



# News Digest

*November 2014, Issue No. 20*

## *Message from the President*

Our recent Board of Directors meeting in Woodstock was one of the best attended regional meetings with many local OASIS members and representatives from the SW Region of the Ministry of Community and Social Services in attendance. Thank you for being part of an exceptional, informative and exciting agenda that in my opinion met or exceeded all of our expectations. From the education of Disability Support Workers to the potential for the creation of a Disability Support Professional designation and College, the development of a first response initiative and training for members of the Ontario Provincial Police, the completion of a highly successful and most rewarding Labour Relations Meeting in Toronto with OASIS Members and the release of the Operations Pressures Survey Report, a comprehensive up-date from the OASIS Committee responsible for investigating and challenging Pay-Equity and the availability of continuing education opportunities.

The \$810M three year announcement has been clarified to be a total fiscal investment over the three years. After three years the funding envelope will have increased by approximately \$300M. Within these resources, the money that will be invested for wages is actually an increase of \$40M this year, plus an additional \$40M next year (see the breakdown below as shared by Assistant Deputy Minister, Karen Chan at the OASIS Labour Relations Information Session recently). \$300M increases the budget for the Developmental Services Sector from \$1.7B to \$2B and we are grateful for the additional permanent funding and we will make those dollars work hard for us and the people we support.

OASIS is a member of the Provincial Network and as an active participant we were pleased to consult with our community partners at this table to seek clarification from MCSS on behalf of the entire sector, as to what we might expect the distribution of funding to look like going forward and how timely the funds would flow. Our unions are now fully aware of the money that is presently on the table and what we might anticipate into the future in the way of potential additional wage considerations.

In her departing letter to OASIS at retirement, former Deputy Minister Marg Rappolt identified OASIS as a trusted partner in the Developmental Services Sector and we are confident that this mutual trust will continue to grow and be further enhanced as we work together with MCSS in the implementation of the Transformation Process and the rollout from the Select Committee on Disability as identified by Minister Jaczek.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on December 3-4, 2014 in Toronto. 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 [president@oasisonline.ca](mailto:president@oasisonline.ca) or by phone at 1-800-961-9144.

Sincerely,  
L. David Barber  
President, OASIS

### ***Board Meeting Highlights – October 29-30, 2014- Woodstock, ON Developmental Services College***

Mark Benner from Fanshawe College provided a presentation on a future College of Developmental Service Workers. He reviewed the timeline of progress and the College of DSW Working Group and Terms of Reference that was established this year. The third annual Direct Support Professionals Conference will take place in Thorold on April 17, 2015.

### ***Every Canadian Counts (ECC)***

The focus of much of the recent work of the ECC coalition has been on regional outreach meetings. Five regional meetings took place recently, two in the Greater Toronto Area, and one each in Kitchener, Woodstock and Ottawa. A meeting in Kingston is in the planning stages and will take place in mid-November. A meeting in Sarnia & Lambton will occur on November 25, 2014.

- 1 in 7 people in Ontario today in 2014, have a disability, that's 1.85 million Ontarians.
- 4.8 million Canadians have a disability
- By 2036, that number will rise to 1 in 5 as the population ages.

“Every Canadian Counts” and now more than ever, is the time to act so that in 2036 all Canadians will be treated with the same respect and dignity that they have come to know and should know, all the days of their lives.

Now is the time that we start talking about it, because it's going to take two years or three years or more to get changes implemented. By kicking the can down the road for another government to resolve, that's not the answer. By then it's too late, because then we're into another economic cycle and people are being left behind.

Now is the time to act. Now is the time to be courageous and now is the time to show leadership.

We encourage government to stand up. Stand up and make, “Every Canadian Count.”

If you haven't done so already you are encouraged to visit the ECC website and take the pledge to be a Supporter of Every Canadian Counts. Please spread the word to your staff, families, stakeholders etc. You could also add the link <http://everycanadiancounts.com/> to your agency website.

### ***Labour Relations Information Session***

125 people representing 71 agencies participated in the Labour Relations Information Session in Toronto on October 28<sup>th</sup>, where the third annual Operating Pressures Survey was publicly released. Assistant Deputy Minister, Karen Chan, attended the session. When asked about the 200\$M investment for wages over the next three years, she gave the following breakdown:

- 2014/15 - \$40M fiscal
- 2015/16 - \$80M fiscal
- 2016/17 - \$80M annualized

### ***Communications and Public Relations***

An OASIS proposal was submitted to the MCSS Employment and Service Modernization fund that would provide standardized tools and training modules that will support service modernization and capacity building within agencies.

Two media releases were issued in response to the Ottawa tragedy and the release of the Operating Pressures Survey Report. A series of Tweets were sent throughout the day of the Labour Relations Information Session that related to the Report. OASIS Public Relations firm, Edelman, is currently working on developing key messages to assist with any labour disruptions.

### ***Ministry Representatives***

On October 30<sup>th</sup> the Board was joined by MCSS West Region representatives Arlene Berday - Regional Director, Rhonda Clarke - Program Manager, and Donna Chaput - Manager Community Programs who shared information about the region, the \$810 investment in Developmental Services and the Employment and Modernization fund.

### ***OPP Mental Health Strategy***

Ontario Provincial Police Research Analysts Kara Brooks and Molly Acton joined the meeting to share information about what the OPP is doing to better train and equip their members to respond to mental health and dual diagnosis related calls for service.

### ***New Board Members***

Two new Board members were elected at the meeting. Trevor McGregor, Executive Director of Community Living Stratford and Area was appointed as Director, Executive Director. Darren Connelly, volunteer Board member of Community Living Elgin was appointed as Director, Volunteer.

### ***New OASIS Members***

Two new OASIS members were approved at the October Board meeting, Integration Communautaire Hearst Community Living in Hearst and The Salvation Army – Broadview Village in Toronto. This brings the total membership to 179 agencies.

### ***By-Law Review***

The Board approved the recommendations of the By-Law Review Working Group and the finalized revision of the By-Laws will be presented at the 2015 AGM for approval.

## ***OASIS 2015 Conference***

The 2015 OASIS Conference will take place from May 5th - 8th at the newly renovated Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, in Richmond Hill. Our Annual Conference is a forum to learn, connect, share, and grow. It is an opportunity for leaders in the developmental sector to come together and share new information, experience and best practices that build dynamic, responsive, and empowering organizations. OASIS 2015 will educate, inspire and stimulate you, the movers and shakers in Developmental Services across Ontario.

The 2015 Conference is hosted by the Faith and Cultural Inclusion Network. FCIN is committed to engaging faith and cultural organizations, families, government, and community leaders toward accessibility and innovation by promoting inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in all walks of life.

