



Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs

November 30, 2004

The Honourable Sandra Pupatello  
Minister of Community and Social Services  
and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues  
Queens Park, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
TORONTO ON M7A 1E9

**Re: TRANSFORMING DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES IN ONTARIO  
INITIATIVE**

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to forward OASIS' submission to the "Transforming Developmental Services in Ontario Initiative". OASIS and its member agencies welcome this initiative and, as you appreciate, attach considerable importance to its successful conclusion.

Our consultations have generated a very high level of interest, participation and input on the part of our members. The views and recommendations we are submitting are based on, and reflect the insights, experience and expertise of our members.

As you will see in both our "Key Points" document and in our more detailed submission, OASIS considers it vital that, among other things, the opportunity provided by the "Transformation" initiative be used to strengthen the role and operations of transfer payment agencies in all parts of Ontario. In OASIS' view, transfer payment agencies have evolved and matured considerably in recent years, collectively constitute a core and respected pillar of a vibrant service system, have demonstrated both success and flexibility in assuring high quality service delivery, and are crucial with respect to achieving the goals of the 1998 *In Unison – A Canadian Approach to Disability Issues* Vision of supporting individuals with a developmental disability to participate as full citizens in all aspects of Canadian society.

I would like to note that, in keeping with our understanding that the initiative is focused on the adult developmental services sector, rather than children's, we have directed our views and recommendations accordingly. However, we would like to stress the critical importance of both planning and availability of services, for persons with developmental disabilities as they pass through all stages of their lives.


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Our process included an intensive consultation session on November 8<sup>th</sup>, where 80 people representing 50% of our member agencies participated in facilitated discussions. Three 'breakout' groups were formed to generate responses to the questions circulated in the Partnership Table discussion paper. Board members John Bedell, Michael Humes and Dick Todd facilitated the groups. Additionally, our member agencies were encouraged to develop their own submissions reflecting their unique perspectives. These important submissions have been utilized in the preparation of our submission, and are included for your consideration. The OASIS submission was compiled by one of our Board members, Doug Anderson, to whom we are very grateful. An editing team, made up of Board members Brian Dunne, Sherry Kerr and myself, along with former Board member Mary Frances Taylor, refined it for consideration by our Board. At our recent meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>, the full Board worked diligently in finalizing the submission, which was adopted unanimously and without reservation.

We have attached great importance to this process and strongly supported the consultation process for our members. This included covering all of the expenses associated with the November 8<sup>th</sup> consultation session, and providing a travel subsidy to each member agency delegation to assist their participation. Additionally, OASIS retained the services of two excellent facilitators, Mr. Fred Galloway and Ms. Sheila Simpson for our discussions with our members on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Simpson for our Board meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

OASIS looks forward to the next steps in this initiative, and working with the Ministry to achieve the goals that this process will set out for all developmental services sector partners. On behalf of our members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this significant event.

Sincerely,

  
George Braithwaite  
for President

Cc: OASIS Board of Directors  
OASIS Members