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EMPOWERED KIDS
ONTARIO

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023





Dear Friends,

It's been a momentous year for Ontario's child development sector and for EKO.

This year the government announced historic funding in children's healthcare with ministries working together to support kids and families. We held our first—and largest—in-person conference in several years. The 2023 EKO Spring Symposium brought more than 300 people together for two days of learning, sharing and networking. We officially changed our name, welcomed another new member, and updated our bylaws and Articles of Corporation well in advance of deadlines set by Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010.

EKO is supporting another six promising youth with the EKO Scholarship, and we recognized nine incredible individuals for the 2023 Tribute Awards. Nominators, endorsers and the award recipients themselves represent an outstanding array of nationally and internationally known child development professionals, disability advocates and accessibility champions.

We introduced new initiatives so no kids with disabilities and developmental differences are left behind. We have a lot to be proud of and many to thank, starting with our members. We also have more work ahead as together we keep raising the bar for Ontario families.

This was another year of significant challenge as we emerged from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Ontario was already facing one crisis before the pandemic: kids waiting longer than adults for healthcare, including in some regions waits for child development services well outside the clinically recommended window. COVID-19 added to these pressures. During the pandemic almost 300,000 babies were born in our province—at least 10 per cent of whom will need early intervention and urgent, often ongoing help from our healthcare system—in addition to those already waiting for services, counselling and medical care. Ontario families needed broad investment in children's physical, developmental and mental health care delivered at home, in hospital, in the community and at school.

The Ontario government committed a multi-pronged investment in children's healthcare—an innovative approach across ministries that looks at the whole system of care, not just certain elements of it. The government is doing things differently, and we can, too. The Children's Health Coalition, of which EKO is a founding member, delivers every kind of care a child could need across the continuum, so the entire healthcare system can work better to support kids and their families no matter what challenges they are facing.

EKO members are receiving \$45 million annually through this investment. In addition to \$60-million increase for child development announced in the 2021 budget, we've brought \$105 million more to our sector in the last two years.

Our dedication to kids with disabilities and their families living their best lives is at the heart of who we are. This is what drives EKO and our members to work smarter, to broaden our network and deepen relationships. As we look back on this past year, we are proud of the giant leaps forward. We plan to continue surpassing expectations.

Tom Walters
Tom Walters
Chair

Jennifer Churchill
Jennifer Churchill
CEO



Advances toward no kids left behind

Children's Health Coalition

Ontario's historic investment in child development/children's healthcare:



\$300M+ annually for children's health is innovative and historic
\$45M for child development and rehabilitation



Innovative and historic investment in children's health system that includes child development, mental health, acute care and surgical care
Recognizes wait times for child development services is as important as addressing wait times for surgery

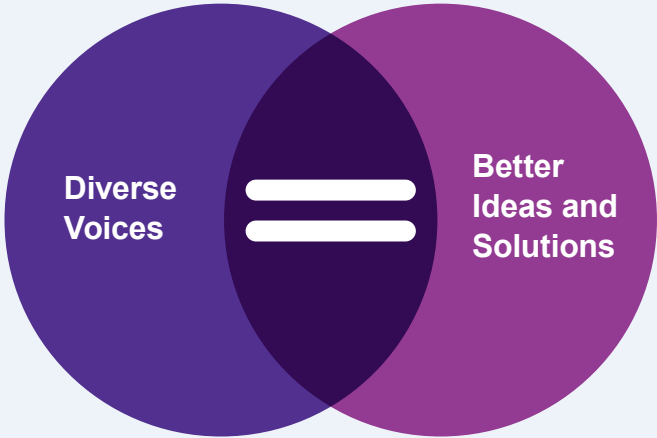
Modernizing Data

Secured funds for new Client Information System for Children's Treatment Centres:



Through a provincial procurement process, the Client Information System will improve privacy and security of Personal Health Information, and ensure alignment with current and future ministry reporting.

Shared Passion and Purpose:



Commitment to Families: Implementing SmartStart Hubs

Through collective implementation efforts, EKO helped members prepare for the introduction of SmartStart Hubs and strengthen their ability to serve all families who have concerns about their children’s development.

Anti-racism and newcomer training

1,324
clinician
registrations

140
board director
registrations

4
online learning
sessions

About My Child is the evidence-based tool that guides conversations between SmartStart Hubs clinicians and clients regarding children’s strengths, interests and participation in everyday activities. EKO facilitated access for members to About My Child training.

623
registrations

140
online learning
sessions

F-Words for Child Development—the internationally renowned, holistic and strength-based approach for health and development built on the words functioning, family, fitness, fun, friends and future

900+
users view online modules

Thank you to the following organizations for presenting/leading programs:

- SMILE Canada
- Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support
- Asé Community Foundation for Black Canadians with Disabilities
- CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research
- Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion
- SAAAC
- Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies

Research Partnerships

9 letters of support
for research grants

- Bloorview Research Institute
- CanChild
- Child-Bright Network-McGill University



Impact and Reach



300 attendees

- 189 EKO member delegates
- 96 non-member delegates
- 15 students
- 2 weeks before deadline: maximum # delegates already registered

3 in-person keynotes

1 virtual advance keynote

28 Concurrent sessions

2 poster presentations

1 Schmooza Palooza Speed Networking

1/3rd of all delegates attended Schmooza Palooza

Over 85,000 interactions with EKO on social media

80% delegates downloaded the conference app

1/3rd of all delegates completed the EKO Spring Symposium evaluation

- 97% considered keynotes and concurrent sessions relevant
- 99% say the EKO Spring Symposium was informative, motivating and fun
- 92% would absolutely recommend the program to colleagues

4 Partners

- Presenting Partner: AlayaCare
- Signature Partners: LEVIO, MD+A Solutions, Bloorview Research Institute

3 VIP Guests

- Her Honour Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Mr. Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby and PA to the Premier



EKO Tribute Awards

- 9 Awards
- 11 nominators
- 15 endorsers



Hon. David Onley



Former Senator
Jim Munson



Louise Kinross



Dr. Ripudaman Minhas



Monika Myers



Elizabeth Gunner



Dr. Nicola Jones-Stokreef



Rachel Teplicky



Liviya Mendelsohn



2023 EKO Scholars

- **6 Scholars**
 - From 4 EKO members
- **18%** chance of receiving an award



Logan Chalmers



Martin Leduc



Robel Dersuma



Erin Arbuckle



Sophie Sutherland



Tai Young

EKO Scholars in 1:1 conversation with Stephanie Dixon, C.M.

5 scholars

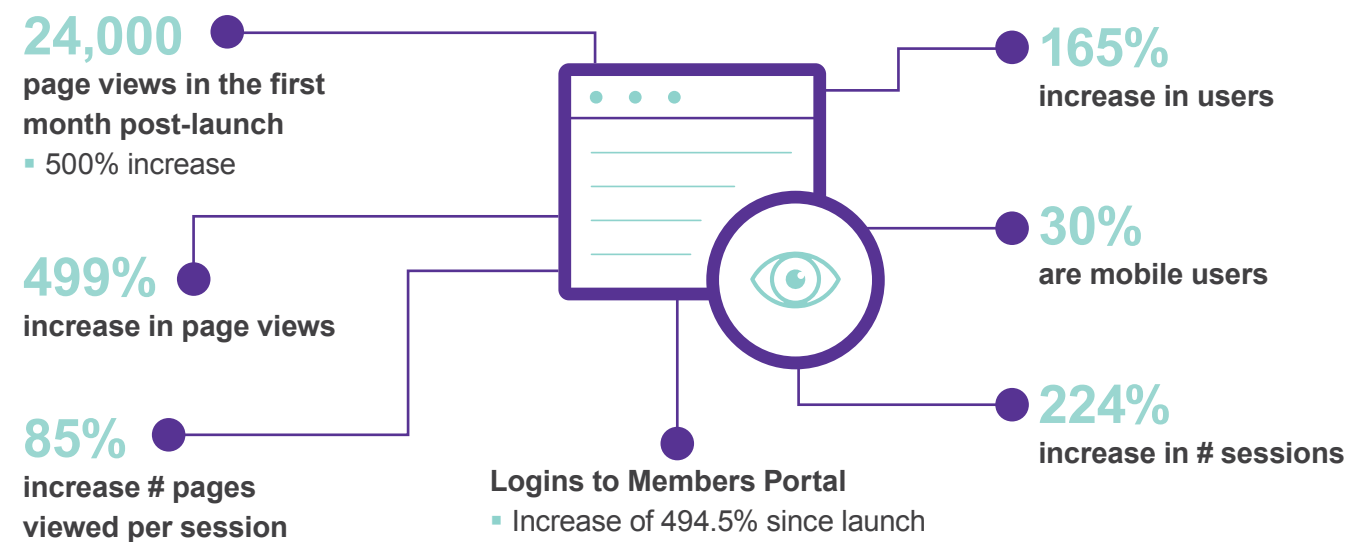
- 4 2022 EKO Scholars
- 1 2021 EKO Scholar

Discussions addressed building community, disability advocacy, personal identity, work, volunteering

Digital EKO

Online EKO

EKO launched its new website in October 2022:



Social EKO

After 18 months of social media outreach:

5k+ growth across all platforms

Engagement rate: **100%** increase

- Facebook:
50% increase in fans
- Twitter:
3X impressions during the EKO Spring Symposium
- Instagram:
profile increased 20.2%; Posts and likes increased 3,000%
- LinkedIn:
6.34% engagement rate

Top New Followers:

Our Kids' Health
▪ **10** channels

Punjabi Kids' Health
▪ **57,000** followers

Maytree Foundation
▪ **21,900** followers

Joyful, Dwarfism advocate
▪ **54,300** followers



Financial Performance

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
Year ended March 31

	2023	2022
Restricted Contributions	\$	\$
CRISP	704,875	896,932
Client Information Sytem	537,210	-
SmartStart Hub	150,000	-
Capacity Building and Research	100,000	1,150,000
Scholarships	12,500	15,000
	1,504,585	2,061,932
Restricted Expenses		
CRISP	704,875	896,932
Client Information Sytem	537,210	-
Smart Start Hub	150,000	-
Capacity Building and Research	100,000	1,150,000
Scholarships	12,500	15,000
	1,504,585	2,061,932
Excess restricted revenue over restricted expenses		
Unrestricted revenue		
Membership	1,085,045	893,573
Other revenue	136,071	45,582
Interest income	53,790	7,993
Annual conference	2,730	-
Donations	24	497
	1,277,660	947,645
Unrestricted Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	641,239	491,539
Professional fees	133,492	59,518
Marketing and communication	68,098	29,881
Office	40,676	22,462
Committees	21,796	958
Annual conference	13,476	-
Travel	11,973	2,801
Rent	11,860	11,433
Project expense	10,907	55,717
Professional development	8,649	6,895
Board	7,996	14,571
Amortization	373	152
	970,535	695,927
Excess of unrestricted revenue over unrestricted expenses	307,125	251,718
Operating fund, beginning of year	998,137	746,419
Operating fund, end of year	1,305,262	998,137



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