



***OASIS INFORMATION BULLETIN
TO ONTARIO MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT***

October 2002

Dear Member of the Ontario Legislature:

As part of OASIS's ongoing efforts to communicate issues of importance for our member agencies, we have prepared this Information Bulletin for the Fall Session of the Legislature, briefly outlining current topics of concern to the developmental Services sector. OASIS agencies provide service to intellectually handicapped citizens in your riding. We appreciate the positive feedback that we received from MPP's regarding previous issues, and look forward to continuing discussions with both MPP's and the Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services on these matters.

The Privacy of Personal Information Act (P.P.I.A.):

In June of 2002 the Legislative Assembly discussed the proposed new privacy legislation introduced by the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services. If this proposed legislation is to be enacted OASIS has proposed:

- The development of clear guidelines regarding the impact and application of the legislation.
- That the draft legislation be simplified. It is unduly complex as a result of different and ambiguous language inconsistencies, redundancies and duplications.
- That the exemptions be clearly defined. In their current form they are too broad.
- That enforcement be simplified and complaint driven. Proposed enforcement appears cumbersome and costly.

The complete submission made by OASIS regarding this draft legislation can be accessed via the OASIS website.

Funding Commitment to the Developmental Service Sector:

In the 2002 budget, the government reaffirmed its commitment to multi-year funding in the amount of \$197 million over 5 years. OASIS was pleased to be asked by Ministry of Community Family and Children's Services staff to have input into the next allocation of funds, and the sector looks forward to the results of this consultation.

We applaud Minister Elliott for the funding allocation announced on October 11, 2002 and her continued recognition of the financial needs of the developmental services sector.

Human Resources Issues:

Recruitment and retention of staff continues to present a critical issue to our sector due to poor wage rates and lack of training dollars. This results in a lack of suitable candidates entering the profession, or current trained staff leaving the sector to accept higher paid jobs in institutions such as Boards of Education and hospitals.

Pay Equity:

Two legal challenges continue in Ontario with respect to this matter. Three developmental service agencies have appealed their Pay Equity Orders to the Pay Equity Commission; and the second challenge consists of a Charter Challenge by the Equal Pay Coalition. Both of these matters are expected to proceed in the Winter of 2003. OASIS hopes that the issue of government responsibility for funding these legal obligations will be resolved as a result of these actions.

We hope that you find this summary to be of assistance as you resume your responsibilities within the Legislature and debate issues of social concern to the people of Ontario. We encourage you to obtain further details on these matters from the OASIS website at: www.oasisonline.ca.

Sincerely,
Paul Wilson, President
