



President's Report

Rick Williams
President

It has been my pleasure during the past year to serve a second term as OMSSA President. There have been a number of notable accomplishments achieved by the association during the past year:

- The association has worked to redefine its policy and advocacy activities to emphasize the formulation of effective policy and programs. As well, its representatives met with federal and provincial ministers to seek support for effective policy development.
- OMSSA worked to improve the funding of social services through the presentation of pre-budget submissions to both the federal and provincial governments.
- The past year saw the implementation by the provincial government of an Ontario Child Benefit, an initiative that OMSSA worked effectively with partner organizations to promote. The association also recommended to the federal government the implementation of a working income tax benefit, which was a highlight of the last federal budget.
- OMSSA continued to lobby for an active municipal role in local labour market planning and was appointed co-chair of the Labour Market Development/Partnership Agreement Reference Group.
- Efforts are ongoing to prepare recommendations within the framework of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review and to inform our members as the review continues.
- Through its Human Services Integration Committee, established jointly with the Service Manager Housing Network, OMSSA is working to address integration issues and streamline services to ensure that Ontarians can access the services they require in the most effective manner possible.
- OMSSA has launched a review of the association's professional development events to ensure that they adequately meet members' needs for policy and program information and skills development.

OMSSA's Board of Directors looks forward to our members' continued support for, and involvement in, the association's activities throughout the coming year.



Executive Director's Report

Marianne Seaton
Acting Executive Director

It has been my pleasure to fill the position of Executive Director on an interim basis during much of the past year, a tenure that has enabled me to work closely with many of our members and with social services staff across the province. For this privilege, I am most grateful.

The past year has demonstrated to me the extent to which effective policy and advocacy work and professional development go hand-in-hand. The greater the degree to which both these aspects of OMSSA's work are coordinated and integrated, the better the implementation and delivery of service in our communities.

OMSSA throughout the year continued to forge strong relationships with other associations and working groups to encourage improved social investment and ensure that programs support local priorities. The association has also worked extensively with its professional development partners to create and implement new training curriculum, such as the Professional Advancement and Career Education (PACE) training, which will help to shape staff expertise in service delivery in communities across the province. I am also pleased to note that, as a result of other solid professional development activities, the association, at the conclusion of this fiscal year, is on an improved financial footing over last.

As I conclude my term, I wish to acknowledge the tireless support of Jennifer McLaughlin of Peel Region, who filled my position as Director of Professional Development during my time as Executive Director. I would also like to thank all of OMSSA's members for the encouragement and assistance that I have received from them during the past year. I look forward to continuing this close collaboration as I return to my former role.

Who is OMSSA?

OMSSA is a non-profit, voluntary association governed by a ten member Board of Directors elected by OMSSA members. The work of the Board of Directors is supported by two standing committees – the Policy and Advocacy Committee and the Professional Development Committee – as well as issue-specific, time-limited task forces.

Members

OMSSA membership includes the Consolidated Municipal Service Managers. Individual members of OMSSA include municipal or provincial staff, municipally elected officials, volunteer board members and professionals working in the social services sector.

Board of Directors

Rick Williams, District of Muskoka *President*
 Brian Hutchings, Region of Niagara *Vice-President*
 Brenda Patterson, City of Toronto *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Rick Williams, District of Muskoka *Past-President*
 Robert Blackwell, City of Greater Sudbury
 Fern Dominelli, Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB
 Rick Farrell, City of Brantford
 Patricia Knapp, City of Peterborough
 Patti Moore, County of Norfolk
 David Rennie, Region of York
 Connie Woloschuk, City of Ottawa

Staff

Kira Heineck *Executive Director*
 Marianne Seaton *Director, Professional Development*
 Christie Abramovic *Advocacy/Events Coordinator*
 Tom Boreskie *Member Services Coordinator*
 Steve Coghil *Manager, Training and Development*
 Julia Frost *Administrative Assistant*
 Meagan Halter *Events and Administrative Support*
 Colleen Lenaghan *Accounts*



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ONTARIO MUNICIPAL SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

**L'ASSOCIATION DES SERVICES SOCIAUX
DES MUNICIPALITÉS DE L'ONTARIO**

Investing in People Makes Sense



ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

“Investing In People Makes Sense”

To build our members’ capacity to plan, manage and deliver quality human services in their communities.

During the past year, OMSSA’s members and staff have worked to build on existing relationships and forge new partnerships within all orders of government and with community agencies and organizations throughout the province. The following are some of the initiatives undertaken and accomplishments achieved by the association.

External Partnership Initiatives

OMSSA began work with its members to assemble recommendations for submission to the joint Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review, which over the next year is examining the funding and delivery of provincial health and social services programs.

The association made pre-budget submissions to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance and to the provincial government’s Standing Committee on Finance and Economical Affairs.

OMSSA’s Human Services Integration Steering Committee, established in cooperation with the Service Manager Housing Network, is working to develop a common understanding and language relating to human services integration and to share knowledge and promising approaches to integration.

OMSSA assumed the role of co-chair of the Labour Market Development/Partnership Agreement Reference Group and has proposed to the reference group a framework for employment system planning at the local level, which was developed by the association’s Employment Service System Management Task Force.

The association accepted to co-chair the Emergency Social Assistance Working Group with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The purpose of this group is to explore how the provincial government and service managers can better support one another in emergency planning and preparation related to the delivery and accessibility of social assistance.

OMSSA also secured representation on the steering committee of the Incident Management System of Emergency Management Ontario to assist in the development of directives that provide for a progressive and logical approach to emergency incident management. OMSSA also began facilitating a new Emergency Social Services Networking Group, enabling service manager staff to discuss current issues relating to emergency preparedness.

The development of new curriculum for Professional Advancement and Career Education (PACE) training was a major focus of OMSSA’s skills training activities. OMSSA and its partners, Rana International and Labour Market Partners, worked with Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) staff to develop all curriculum materials, develop and deliver train-the-trainer sessions and begin the delivery of training across the province. This professional development program will be offered to all staff that administer the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to promote staff expertise in service delivery and to assist them in promoting client social inclusion and employability.

OMSSA, with the assistance of MCYS, provided information and training to its members regarding income testing for children’s services fee subsidy testing.

OMSSA undertook to co-chair the Provincial-Municipal Research Network and began collaboration with the MCSS Policy and Research Analysis Branch to stage a forum on research initiatives to be held in the autumn of 2007.

The association became a member of a Parks and Recreation Ontario policy group examining accessibility issues for low income Ontarians and is assisting in the development of an inclusive policy forum.

OMSSA continued to provide association management services to the Ontario Association of Hostels and the Service Manager Housing Network.

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	31-Dec 2006	31-Dec 2005
Current Assets		
Cash	\$69,929	\$266,861
Short-term investments	\$87,946	\$83,031
Accounts receivable	\$392,139	\$133,766
Deposits and prepaid expenses	\$10,491	\$8,247
	\$560,505	\$491,905
Equipment	\$4,752	\$2,759
	\$565,257	\$494,664
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$210,626	\$130,418
Deferred revenue	\$1,685	\$7,444
	\$212,311	\$137,862
Fund Balances		
Stabilization fund	\$283,716	\$260,310
Capital reserve	\$19,904	\$23,234
Success sharing plan - 2005	\$0	\$0
General reserve	\$49,326	\$73,258
	\$352,946	\$356,802
	\$565,257	\$494,664

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	31-Dec 2006	31-Dec 2005
Revenues		
Professional Development	\$950,693	\$748,696
Membership	\$383,520	\$358,865
Interest and other	\$13,403	\$5,058
Gain on Disposal on Investment	\$2,689	\$4,856
	\$1,350,305	\$1,117,475
Expenses		
Professional Development	\$596,541	\$450,089
Salaries and benefits	\$442,752	\$417,061
Office expenses	\$79,776	\$103,709
Professional Services	\$95,005	\$91,861
Rent	\$49,940	\$49,880
Travel	\$22,625	\$15,179
Telephone	\$19,468	\$13,679
Amortization	\$3,330	\$1,763
Board and committee expenses	\$20,792	\$1,373
	\$1,330,229	\$1,144,594
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$20,076	(\$27,119)

This financial report is based on the audit conducted by the firm of Wilson Chartered Accountants. The audited Financial Statements are available at the office of the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association.

Internal Partnership Initiatives

OMSSA’s Policy and Advocacy Committee and Professional Development Committee continued to communicate to the association’s members key messages from Campaign 47, which is intended to promote increased public investment in social infrastructure, and to develop tools and resources for member use within their communities.

OMSSA established an Events Review Task Force to develop a strategic plan for OMSSA events to meet members’ professional development needs and to ensure cost effectiveness and return on investment.

Early work undertaken by the association’s Marketing Task Force focused upon the development of a marketing strategy in support of OMSSA’s professional development activities.

OMSSA began the establishment of an Ending Homelessness Task Force to develop a strategy to prevent and end homelessness at the municipal and provincial level and to identify the service manager role in addressing the root causes of homelessness.

The association’s Ontario Works, Children Services, Best Start and Homelessness networking groups met regularly throughout the year to identify key issues arising in specific program areas, share information and local strategies relating to policy and program issues and address other topics of concern.

During 2006-07, OMSSA staged five multi-day conferences for its members, three of which—the Spring Leadership Seminar, Learning Symposium and Fall Training Seminar—examined a broad spectrum of social services issues. The association also held its largest conference in many years, a Forum on Social Housing and Homelessness, organized with the Service Manager Housing Network and the Ontario Association of Hostels. An inaugural Emergency Social Services Planning Conference was also held.

OMSSA provided a range of skills training sessions to municipal staff members, delivering the majority of this training at members’ sites.

