



News Digest

November 2015, Issue No. 30

Message from the President

What a difference a week makes. Here we are with a new federal government and all of the things we had been hoping that we might see take place into the future are now unfolding before us. The new Minister of Sport & Persons with Disabilities, Carla Qualtrough has unveiled her platform which includes going forward with a National Disabilities Act. How exciting. This means that our partnership with Every Canadian Counts (ECC) may soon begin to pay dividends. Patricia Hajda has been appointed Minister of the Status of Women and Jean-Yves Duclos is the new Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. Given that we now have a period of at least three full years with no federal, provincial or municipal elections, we can finally have a rest in Ontario from non-stop politicking and get on with the business of creating opportunities for families and their children to finally realize their dreams and aspirations. There is a feeling of hope in the air, a strong sense that change is on its way with a new spirit of provincial/federal co-operation that will yield the kind of results that will make a real difference in people's lives.

In addition to the recent OASIS survey regarding Pay Equity which I hope you have all completed, Treasury has asked us to conduct a short survey regarding pensions so that we have the empirical data from our sector that will support our position regarding the introduction of the new Ontario Defined Benefit Pension Plan which the Premier has indicated will go forward and wherein the Prime Minister has indicated a willingness to make available to Ontario the same Canada Pension Plan administrative options currently utilized by Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The OASIS Queens Leadership Program will in the very near future, be distributing a survey to determine what the future needs are in the sector, from this program. To date, it has been very successful and we want to ensure that it remains relevant and that we are attracting the people we need to make it a continuing success.

The Minister of Labour is conducting Town Hall meetings across Ontario with respect to the Gender Wage Gap Strategy and you can find more information about the consultation, including background papers and information on the province-wide public town hall sessions through the link below:

<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/about/gwg/consultation.php>

ADM Karen Chan has kindly consented to attend our OASIS Board meeting this December and we look forward to chatting with her and being brought up to speed on what her objectives will be in the coming year.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on December 2-3, 2015 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 president@oasisonline.ca or by phone at 1-800-961-9144.

Sincerely,
L. David Barber
President, OASIS

Materials for Members

As noted in our October Newsletter, on October 20, 2015, OASIS held an information day at Queens Park that included a number of meetings throughout the day with Members of Provincial Parliament.

An information day is an advocacy tool used as part of an overall strategy, in order to drive awareness of issues of importance to OASIS' membership, educate officeholders, and build relationships which can be leveraged in the future. Part of educating officeholders meant the production of high quality materials to showcase our key messages in a visual, impactful, and memorable way.

To access the digital copies of the four message pillars that OASIS highlighted with legislators during our information day this year click here: <http://oasisonline.ca/members-area/oasis-key-messages/>. You can download and easily customize these materials with your own agency logo for use at your events!

Abilities Connect Fund Webinar

Thank you to everyone who joined the OASIS webinar on October 26th on the Abilities Connect Fund. We hope that you found the session informative and that you feel confident applying for the program. The recorded webinar presentation can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxTqAWnuKyc>. Additional information on the Fund, including an Application Guide, Informational Flyer, Application Form and the Presentation Deck can be found on the OASIS website at <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/abilities-connect-fund/>.

Lastly, to help OASIS continue to provide relevant and educational webinars, we would be very appreciative if you took a few minutes to fill out a survey found here.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F67HDJ8>

For more information on the Abilities Connect Fund, please contact Louie Di Palma at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce at (416) 482 -5222, ext. 2270 or at louiedipalma@occ.ca

FASD Services in Ontario

At the recent OASIS Queen's Park Information Day on October 20, 2015 MCYS Minister Tracy MacCharles referred OASIS representatives to a report on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Ontario. The Ministers Parliamentary Assistant, Granville Anderson, travelled around the province hearing from stakeholders, families, persons with lived experiences' about the state of FASD services and diagnosis in Ontario. You can find the report which presents his findings here:

http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/documents/topics/specialneeds/fasd/FASD_Roundtable_Report.pdf

OASIS Board Meeting Highlights – October 28-29, 2015 – Stratford, ON

OASIS Queen's Leadership Program – Enhanced Course

OASIS is working with Queen's University to develop an advanced program for senior executives of OASIS member agencies. Look for a questionnaire in the coming weeks that will help develop program content and a delivery style that is most relevant to you in your senior leadership positions.

Equity as Fairness Campaign

For those who haven't done so already we urge you to complete the latest Pay Equity survey. The survey results will give us a more accurate snapshot of the sector's situation and will be used to assist with lobbying efforts with provincial MPPs, MCSS officials, other relevant Ministries and the recently announced Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee. Survey results will be presented at the Labour Relations information session on January 20, 2016. To go to the survey, click here

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W8JG8BK>

Office of the Fire Marshal

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) recently added information to the Q&A section of their website that clarifies questions around the definition of the number of persons provided with sleeping accommodation in a residence. Click here for further information

<http://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/CareOccupanciesCareandTreatmentOccupanciesRetirementHomes/QuestionandAnswers/QandAsFireCode.html>

Housing Task Force

A second Expression of Interest will be sent out later this year by the Developmental Services Housing Task Force inviting submissions for Innovative Housing Solutions for people with developmental disabilities. A number of proposals selected in the first round of submissions were presented at the Housing Forum in Toronto on November 9, 2015.

Host Families Policy Directives

The three working groups established by the Ministry in response to the recommendations stemming from the inquest into the death of Guy Mitchell will meet collectively for the first time on November 23, 2015. OASIS is represented on all three Committees by Krista Haiduk-Collier (Community Living South Muskoka) – Broader Policy Issues, Judy Pryde (Community Living Burlington) – Technical Group and Michelle Marshall (The Participation House Project Durham Region) - Abuse and Harassment.

