

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT
2017–2018



Ontario
Association of
Children's
Rehabilitation
Services



Transformation starts from the top. Our board brings unique value to the association, articulating a strategic direction calling for OACRS to become an organization of influence beyond Ontario and Canada and unleashing management to go after this goal. Recognizing that successfully delivering on stated objectives brings new opportunities and new challenges, the board reviewed what it does, how it does it, and how its own optimum composition could reflect the association's strategic priorities. Identifying the capabilities relevant to the association's future, the board is transforming, bringing together people with the variety of experiences, skills and networks to help advance the organization.

OACRS' look at evolving issues in child development and rehabilitation included a process guided by a leading Ontario brand design agency that described a compelling identity—one that reflects who we are as an association, expresses our vision, and captures the voice of our members and stakeholders. We are grateful to our board and to all of our stakeholders who contributed to this foundational activity.

We have 40 years of history as an organization. Many of our members have decades more behind them. All have strong roots in their communities.

We're marking our 40th anniversary with a new name, a new look and new ways for us to tell our story. Empowered Kids Ontario – Enfants Avenir Ontario speaks to our continuing commitment to kids with special needs and their families, and to the integrated ecosystem that is the child development and rehabilitation sector. We'll continue to serve our members, champion their interests, promote their perspectives, and advance the practices and inquiries that are the best of child development. This is our ongoing evolution as an organization, committed to our members, our partners, and to promoting the comprehensive, integrated, family-centred and community-based care that are at the heart of Ontario kids living their best lives.



Paula Grail
Chair, Board of Directors



Jennifer Churchill
CEO



FOCUS ON QUALITY

OACRS' annual conference is considered the child development and rehabilitation sector's premier event in Ontario and regularly attracts about 300 professionals—physicians, clinicians, researchers, managers, and families who come together to share knowledge and address current and pressing issues. The 2017 OACRS Conference launched with a keynote delivered by Dr. Michael Ungar, founder and director of the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University and one of the world's best known writers and researchers on the topic of resilience and the important factors influencing our responses to stress.

Several sessions addressed family- and patient-centred care including one presentation by Autism Ontario researchers discussing findings from a 2017 province-wide caregiver survey. The conference is known for knowledge translation and sharing of clinical expertise such as the genetic components underlying Cerebral Palsy and Autism Spectrum Disorder, cannabis use in the pediatric population, minor morbidities in

preterm survivors, the physician's role in multidisciplinary teams, and the experiences of a child rehabilitation team's medical mission to Honduras, a low-resource environment.

Twenty poster presentations delivered findings on topics from Linking Health and Community Systems, Rehabilitation and Autism Therapists in IBI Classrooms, Barriers and Facilitators to Cultural Competence in Rehabilitation Services, The OT and Educator Partnership: Assistive Technology in Schools, and Improving Transition for Complex Care Populations.

OACRS wishes to thank the following organizations for their generous support of our annual conference:

- Government of Ontario
 - HIROC (Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada)
 - HMA The Benefits People
 - Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
 - Bloorview Research Institute
 - GoldCare
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PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTING A COMMON AGENDA

As a member of the Ontario Autism Program Advisory Committee, OACRS CEO Jennifer Churchill received Autism Ontario's Gerry Bloomfield Award. The award recognizes the impact of the committee's work to improve programs, establish guidelines and policies. The committee, composed of representatives from across Ontario—clinicians, parents, and stakeholders, met monthly beginning in September 2016 to provide advice and propose program enhancements, including drafting program outcomes and guiding principles. This prestigious award from Autism Ontario acknowledges the critical role professionals contribute to kids with autism and their families.

The Government of Ontario invited OACRS to join the Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services Provincial Advisory Group. The group's mandate is to provide advice about local issues, mechanisms, tools and supports to plan and develop local models for integrated rehabilitation that will effectively meet the needs of children, youth and families. As a member, OACRS brings the voice of Ontario's experts in pediatric rehabilitation to the forefront, emphasizing the delivery of treatment at home, in school and in the community.

OACRS is a member of Kids Health Alliance (KHA), a network of care for kids launched by The Hospital for Sick Children, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. KHA members are creating a more coordinated, consistent, high quality system of care for children, youth and their families.

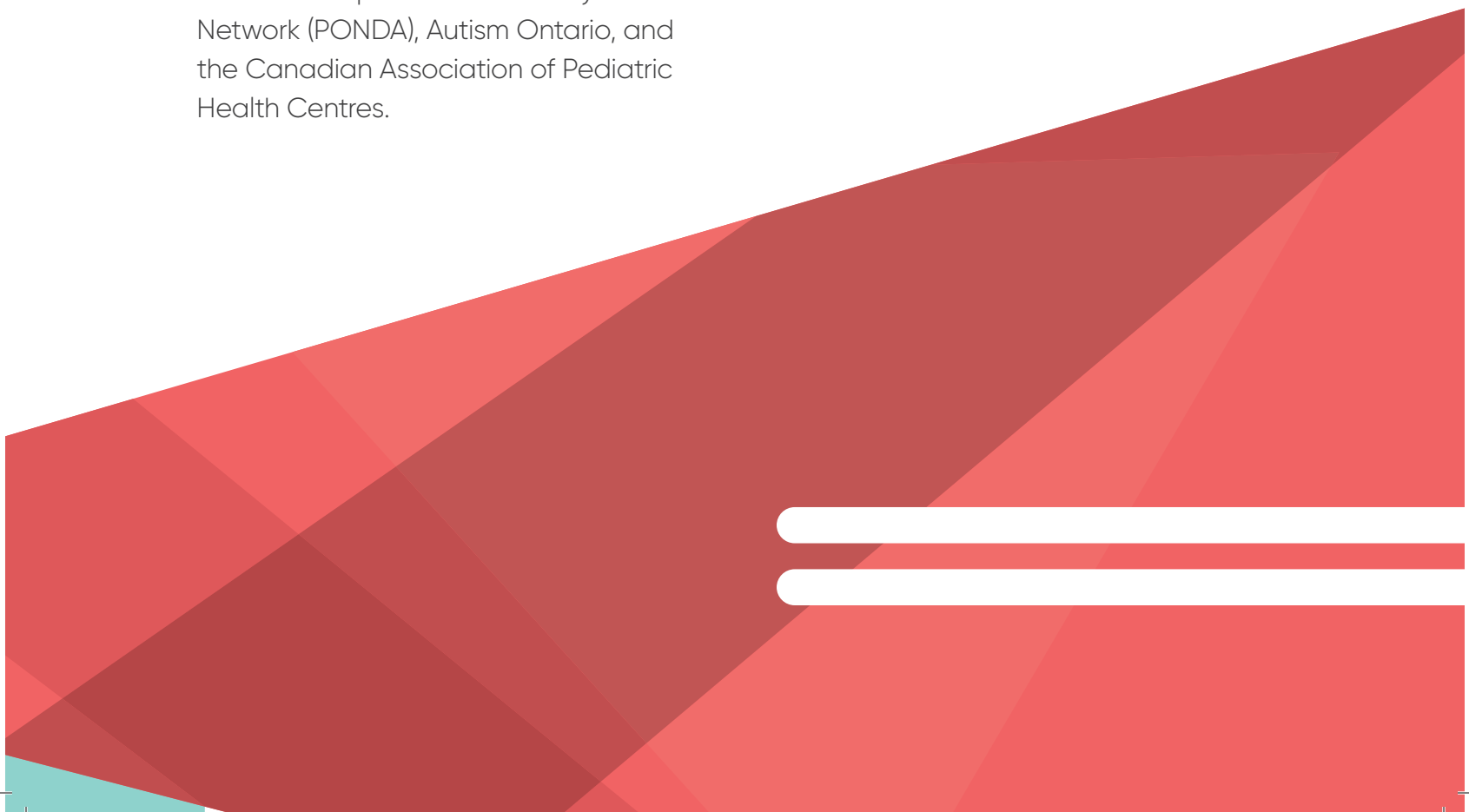
Ontario's three leading children's associations—OACRS, Children's Mental Health Ontario, and the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, have come together to invite government to partner on developing solutions improve services for vulnerable children and youth, because the system is under strain and a more collaborative effort is needed to improve it. Wait times for services are unacceptably long, access to services and supports is not equitable, and public investment has not kept pace with need—messaging to families that they are not a fiscal priority. When services that address chronic health, mental health, developmental and other needs are inaccessible, children suffer.



The resulting burden can erode parenting capacity and the most intrusive service—child protection—is more often needed, taking a greater toll on families, at a greater cost to Ontarians. Strategic planning at a provincial level is needed to strengthen efforts to build the best, most cost-effective system for children, youth and families. As partners, the three associations are examining these challenges and working on collective solutions, and invite government to partner in this effort.

OACRS also connects regularly with provincial and national leadership forums including the Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health, Physicians of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Advocacy Network (PONDA), Autism Ontario, and the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres.

At the invitation of the BC Association for Child Development and Intervention, OACRS CEO Jennifer Churchill, together with Niagara Children's Centre CEO Oksana Fisher and Ministry of Children & Youth Services staff joined the association's two-day meeting in Vancouver, giving a presentation on the association, its mandate, and how data is driving results in the sector. Ms. Churchill also offered a presentation to a delegation from St. Luke's Hospital in Singapore at the invitation of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. The delegation was touring Ontario to better understand the delivery of pediatric health services.



RECOGNIZING LEADERS

2017 OACRS Tribute Awards

For more than a decade, OACRS has recognized individuals and organizations making significant contributions to the interests of kids with special needs and their families with the annual OACRS Tribute Awards, given in three categories: Advocacy, Leadership and Partnership.

This year, OACRS recognized Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann with the Tribute Award of Excellence. As CEO of Grandview Children's Centre, Ms. Sunstrum-Mann has made contributions that will have a lasting and meaningful impact on the Durham Region, on the network of Ontario's CTCs, and on the lives of kids with special needs and their families. She is well-regarded for building capacity within the Grandview Kids leadership team and also across the province. Under her leadership the Grandview Kids medical team has cut wait times for assessments by more than two-thirds, and increased visits to 250 a day across six sites with a staff of 150 professionals. Always putting the child first, Ms. Sunstrum-Mann has set the stage for collaborative thinking for years to come. She is an unwavering advocate for kids with medical complexity, and is actively involved in local, provincial and national forums. Faced with the challenge of

insufficient and inadequate space, Ms. Sunstrum-Mann envisioned and developed a multi-site model to provide service throughout the region, and she has successfully brought partners on side with these plans for a new facility supporting research, care and inclusion for kids with special needs in the Durham Region.

Dr. Ronit Mesterman, Medical Director for Developmental Services and Regional Autism Spectrum Disorder Services, McMaster Children's Hospital, is the recipient of the 2017 OACRS Tribute Award for Advocacy. Dr. Mesterman is founding Chair of the Physicians of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Advocacy (PONDA) network, representing clinicians, researchers and leaders across Ontario who work with kids with special needs. Since its founding in 2011, PONDA has become uniquely positioned to contribute to discussions with policy makers, professionals and caregivers, to address the challenges in caring for kids with special needs and their families, seeking to optimize services across the province so kids with special needs live their best lives.

2018 OACRS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Since 2011 the OACRS Scholarship helps support outstanding students who have received services from a member organization pursue their post-secondary education or career, for their scholastic achievement and their commitment to community service. As OACRS approaches its 40th anniversary, the association has this year also awarded its 40th scholarship. This year the association is proud to recognize five remarkable student leaders, and help them realize their passion to lead and to inspire positive change.

Hannah Boamah, Richmond Hill

Hannah is enrolled in Seneca College's Pre-Health Science Program, a next step toward achieving her number one goal. Hannah decided in Grade 8 that she was cut out for a career in Nursing. An active volunteer in and out of school, Hannah's contagious energy, drive and passion are well matched by her dedication and work ethic.

Kimberley Chiasson, Sudbury

Eagerly embarking on a new chapter in her life, Kimberley Chiasson is attending Carleton University, studying Journalism and Humanities to pursue her love of writing and her passionate support for social justice. Kimberley, who wisely notes that life is better when you laugh, brings enthusiasm to everything she does—her studies, tutoring fellow students, taking charge of her high school graduation video, and representing kids with special needs as an Easter Seals Ambassador.

Nicholas Irvine, Windsor

Active community volunteer Nicholas Irvine is going to St. Clair College as a student in the Community Integration through Co-operative Education program. Through high school Nicholas dedicated himself as a mentor to children at the John McGivney Children's Centre, reading to kids, helping them use their complex communications devices, and representing kids with special needs on the centre's Parent Strategy Group and addressing members of the community on behalf of the centre. He also makes sure to carve out time for movies, gaming and sledgy hockey.

Brianna Mastroianni, Sudbury

Following her dream of researching what's in our DNA, Brianna is on her way, having received early acceptance to the University of Ottawa. During high school Brianna volunteered with Health Sciences North as a greeter, meeting and assisting visitors, patients, doctors and guests and getting to know each person's story. Attending university out of town is an exciting experience and the OACRS Scholarship will help Brianna manage some of the costs.

Megan Sherwin, Toronto

Competitive para-swimmer Megan Sherwin competes at the highest levels. She has her sights set on the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo and anyone who knows Megan would not bet against her. She's a decorated veteran of her high school's Birchmount Exceptional Athlete Program, a fieldhouse and swim instructor at Variety Village, and a VV Ambassador who shows us all how to be the best version of ourselves.

SHAPING POLICY

OACRS promotes a seamless system for kids with special needs and their families. To advance integration OACRS worked with the Ministry of Children & Youth Services, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and with Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN) planning for the transition of responsibility for school based rehabilitation services from LHINs to CTCs. This is an important first step in prioritizing, protecting and strengthening school rehabilitation services that will ultimately:

- Eliminate duplication of intake and assessment
- Close gaps in service
- Support treatment goals based on each child's individual needs in collaboration with families and service providers
- Ensure access to a broad range of high quality interventions
- Expand continuous and consistent service throughout the calendar year, and
- Provide services in a way that is convenient for families.

This transition required significant resources over the course of the fiscal year, led by OACRS. A regulatory change has been approved, and transition is expected to begin during the 2018-19 school year.



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31

Restricted Revenue	2018	2017
Children's Rehab. Information Systems Project	\$530,074	\$519,230
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services Project	\$420,570	-
	\$950,644	\$519,230
Restricted Expenses		
Children's Rehab. Information Systems Project	\$530,074	\$519,230
Integrated Delivery of Rehabilitation Services Project	\$420,570	
	\$950,644	\$519,230
Excess restricted revenue over restricted expenses	-	-
Unrestricted Revenue		
Memberships	\$399,944	\$400,764
OACRS annual conference	\$153,527	\$142,143
Interest Income	\$8,299	\$5,564
Other revenue	\$442	\$16,892
Donations	\$290	\$125
	\$562,502	\$565,488
Unrestricted Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	\$180,036	\$242,865
OACRS annual conference	\$156,487	\$145,982
Special Projects	\$64,468	\$79,965
Professional Fees	\$33,094	\$17,784
Travel	\$19,903	\$18,063
Marketing and Communications	\$17,643	\$18,704
Office	\$13,326	\$15,730
Rent	\$11,350	\$11,517
Professional Development	\$7,841	\$8,663
Committees	\$7,655	\$10,236
Scholarship Awards	\$5,000	\$5,000
Board Expenses	\$1,473	\$9,289
Amortization	\$582	\$771
	\$518,858	\$584,569
Excess (deficiency) of unrestricted revenue over unrestricted expenses	\$43,644	(\$19,081)
Operating fund balance, beginning of year	\$572,095	\$591,176
Operating fund balance, end of year	\$615,739	\$572,095

Purpose

Harnessing knowledge and uniting voices for children and youth with special needs.

Vision

Children and youth with special needs are living their best lives.

Beliefs & Values

We believe all children and youth with special needs live their best lives when families are at the centre of care, when service providers collaborate and act upon evidence, and when public policy is in alignment.

We act with integrity and value shared leadership, collaboration, and change that makes a real difference in the lives of families.



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