



News Digest

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Message from the President, David Barber

I would like to start by thanking outgoing OASIS President, Jane Joris, for her strong leadership over the past two years. During her term, Jane has been a driving force behind the work of OASIS and she will continue to advocate on behalf of members as Past President on the Board of Directors.

Congratulations to the 2014 Conference Committee for putting together a fantastic conference in London last week. Outstanding keynote speakers, top-notch information sessions and great networking opportunities made the conference a terrific experience for all who attended.

I was elected to the Board of OASIS four years ago and I am pleased and proud to serve as the new President. I became President of Simcoe Community Services in Barrie and from there, I became President of Community Living Ontario. In addition, I serve as President of Ideal Child Service Group, a not-for-profit group of day care centres in Toronto. I am past President of The Independent Financial Brokers of Canada. I want to thank the OASIS Board of Directors for having the confidence in me and my abilities to recommend me for this position and I look forward to working with, and on behalf of our membership.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member to OASIS who was approved at the May Board meeting: Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County. This brings our current membership to 174.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on June 18-19, 2014 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 pbi-inter@uniserve.com or by phone at 1-800-961-9144.

Sincerely,
David Barber
President, OASIS

Ontario General Election 2014 - #EndTheWait



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMILTYacPZc&feature=youtu.be>

The suddenness of the fall of Budget 2014 appears to have caught all three of Ontario's political parties by surprise. On May 7, the official start of the campaign, none of the parties had a full slate of 107 candidates nominated (NDP 68, Liberal 95, and PC 99).

Combined with the Elections Ontario mandated political advertising blackout that is in effect until May 21, the first two weeks of the campaign are not likely to garner a great deal of media attention. Public salience will remain low until the first televised debate, yet to be scheduled or agreed upon by the three major parties.

Working with the Devon Group, OASIS has developed a **One Voice Kit** that provides an inflection point for a conversation about grassroots activation during the 2014 election.

At present, over a third of OASIS members have taken the Brighter Future Pledge. The **One Voice Kit** will encourage and enable greater adoption while ensuring that OASIS is collecting valuable information that can be used to further amplify our message. These tools will ensure that online engagement complements a robust, central grassroots programme that prioritizes face-to-face contact with candidates and community influencers.

Finally, the toolkit is designed to ensure that OASIS members increase their community and media profile. This is a critical goal.

In the wake of Ontario's 41st General Election on June 12, OASIS' member agencies can expect the Select Committee on Developmental Services, as well as the Office of the Ombudsman, to issue their final reports on the sector. Combined with the Liberals' promise of over \$800 million over the next three years, it is clear that an increased profile is needed to ensure that whoever forms government fulfills this commitment. Further, an infusion of such funds demands that developmental services agencies demonstrate their value more publicly than ever before. The guide for conducting site tours, for example, has been specifically designed to drive community awareness.

To access your **One Voice Kit**, click here

<http://oasonline.ca/pdf/OASIS%20One%20Voice%20Kit%20-%202014%20Ontario%20General%20Election.pdf>

To Download the ecard and send to your local candidates, as well as post on your website and social media pages, click here: <http://oasonline.ca/pdf/endthewait-ecard.pub>

To take the Brighter Future Pledge, click here: <http://oasonline.ca/pledge/>

