



News Digest

October 2014, Issue No.19

Message from the President

I had the opportunity to talk frankly with Minister Jaczek recently after having received a copy of the Mandate Statement issued by the Premier to each of her Ministries and in particular, I was drawn to the part referring to an increased dialogue with the federal government. In this regard, I brought to her attention our initiative with respect to, "Every Canadian Counts." Although OASIS is not the sole sponsor of this effort, we have been instrumental in its launch and our expectation is that over the next five years it will take root and grow as other organizations come to recognize and embrace its potential. This initiative as you are aware is modeled on the, "National Disability Insurance Scheme" that is being implemented in Australia. It is well under way and will be fully employed by 2018.

I shared this information with Jonathan Bradshaw who has remained as Chief Policy Advisor in the new administration with the MCSS Developmental Disability Team. As the architect of much of the work that will be implemented as a result of the 810M funding, he will bring continuity to the effort and it was a real pleasure to speak with him. I took the opportunity to ensure that all of our MCSS partners were advised that I had provided this information directly to the Minister.

The Minister advised me that she had occasion to speak with Premiere Prentice of Alberta about when all of their institutions would be closed. He indicated to her that they are prepared to move forward but that they intend to move slowly because they believe that many of their older residents have no family and harbour a fear of being moved into community where they will have to make significant adjustments. This sentiment was echoed by Nova Scotia who is in the same process, she advised. I took the opportunity to reassure her that we here in Ontario had many of the same fears expressed to us by residents and their families in institutions but that ultimately, the degree of adjustment and eventual satisfaction with the new arrangements far outweighed the inconvenience of the change. They have nothing to fear but fear itself.

"A Legacy of Service", a farewell reception for Marg Rappolt held on October 2, was an exceptional event attended by many of our old friends including Deputy Minister, Ministry of Government Services, Associate Secretary of Management Board of Cabinet and Secretary of Management Board of Cabinet, Kevin Constante, ADM Karen Chan, David Carter-Whitney and a host of well-wishers. I had the opportunity to chat with Interim Deputy Minister (effective October 8, 2014) Bohodar Rubashewsky who has experience in both MCSS and MCYS not to mention a host of other ministry postings that make him an ideal choice for this position and he was very excited about actively participating in the Developmental Services Sector. The whole evening was very special with sundry comments from staff celebrating Marg's many years of exceptional service to the people of Ontario. We should be very proud of all of the people who choose a career in the civil service as they

are dedicated public servants who do everything in their power to exercise good judgement and assist our elected representatives to fulfill their mandates.

Congratulations Marg on over 25 years of commitment to good government.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on October 29-30, 2014 in Woodstock. 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

Labour Relations Information Session

The OASIS Labour Relation Committee is hosting an Information Session on October 28, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Toronto Airport. Session topics include:

- Passport
- Workforce Stability Discussions
- 3rd Operating Pressures Survey Report
- Family Status Accommodation.

For further details and registration form, click here: <http://oasisonline.ca/top-stories/oasis-labour-relations-committee-information-session/>

Your Feedback is Needed

A small task group led by OASIS Board member, Allan Mills, will be established to review and update the OASIS website. This task group is yet to be created. We would like to hear from you suggestions for improvements to the OASIS website. Please forward these to amills@christian-horizons.org.

OASIS 2015 Conference

The OASIS 2015 Committee is comprised of individuals from faith based agencies throughout Ontario supporting individuals with special needs. They are invested in ensuring that the people that they support have access to choices in their lives including spiritual and cultural respect and participation by promoting inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in all walks of life. Each committee member serves on the Faith & Culture Inclusion Network which is sponsoring OASIS 2015. The Faith & Culture Inclusion Network has members throughout Ontario supporting faith, culture, and accessibility choices for people with developmental disabilities. Their goal is to be a sign post for developmental services in Ontario; bringing families, government, and community faith and cultural leaders together.

Arlene Margolese (co-chair)
Dwayne Milley (co-chair)
Paul Burston
Mille Chadwick
David Cohen
Carl MacMillan
Deepak Soni
Don Walker
Aviva Windman

Reena
Christian Horizons
Christian Horizons
Reena
Reena
L'Arche Daybreak
Corbrook
Mary Centre
Reena

