



January 18, 2016

OMSSA Update

In 2016, with increased outreach to our membership, OMSSA remains committed: ***to strengthening the Association, advocating on your behalf, enhancing and show casing work and innovation in human services through forums, communications and technology.***

Policy and Education:

In the very first part of 2016, OMSSA has been representing your interests in a number of ways:

- Participating on the Minister's Advisory Table on Syrian Refugee Settlement and the working group on employment, housing and municipal supports.
- Entered into a research partnership with the Rural Ontario Institute on hidden homelessness in rural and northern communities.
- Entered into a partnership with the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) for an Executive Diploma in Municipal Management in Human Services.
- Strengthening the Human Services Leadership Program.
- Moving forward on the EnAbling Change project with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to promote and strengthen a culture of accessibility and inclusivity in human services organizations.
- Developing a joint human services forum with the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

OMSSA continues its work across the human services sector through, as examples:

- Its five Networks focused on early years and children's services, affordable housing and homelessness prevention, (including a working group on the end of operation agreements), employment and income issues, emergency social services.
- Engagement on a number of provincial-municipal partnership and policy development tables, including:
 - Provincial Municipal Housing Partnership Table
 - Provincial Municipal Social Assistance and Employment Committee, including the following subcommittees:
 - Technical Working Group (social assistance reform)
 - Provincial Municipal Common Assessment Working Group (co-chair role)
 - Ministers Early Years and Child Care Advisory Group

- Provincial Municipal Early Years Reference and Advisory Groups, including the following working groups:
 - Best Start Child and Family Centres Working Group
 - Regulation Development Working Group
- Directors and Administrators Reference Group (DARG)
- CHPI Technical Advisory Groups and subcommittee work:
 - Performance Indicators Working Group
- AMO Affordable Housing Task Group
- Engagement on time limited efforts, for example, Community Hubs advisory and long term affordable housing strategy renewal.

At the Board:

Three subcommittees of the Board have been struck and active, addressing matters of fiscal sustainability, governance, internal controls and membership engagement through the:

- Finance and Audit Committee,
- Membership Services Committee, and the
- Governance and Accountability Committee.

Updates on the work of these committees will be shared at the February Leadership Table meeting.

The Board is also developing its government relations and cross sector partnerships strategies.

OMSSA will continue to keep you up to date on its work and is always eager to hear from you.

For more information please contact:

Petra Wolfbeiss

Acting Executive Director

pwolfbeiss@omssa.com

416-795-1514