



Developmental service agencies
building inclusive communities,
enabling healthier lives for Ontario's
most vulnerable.



Monthly NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE NEW VERSION OF THE OASIS NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the new OASIS Newsletter! Our goal is to have this Newsletter shared with our members monthly after each Oasis Board Meeting. This is still a work in progress and we will continue to evaluate and change this format as needed. We also welcome your feedback on this new format and if there is something you would like to see changed or added, please let us know. In addition, if there is a story from your agency, especially a good news story, that you would like to see shared in a future edition of our Newsletter, *please send it to us!* Our goal is to share as much information on what is happening locally with our Member Agencies.

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OASIS CONFERENCE 2020:

Registration for the 2020 OASIS CONFERENCE & AGM is Now OPEN! The Theme of this year's Conference is the Olympics! And the Conference will be taking place from May 20-22nd 2020 at the Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville.

Register now by visiting this link: <https://events.eply.com/OASIS2020> You can also get more information on Hotel reservations and the Agenda for the Conference by visiting the OASIS website here: <https://oasionline.ca/> May is just around the corner – Hope to see you all in Muskoka!!

UPDATE FROM THE MINISTER'S OFFICE:

As you know, OASIS has for some time been advocating for three key priorities from the Government of Ontario: continued sector stabilization funding, maintaining the Passport Bridge and consultation with the sector ahead of any major changes.

This week, at his request, OASIS and other provincial leaders in the Developmental Services sector met with the Minister of Children, Community and Social Service, the Honourable Todd Smith, and his staff to discuss one of these priorities, specifically plans for sector-wide consultations on Developmental Services transformation.

This was a very productive meeting. Below is what we have learned from that meeting.

Minister Smith outlined his objectives for a sector-wide transformation, saying he believes in a system of supports that are responsive, person-directed, and sustainable for generations to come. Minister Smith also affirmed that he shares a common vision with the sector; a vision where people with developmental disabilities fully belong in their communities as citizens, contributors and neighbours. He acknowledged that while some have achieved this, many have not, and it is time to have a principle-based discussion about where the system is today, where we want it to be in a decade, and how the sector, community and government might get there together.

The Minister recognized that this transformation will not, and cannot, take place overnight. This will be a gradual process over 8-10 years – reflecting the need for core foundational elements to be put in place, and to test and make changes that are effectively implemented and minimally disruptive.

The engagement process will be informed by key insights, evidence and advice provided to the government by the sector, individuals with lived experience, and an external review related to leading practices from jurisdictions from around the world. The engagement will be focused on the following areas for reform:

- Developing an individualized, needs-based funding approach;
- Improving the assessment process and experience for people;
- Promoting accountability for high quality services and better outcomes for people;
- Making supports person-directed, responsive and seamless; and,
- Adopting technology solutions for effective service delivery.

The consultation process will include regional sessions to ensure the ministry hears from a broad range of individuals and agency partners from across the province, including Northern, rural and remote communities, and urban centres and small towns.

It will also include a Reference Group that will include diverse representation and serve as a regular working table to advise the ministry on policy and implementation considerations.

We understand that more information will follow after the budget. OASIS looks forward to continuing to work with Minister Smith and his staff as this moves forward

NEW WEBSITE:

Many of you will have noticed a lack of updates to our website as well as an increasingly dated look.

There are a number of reasons for this, however, the primary being that we are currently undergoing a revamp and modernisation of the entire website.

This has been ongoing for some time and will continue to progress throughout the year. We continue to work on the upgrade of the OASIS website to ensure a more user-friendly environment for our membership.

We hope to have this all completed this year; Stay tuned for updates around the website in the coming months.



Ontario

Search News

Newsroom

News Release

Ontario to Release 2020 Budget on March 25

Province to Outline Next Steps in Plan to Build Ontario Together

Ontario Budget 2020:

The Ontario Government has announced that the government will release its 2020 Ontario Budget on 25th March. You can read the official Press Release by clicking [Here](#). As has we have done in previous years, we will continue to keep you updated as we learn more about what is in the budget, as well as provide you with our initial thoughts and analysis once it has been released.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

OASIS Membership renewals for 2020-2021 have now gone out. If you did not receive, please let us know and we will send it to you again.

Also, should you require any assistance with renewals or Member Log-in on the website, please feel free to contact administrative support at 1-905-579-5267 x 203 or administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca

Ivey - Middle Management Development Programme

OASIS is in the planning stages of working on a new Middle Management Development Programme with Ivey Business School. Further information on this programme will be shared at the OASIS 2020 Conference and we anticipate it will be ready in the Fall of 2020.



Nominations and Applications for the 2020 Scholarships and Awards:

OASIS shared an email last week and [posted to the website](#) that the nominations and applications for the 2020 Scholarships and Awards are now open! They will be announced during the Conference in May. ***Be sure to put your nominations forward and prior to the deadline of March 23rd, 2020!*** For more information, please visit the OASIS website here: <https://oasonline.ca/> or feel free to email administrative support at administrativesupport@oasonline.ca

Scholarships:

OASIS is committed to helping their member agencies maintain and provide high quality services through exemplary leadership. To help you achieve this, OASIS annually provides Scholarship opportunities for YOU to apply to:



President's Scholarship: Presented at the Annual Conference of OASIS. This award was established in recognition of the contributions of the volunteer Presidents of OASIS since its inception in 1996



George Braithwaite Scholarship: Established in recognition of former OASIS Board member and President, George Braithwaite for his volunteer contributions to OASIS.

Awards:

OASIS Annually provides two different awards to recognise achievement and reward those who have, and continue to, blaze the trails of exceptionality. You can apply for these awards yourself, for your agency, your colleague or another agency.



Annie Oliver Award: The objective of this award is to recognise and honour an individual.



Member Leadership Award: The objective of this award is to recognise and honour an OASIS member organisation.

Coronavirus:

Oasis has been sending information through the List Serves since January regarding the rising number of cases of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) around the world. While the World Health Organization has now characterized the virus as a pandemic, the most recent release from the Government of Ontario maintains that **the protocols and processes in place continue to be effective and the risk to Ontarians taking precautions Remains Low**. All agencies should have reviewed their pandemic plan and ensure that all management staff are fully trained and aware of actions required.

For further information and guidance, please visit the following links: [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) ; [Public Health Ontario](#) ; [The Public Health Agency of Canada](#); [The World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#)