



Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs
Agences ontariennes de soutien pour les personnes qui ont des besoins spéciaux

February 4, 2019

Rupert Gordon, Assistant Deputy Minister
Community and Developmental Services
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON
M7A 1E9

Re: Stabilization Funding Extension Request

Dear Rupert,

On behalf of OASIS member organizations, I would like to formally request an extension on the utilization of Stabilization Funds provided by MCCSS in fiscal 2018-2019.

As you are aware, many organizations are currently engaged in collective bargaining. While many have reached agreement with their Union Local, many others remain in bargaining. Of those, several have been notified of the Union's request for the appointment of a Conciliator. With the limited availability of the Conciliators, dates are being scheduled well past the end of the fiscal year on March 31st.

Some organizations have contacted their Ministry Program Supervisor to request an extension on spending those funds, but have received a response outlining the Ministry's policy position of all expenditures must have occurred within 30 days of the end of March.

During the Workforce Stability discussions held in 2014 & 2015, the previous ADM of MCSS approved that the funds provided by MCSS could be spent by agencies after the normal 30-day period.

In order to support OASIS member agencies still bargaining, we are requesting that a similar extension approval be made for those agencies. Clearly if agencies are not able to retain these funds and utilize it for compensation, they will be under significant pressure to 'settle' in order to have the funds for a deal. Alternatively, if they lose the funding they will be in a serious situation once an agreement is reached with the Conciliator, or it may increase the chances of a work stoppage.



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Our request is for agencies that remain in collective bargaining be able to retain the Stabilization Funds for that purpose, upon request. We are not seeking a change in the normal Ministry policy regarding expenditures.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would to request a short phone call with myself and Dave Ferguson to elaborate and to respond to questions you might have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Darren Connolly
President

C: OASIS Board of Directors
D. Ferguson, Chair OASIS Labour Relations Committee
OASIS



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