OAITH IS FORGING AHEAD WITH CHANGE, UNSTOPPABLE ENERGY, AND RESILIENT STRENGTH FROM A GROWING MEMBERSHIP! WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE LAST YEAR AS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A VIBRANT PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION WORKING TO END ALL FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

Last year at our Annual General Meeting, we were brought together to talk about key social policy issues that matter for Ontario. These discussions assisted the Board of Directors immensely as we envisioned what work over the next 3 to 5 years would entail. Through your engagement, we are pleased to present to the OAITH Membership our Strategic Directions for 2017 to 2020.

As an Association that continues to grow and evolve, we’ve remained focused on strengthening the foundation that we need to thrive and succeed. Through our Board of Directors Policy Committee, we’ve been able to review and make changes to various policies to ensure our operations and governance are effective. As a Board, we’ve continued on with our process in working towards acquiring charitable status with a review of our objects and related by-laws. It is this important work that has brought us here today to engage our members on updates and amendments to our letters patent to make OAITH more relevant and able to meet our objectives.

As we enter into an election year, your engagement, knowledge and energy is critical. With the development of a Provincial Gender-Based Violence Strategy and an updated Domestic Violence Action Plan, we trust that there is a will to address the issues. What remains a priority is the need for our membership to remain engaged to help us lead the way to end all forms of gender-based violence in Ontario.

Charlene Catchpole, Chair
Arlene McCalla, Vice Chair
STAYING CONNECTED, MEMBERSHIP

This year we operated with the new board structure of 11 board members: 4 executive positions, 5 regional positions that match the new MCSS regions and 2 members without portfolios, that would meet the skills requirements of the current strategic plan. We also reduced the number of board meetings, face to face, to meet budgetary requirements. Last year we developed a board matrix that focuses on incorporating 10 areas of diversity in addition to 13 areas of functional skills, into the organization, in order to reflect our current membership and engage our members to share their leadership skills at a provincial level. This year, we are proud to announce that we have surpassed our membership goals with 71 full memberships and 3 associate memberships. This includes 10 new full members, welcome to OAITH! For all of you, who renewed your membership, welcome back! Collectively, this is $195,900 in membership revenue to help fund the association to keep moving forward. The Membership Committee approved 3 applications for fee subsidies for Full Memberships this year. Unfortunately, this is the last year that fee subsidies will be available for memberships. For budgetary reasons, the OAITH Board chose to remove the membership subsidy rather than travel subsidies for AGM and training events, because the latter benefits more members.

This, year we invoiced membership dues directly, in order to provide organizations with documentation for their financial records. Additionally, this allowed OAITH to streamline the membership revenue to facilitate an organized AGM planning strategy. We did face a challenge with the registration process on Member Planet. We politely request that your organization please go back and double check to make sure that both parts of the membership renewal process is completed, (payment & information). Watch for your membership renewal invoice in February of 2018.

Melody Rose, Membership Chair
I hope you’re all keeping up with the pace of everything over the last year! On behalf of the staff team at OAITH, I want to take a moment to thank our membership, partners and stakeholders for working with us. We have continued to see growth in our membership base, our growing community of learners and we’ve welcomed more partners and collaborators into the work we are doing together as a larger community. We truly would not be here without your commitment and your energy.

We are grateful for the project funding received through the Ministry of Community & Social Services. With these funds, we were able to create 6 new modules in English and French, do further upgrades to our learner management system and host a conference in March of this year. It was an ambitious project and would not have been possible without the support of our staff and numerous project partners. As membership fees have steadily increased over the last three years, we are growing as an association. With more members and a significant number of learners, we are working towards actualizing our goal to move from having a training project to a training program. To support us with that vision, in August of this year we welcomed May Lui as our Training & Resource Coordinator.

Through the support of our membership at last year’s Annual General Meeting, we were able to define our 2017-2020 Strategic Priorities. Here are a few notable highlights of what happened since our last Annual General Meeting:

- Membership has continued to grow for the third year in a row with 73% of MCSS Funded VAW shelters being a member of OAITH.
- Over 60% of the OAITH Membership followed up our Pre-Budget Submission with your own letters of support. We are now seeing those asks being consulted on as part of the Gender Based Violence Strategy.
- The number of participating shelters and second stage housing organization’s for the Provincial Wrapped in Courage Campaign is continuing to grow. Last year with the support of Halton Women’s Place, the Wrapped in Courage Campaign made it to Parliament Hill!
2017-2020 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & ADVOCACY:

Performance Measures:

OAITH’s recommendations are integrated into government policy, legislation, and programs which may result in increased funding.

Outcomes

Measurable progress seen in women’s equality - social, economic, and political - using the most appropriate engagement strategy.

Increase engagement of government (all levels/non-partisan) on VAW issues relationships are established and continue to grow.

CREDIBILITY & EXPERTISE:

Performance Measures:

Members see OAITH as the Unifying Voice and rely on it for its messaging.

Outcomes

It is recognized by first responders and the public that VAW workers have developed and honed specific expertise not available in other sectors.

Leverage the Gender-based Violence Training Hub to become a revenue generator.

UNIFIED VOICE:

Performance Measures:

Grow Membership-associate membership-partners and stakeholders.

Outcomes

OAITH has established Unifying Voice and supporting infrastructure for the members.

OAITH understands the needs of its members and consistently facilitates and develops programs, models, frameworks, approaches, tools, etc.
REVENUES AND EXPENSES

OAITH 2016-2017 revenue

- Membership: 53%
- MCSS: 34%
- Donations: 5%
- AGM Fees: 4%
- OWD: 3%
- Scarves: 1%

OAITH 2016-2017 Expenses

- MCSS: 33%
- Administrative (staff and operation): 31%
- Purchase Services: 19%
- Governance (AGM & Board): 13%
- OWD: 3%
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS IN 2016-2017

Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
Elder Abuse Ontario
Egale
Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes
White Ribbon
The Learning Network
Metrac
Springtide Resources
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
University of Guelph

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Ontario Nurses Association
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Women Shelters Canada
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