



# News Digest

*November 2013, Issue No.5*

## *President's Pre-Board Message*

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will be hosted by member agency Corbrook Awakening Abilities in Toronto on December 4-5, 2013. Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OCAPDD) Board member Jim Smith will be presenting an outline of the Australian Disability Insurance Scheme, including the advocacy process used to bring it to fruition.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, OASIS Board representatives met with Karen Chan, the newly appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of the Community & Developmental Services Division of the Ministry, where we shared information about our Operating Pressures Survey report.

Thank you to the Provincial Network for facilitating a great Communications Day on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. We look forward to receiving the roll up of the information so that we can incorporate the data into the creation of our Key Messages.

The Labour Relations Committee Information Session on November 21<sup>st</sup> in Toronto was very well attended. Presentations were given on Pay Equity, the Operating Pressures Survey results, the MOL & PSHSA Initiative, Labour Relations Secretariat Employer Tools, and Shared Leadership. To read the Operating Pressures Survey report, go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/operating-pressures-survey-report-2013/>

Also on November 21<sup>st</sup>, OASIS issued a press release focusing on the 2013 Operating Pressures Survey. To read the press release, go to <http://oasionline.ca/top-stories/developmental-services-leaders-meet-to-discuss-coming-crisis-2/>. An MPP Bulletin will be issued shortly that also focuses on the significant operating pressures faced by our member agencies.

The OASIS board has been working to update our key messages. Last week you received a draft of those messages, along with a link to a brief survey to gather your input to ensure our messages are relevant and useful for our members. We encourage you to complete the survey, which will be open until Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and can be accessed by clicking here <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/allan-r/oasis-key-messages>.

Stories paint a powerful picture that help to amplify our messages. OASIS will soon reach out to you requesting stories that tell of your good work, and also stories that share the hardships faced through service reductions or by those who linger on waitlists. <http://www.capacitywr.ca/files/storytelling-resources/cwrstorytellingguidepdf>

Members are always welcome at 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

### ***Select Committee Public Hearings***

Members of the OASIS Board of Directors will be participating in the work of the Select Committee on Developmental Services and would appreciate receiving copies of any presentations made by member agencies to the Committee. This will ensure that OASIS Board member presentations are aligned with and reinforce those messages.

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

The Annie Oliver Award for Excellence, named after the founding President of OASIS, Annie Oliver, is awarded each year for outstanding contributions to the work of OASIS. Do you know an individual or organization that:

- Demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector and best exemplifies the interests and mission of OASIS;
- 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.

Award nomination packages will be sent out in January, 2014.

### ***Call for Nominations***

Also in January, look for a formal Call for Nominations to the OASIS Board of Directors.

### ***OASIS Scholarships***

In recognition of the philanthropic/voluntary contribution of OASIS leaders, three scholarship funds were established: the President's Scholarship, the George Braithwaite Scholarship and the Gerry Sutton Scholarship. We encourage individuals in OASIS member agencies to apply for these bursaries, which will be awarded at the 2014 Conference in London. I hope that Executive Directors interested in receiving one of the OASIS scholarships have started working on their submission, which is due **January 31, 2014**. For more information and the application form, go to <http://oasonline.ca/research-resources/scholarships/>

### ***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***

As always, we encourage members to add their questions and comments to the Discussion Board by logging in at <http://oasisonline.ca/login-page/> and clicking the Discussion Board link on the right side of the page.

### ***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