



Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer

*2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT*

# *About Us*

OPACC was established in 1995 and is comprised of representatives from parent groups, parent contacts, and other family members from across the Province. Our members are parents, guardians, survivors, or close relatives of a child or teen diagnosed with cancer. We have been a Registered Charity since 2006 under charity number 846324168RR0001.

OPACC supports families through our in-hospital Parent Liaison Program currently running at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga; through the establishment of community-based parent support groups throughout Ontario; and through important advocacy efforts at the local, Provincial, and national level. Learn more at [www.opacc.org](http://www.opacc.org)

# *Mission and Goals*

OPACC's Mission Statement:  
*OPACC will be the leading voice and expert resource for families and organizations navigating the childhood cancer journey*

Our overall goal is to be the voice for families with children diagnosed with cancer across the Province of Ontario. Other core goals include:

- To establish the Parent Liaison role where deemed appropriate in collaboration with local stakeholders;
- Strengthen existing parent support groups;
- Support the establishment of new parent support groups;
- Establish a collaborative process for sharing and collecting information with parents through mentoring and educational activities;
- Establish financial sustainability

# *Chair's Report 2019*

Welcome and thank you for joining our Annual General Meeting for 2019. Welcome to our member families, guests, and friends.

As the only parent-led, peer-to-peer childhood cancer parent support organization in Ontario, OPACC continues to remain focused on a by parents, for parents model. Started in 1995, we have grown to become the leading patient and caregiver voice for childhood cancer families in Ontario. Building on the goals of our strategic plan, we have seen growth in our Board and success of our first OPACC Hearts of Gold fundraising gala.

Key accomplishments this past year included:

- Successful first fundraising gala, raising more than \$11,000 with plans underway for our second annual gala event on September 20, 2019 in Mississauga;
- New partnerships with a \$10,000 USD grant from the Love Your Melon Fund and continuation of funding from major partners the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation and the Trillium Automobile Dealers Association (TADA);
- The creation of the Parent Retreat program with successful retreats in London and Hamilton;
- The creation of the gift card amenities fund;
- New Board members Dr. Nick Blanchette from Credit Valley Hospital and Dr. Anne Klassen, a researcher at McMaster

This leads to me recognize and personally thank each and every Board member for their time, dedication, and leadership. With their generously volunteered time, we accomplish so much for childhood cancer families in our respective communities and across Ontario.

The culture of accompaniment and collaboration is an important part of who we are and what we do. OPACC has been proud to promote and champion initiatives taken on by our fellow childhood cancer families.

The 2018/2019 year has seen our relevance proven and our reach extended as more and more OPACC parents are using their caregiver experience, encouragement and participation with this organization to insert themselves

into the greater conversation around childhood cancer and health care in the province of Ontario. Parents respond to the call to participate in advisory committees and councils to advocate for childhood cancer issues at the local and Provincial levels. OPACC has fostered their confidence and shared the opportunities for parents to participate in this way.

The climate of funding and policy uncertainty in the greater community across the Province highlights the need for us to work together as organizations and families to advocate for the myriad experiences our families face. Cultivating a positive relationship with other childhood cancer organizations has been a focus this year. Building on relationships in Hamilton has opened doors to the goal of establishing a Parent Liaison position in Hamilton at McMaster Children's Hospital. Relationships continue to strengthen with our current Parent Liaisons within the clinics where they operate and a greater understanding of what we are and what we do.

Looking forward to next year, these are some of our goals:

- Establishment of a Parent Liaison in Hamilton
- Establishment of a community group in Windsor
- Second annual fundraising gala
- More parent retreats
- Advocacy training to empower more parents or childhood cancer patients and survivors to participate in advocacy work
- Work on the development of educational webinars for new families

We are proud of the partnerships we have developed with our major funding organizations, but the reality is that competition for donor dollars means that our small fundraisers matter more than ever. Whether it's participating in our "Kaps4Kids" program or small family-led third-party fundraisers, we are grateful for the hard work that all of our friends and supporters provide throughout the year. We hope you will all celebrate with us in September at our second annual OPACC Hearts of Gold Gala.

Thank you,

Corinne Eiriksson  
Chair of the Board  
OPACC

# *Treasurer's Report - Fiscal 2018/2019*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL 2018/2019 (Un-audited)**  
**Year End May 31/19**

**Report prepared by James Thomson & Sarai Porretta (Treasurer & Administrator)**

## **STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**Fiscal 2018/2019 (June 1/18 – May 31/19)**

**Year End May 31, 2019**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2019</b>
Grants	50,000.00	125,000.00
Donations	83,116.96	73,490.55
GST Rebate	3,674.92	4,969.62
Bank Interest	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>136,791.88</b>	<b>203,460.17</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries	111,515.37	110,806.97
Bank Services Charges	0.00	0.00
GST/HST Paid	7,130.79	7,162.46
Travel/Transportation	2,115.26	2,921.87
Program Expense	27,796.99	40,009.46
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>148,558.41</b>	<b>160,900.76</b>
<b>EXCESS/DEFICIT OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(11,766.53)</b>	<b>42,559.41</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT**

**May 31, 2019**

**Assets**

Cash	\$114,064.95
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Total Assets	\$114,064.95
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**Liabilities**

Retained Earnings/Equity	\$79,297.95
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Internally Restricted (MDS)	\$34,767.00
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Current Liabilities	\$ 0.00
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Total Liabilities	\$114,064.95
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# *Board of Directors*

Corinne Eiriksson, Chair  
Stathi Afendoulis (Lainie's Angels), Director  
Helen Robertson, Director  
Lisa Skinner, Director  
Anna Lopes (Million Dollar Smiles), Director  
Sunny Hayer, Director  
Aarthi Vig, Director  
Zeshan Khan, Director  
Dr. Nicholas Blanchette, Director  
Dr. Anne Klassen, Director

## *Staff (non-voting)*

Susan Kuczynski, Lead Parent Liaison  
Michelle Da Costa, Parent Liaison  
Karen Szukalo, Parent Liaison  
Sarai Porretta, Administrator/Recording Secretary

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