



OASIS

focus

A PUBLICATION OF ONTARIO AGENCIES SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS · FALL 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The provincial election is being held on October 6, 2011. It is imperative that we all take action to try and increase awareness of the needs of our sector.

We need member agencies to have their staff and families participate in the OASIS election strategy. Please log on to the OASIS election website at www.ontarioforoasis.ca

or through the link on the OASIS website at www.oasisonline.ca and click on "Get Involved" to send an electronic postcard to the candidates in your riding, the Premier, The Minister of Finance, The Minister of Community and Social Services and the opposition critics.

If your staff and families do not have access to the website a copy of a letter that could be sent to the Premier and to your Member of Parliament can be printed from the website and is found on page 3 of this newsletter. Regional champions will be working with agencies and planning tables to encourage participation in the campaign.

The key messages for this campaign are a 2% increase to our base funding and \$60 Million to agencies to address the wait lists and provide services to an additional 5,000 individuals. The 2% increase would enable agencies to address the 2010-11 and 2011-12 unfunded pay equity obligations of agencies. After the election the OASIS Board of Directors will continue to request the Ministry fund the pay equity liabilities and to increase the ODSP as per our Submission to the Commission on Social Assistance Review. Pay Equity is not specifically being addressed as no political party wants to agree to support it as this issue is much broader than just our sector.

OASIS is also submitting a question for the provincial debate as follows:

On Behalf of OASIS members and the thousands of individuals with disabilities still awaiting supports, we respectfully forward the following question for your consideration.

The needs of those living with developmental disabilities and their families are growing. Government reports indicate that over 19,000 Ontarians with a developmental disability continue to wait for services.

As Premier, how will you support the developmental services sector in providing the support required to address the growing needs of these families?

Judy Reid, *OASIS President*

The OASIS Election Strategy regional champions are as follows:

Central West

Allan Mills

Central East

Michelle Marshall,
David Barber and Steve Finlay

Eastern

Jocelyne Paul

Hamilton Niagara

Andrew Lewis

North East

Ann Kenney

Northern

Doug Sewell

Toronto

Bruce Rivers

South East

Michael Humes

South West

John Bedell and Jane Joris



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Directors

November 2-3, 2011
Newmarket

December 7-8, 2011
Toronto

February 1-2, 2012

IDEAS & ARTICLES ARE WELCOMED

Please contact

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OASIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Reid, President
Brian Young, Past President
Jane Joris, Vice President
Volunteer
Ann Kenney, Vice President
Executive Director
Lu-Ann Cowell, Treasurer
Donna Britten, Secretary
Bonnie Dinning, Director at Large
Directors:
L. David Barber
Mal Coubrough
Steven Finlay
Allan Mills
Jocelyne Paul

OASIS

To facilitate the sharing of ideas, resources, systems and information, OASIS will liaise with government on behalf of member organizations with the goal of improving the development of cost effective quality supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.



GET INVOLVED YOUR VOICE COUNTS OCT 6, 2011

Today, our sector is facing increasing demands for our services and we are facing a challenging new care environment. OASIS is undergoing a campaign as part of their advocacy during the Provincial Election to help the sector better meet these challenges.

OASIS has developed a website that the Board encourages you to look at on a weekly basis: <http://ontarioforoasis.ca/>.

This site offers information on what OASIS is asking from the Ontario government to help sustain and improve our services and how YOU can get involved. Learn more about OASIS as an organization, their campaign, priorities, and what they stand for.

Once on the website (<http://ontarioforoasis.ca/>), I encourage everyone to 'GET INVOLVED' by sending an 'E-Postcard' or letter. Let your friends and family know about the independence support opportunity available for Ontarians with disabilities. Send a postcard or letter from Ontario for OASIS by clicking GET INVOLVED on the website. *See the sample website letter on page 3.*

Also, please join the Facebook and Twitter discussions as posted on the website. We all need to work together to help sustain and improve our sector's services.

Facebook: As a social networking tool that connects over 500 million active users from across the globe, throughout the campaign, the OASIS Facebook page will be used as a platform to disseminate blog posts. To extend the reach of the campaign,

it is vital that you "share" these posts. The "share" feature allows you to post a link to the OASIS Facebook page on your own personal account page, essentially advertising the post. This is an incredibly important feature as it extends the reach of the OASIS campaign beyond its own fan-count and into your personal network. Your personal endorsement of the content is vital to the campaign's goal of engaging with Ontarians, and will help OASIS grow its own social media network.

Twitter: You are encouraged to follow the campaign's Twitter account. Your personal Twitter account will lend credibility within the larger Ontario Community. One of the primary means of activating support for the OASIS campaign is to have YOU actively engage with the campaign's Twitter presence. As a Twitter user, you can do this by:

- Retweeting any OASIS tweets with an added personal message of your support.
- #FF (Follow Friday) the OASIS account as a means of expanding the campaign's base of support.
- Include the campaign Twitter handle in your tweets of support to encourage people to look at the OASIS profile.





Dalton McGuinty, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Ontario is a province committed to equality of opportunity and purpose. Together, we work hard to build strong communities made up of all abilities. This is the work done by OASIS agencies: we are a group of Ontarians dedicated to making sure that all Ontarians have the chance to succeed.

Ontario's most vulnerable citizens are facing increasing challenges; the needs for those living with disabilities and their families are changing and growing. Community agencies are not only dealing with an aging population, but also a growing number of younger Ontarians needing access to important services. Since 2008, the waiting list for the Special Services at Home program has grown from zero to more than 7,000 people.

OASIS agencies are ready to meet these challenges.

Doing so; however, will require renewed support from the Government of Ontario. We must take action to enhance the support provided to the developmental services sector and encourage new initiatives to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of services. Premier McGuinty, to meet the growing challenge, OASIS is seeking:

- A 2 percent increase in the Ontario government's base budget allocation to the developmental services sector; and
- An additional one-time allocation of \$60 million to local agencies.

This funding could see up to 5,000 Ontarians removed from waiting lists and provided with the services and care they need. It will offer the developmental services sector the long-term stability necessary to move Ontario forward.

Together we can meet these challenges head on and continue to build stronger communities for all Ontarians. Together we can build an Ontario where everyone succeeds.

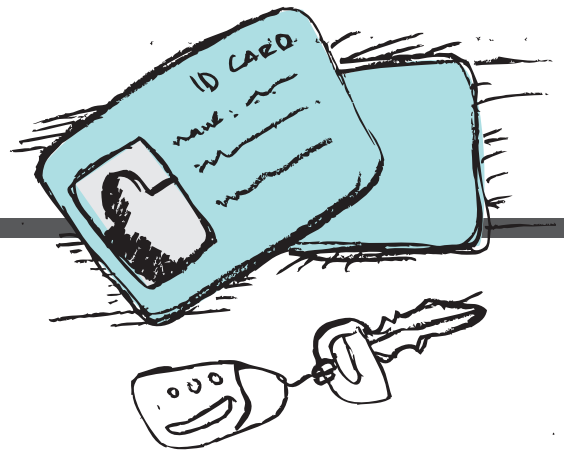
To learn more about how OASIS is building stronger communities in Ontario and the new challenges we are facing, please visit www.OntarioforOASIS.ca.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,



ONTARIO'S PHOTO ID CARD NOW AVAILABLE



HAVE YOU EVER HAD TROUBLE OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT OR CASHING A CHEQUE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE PHOTO ID?

If so, you're not alone. More than 1.5 million people in Ontario don't have a driver's licence, the most commonly used form of photo ID.

People without a driver's licence can find it difficult to do everyday tasks because they do not have easy access to photo ID. Ontario's new photo card addresses this need by providing proof of identity for those without a driver's licence.

If you are an Ontario resident, at least 16 years old and do not have a driver's licence, you can apply for the new photo ID card. You'll have to provide original identity documents, such as a birth certificate or citizenship card, with your legal name, date of birth and signature. If you currently have a driver's licence you may surrender it in exchange for a photo card.

The Ontario government consulted with more than 30 organizations and community groups representing the people who need this card most of all, including seniors, newcomers and Ontarians with disabilities.

Other organizations, such as the banking industry and Elections Ontario, were also consulted to help ensure the card is accepted as official identification.

The photo card has the same security features as an Ontario driver's licence. It also features a clipped top corner and raised lettering to make it easier to find in your wallet. The card costs \$35 and is valid for five years.

The card is currently available at 21 Service Ontario centres. To find out where you can get a photo card,

visit: ServiceOntario.ca/FindServices

**call: toll-free at 1-800-387-3445 or
TTY toll-free 1-800-268-7095.**