



# News Digest

*September 2016, Issue No. 37*

## *Message from the President*

I am pleased to announce that OASIS has created a new award entitled the OASIS Leadership Award which will be presented at the Annual Conference. The main objective of this award is to recognize and honour an OASIS member organization that:

- Demonstrates excellence, innovation and leadership in the developmental services sector, and
- Demonstrates collaboration, partnership and professionalism by an organization and in so-doing has provided an inspiration to other organizations.

With the introduction of the OASIS Leadership Award, the Annie Oliver Award will now be awarded to individuals only. Watch for the application form with more details to come out in January 2017 to nominate a worthy member organization.

OASIS is seeking nominations for the President's Scholarship for this year. Unfortunately, the person who won the award at the 2016 Conference is unable to utilize it. OASIS would like to extend a second call for nominations to ensure that an Executive Director has the opportunity to take advantage of this scholarship. Deadline for submission will be November 15, 2016. The application form can be found here: [OASIS 2016 Presidents Scholarship Application Form](#)

On August 25, 2016 the Ontario Government released the final report and recommendations from the Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee. OASIS was pleased that Recommendations 6, 7 and 8 addressed many of the concerns we had raised during our meeting with and submission to the Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee as well as the ongoing work of the Pay Equity Committee. These recommendations ask the government to address barriers to compliance and support employers in ongoing obligations by amending the Pay Equity Act; assess the state of proxy pay equity and examine ways to coordinate achievement of pay equity with wage enhancement programs in the Broader Public Sector; and consult with relevant workplace parties on how to value work in female-dominant sectors using pay equity or other means. The Ministry of Labour has indicated that they will be moving forward with some of the recommendations and also proposes further consultation on others to close the gender wage gap in Ontario. OASIS will be pursuing a meeting with the Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues to further discuss the report's recommendations and how we can assist in moving these forward. Agencies desire a solution to address the pay equity liabilities many are facing. Please see the link below to our media release and the Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee report included in the release. To read the full report, click here: [Final Report & Recommendations of the Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee Recommendations 6, 7 & 8](#)

The long awaited Ombudsman's Report ([Ombudsman's Report on Developmental Services](#)) was released on August 24, 2016 with 60 recommendations to be addressed. At the end of the report is the Ministry's response and action plan to address these recommendations. Unfortunately the report focused on the worst case situations and ***did not address the support needs of those who are not the most in need***. By avoiding addressing their situations people end up in crisis when minimal supports provided now could deter a crisis from occurring. We must ensure that the solutions to the issues identified provide choices for individuals and respects their desires. OASIS encourages a multi-Ministry approach to providing solutions to the crisis in our sector and is committed to working with the Ministry to find solutions and advocate for change.

The second annual OASIS Queen's Park Information Day will be held on November 2, 2016. During the day members of the OASIS Executive will meet with Ministers, Critics and their staff to discuss issues of importance to member agencies. Following these meetings a reception is held to meet MPPs and Government Staff from various Ministries to ensure they are aware of OASIS and our positions as related to the development services sector. Further details will be available in the October Digest.

I am pleased to inform members that Assistant Deputy Minister Karen Chan will be joining the Board on October 26 at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the OASIS Board of Directors will take place on October 26-27, 2016 in Hamilton. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings, please contact Amanda Brown [administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca](mailto:administrativesupport@oasisonline.ca) to let us know you will be in attendance and we will provide you with the meeting details. 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 705-645-6290.

Sincerely,  
Ann Kenney  
President, OASIS

### ***OASIS 2017 Conference - [Save the Date!](#)***

Come join us and "Be Seen in Green for 17"! "From Surviving to Thriving" in Ottawa, Ontario May 3 – 5, 2017

### ***Links Included in this Issue...***

Strategic Program Investments (SPI) - Notice of Application: [SPI - Notice of Application](#)  
Government of Canada Consultation – [What Does and Accessible Canada Mean to You?](#)  
OASIS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - August 10, 2016](#)

OASIS Response to Ombudsman's Report on Developmental Services: [Media Release](#)  
OASIS Response to Gender Wage Gap Committee Final Report & Recommendations: [Media Release](#)

OASIS Bi-Monthly Newsletter for July 2016: [July 2016](#)

OASIS Four Pillars: [Four Pillars](#)

OASIS Board and Executive Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017: [Meeting Schedule 2016-2017](#)

OASIS Strategic Work Plan 2013-2016, Updated May 17, 2016: [OASIS Strategic Work Plan 2013-2016](#)

OASIS 2016-2017 Board of Directors Contact Information: [OASIS Board of Directors 2016-2017 Contact Information](#)

Current OASIS Membership List: [OASIS Member Listing](#)

PSHSA OASIS Affiliate Page Web Tutorials: [Musculoskeletal Disorders](#)