which was circulated to OASIS members on May 30, 2013. The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/773TTQ5>

### ***Salary Survey***

The fourth salary survey for the Developmental Services sector was released May 3, 2013. Over 300 agencies were invited to complete the survey. The survey collected data from 123 agencies representing all areas of the province. Total reported Ministry revenues exceeded \$936 Million, 55% of the estimated \$1.7 Billion 2012-13 Budget for Developmental Services for adults and children in the province. Fiscal constraints remain a major concern and it was apparent that agencies were struggling to meet increased costs with stagnant or shrinking budgets. Complimentary copies of the survey were sent to participating agencies. If you did not participate and would like to purchase a copy of the Salary Survey please contact the OASIS Administration Support at [abrown@clsm.on.ca](mailto:abrown@clsm.on.ca)

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge Pat O'Malley, John Bedell and Ken Williams and Associates for their efforts in producing this valuable resource.

### ***Annie Oliver Award***

Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Annie Oliver Award, Marion Peck, Chief Executive Officer at Simcoe Community Services. To read more about Marion and her achievements go to <http://oasisonline.ca/research-resources/the-annie-oliver-award/>

### ***OASIS Scholarships***

The first recipients of the OASIS scholarship funds are Jocelyne Paul, Dwayne Milley, Kim Gallant and Michelle Marshall. For more information go to <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/oasis-scholarship-winners-2012-2013/>

### ***Discussion Board***

A discussion board was added to the new OASIS website. We encourage member agencies to add their questions and comments to the discussion board. In the future questions that are circulated on the listserves that provide a resource for member agencies will be added to the discussion board and an email circulated to ask that you respond on the discussion board instead of the listserve so that responses can be tracked and available for all that may wish to have the same information. To check out the questions that already exist on the discussion board and add your comments go to

<http://oasisonline.ca/forums/forum/oasis-discussion-board/>

### ***June Board Meeting Highlights***

The Board of Directors met in Niagara Falls on June 19 - 20, 2013. For highlights from the meeting go to <http://oasisonline.ca/wp-content/uploads/OASIS-Board-Meeting-Highlights-June-19-20-2013.pdf>