



Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer

*2016  
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/teen diagnosed with childhood cancer. We have been a Registered Charity since 2006 under charity number 846324168RR0001.

OPACC Educates, Advocates, Supports and Enables (EASEs) families of children with cancer.

OPACC supports families through our in-hospital Parent Liaison Program currently running at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto; through the establishment of community-based parent support groups throughout Ontario; through training of new parent Facilitators to run groups; and through various advocacy efforts at the local, Provincial, and national level.

# *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

# *President's Report 2016*

June 2016

## President's Report

A warm welcome to all of our family, friends and guests of OPACC.

This past year has once again been an eventful one for our organization. Continued change and service pressures have once again ensured that we remain nimble, adaptive and strategically focused as we navigate not only the uncertainty of the childhood cancer continuum but also the charitable landscape. As a small grassroots organization founded over 20 years ago on a principle of families first, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that our work is of direct benefit to families while also raising awareness of the impacts of childhood cancer and the need for co-ordination within the system itself – whether it be medical professionals, volunteers, extended family or other childhood cancer organizations, we all have an integral role to play.

For our part, some of the key initiatives undertaken this past year have included the following:

1. Continue to build and strengthen our Parent and Family Support Services with a focus on the Parent Liaison Services at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto (HSC), and to work in partnership with the hospital to provide supports to families affected by childhood cancer.
2. Working in partnership with key initiatives such as the EPIC initiative with the Pediatric Advanced Care Team from the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), the MOSAICC initiative with Cancer Care Action Network, and various research studies to enhance care and pain management for children and youth.
3. Continued investigation into bereavement supports for families faced with the loss of a child; both in the short and long term.
4. Ongoing development of our community engagement model to support the establishment of Parent Support Groups in local communities across the Province.
5. Provision of resources, information and referrals to all families needing assistance.
6. Advocacy on issues brought forward by families such as parking costs at hospitals and access to employment insurance supports when caregiving for a child with cancer.

Advocacy activities were a key focus for us over this past year and were centred around the ongoing discussions with families and their respective hospitals

regarding increased parking rates and the impact on the overall financial burden faced by each family. We were fortunate to be included in Provincial consultations regarding parking rates which has led to the Provincial Government's announcement in late 2015 of steps toward reducing the parking cost burden across the Province.

This past fiscal also saw our organization undertake a strategic planning process to determine our overall goals and strategies over the 2016 through 2019 period. Board, staff and stakeholders worked tirelessly over a 6 month period to develop and affirm the following updated vision statement for the organization:

***OPACC will be the leading voice and expert resource for families and organizations navigating the childhood cancer journey.***

In addition, the following high level strategic priorities have been identified:

1. Continued expansion of our Family Support Services and Resources;
2. Continued advocacy/engagement/awareness activities (Internal/External);
3. Build the capacity of the organization to ensure sustainability over the long term.

Ad-hoc working groups have been created around each of these priorities to work through the actionable items needed to realize each priority. It is anticipated that a large part of fiscal 2016 will be spent refining the actionable items and determining overall resource allocation required with full implementation by July 2016.

As we continue to rely on grants and donations, it is vitally important that we investigate other options for continued growth and development; not only from a resource development standpoint but also from a service delivery view. We continue to work with individuals and groups interested in hosting "third party" fundraising events, promote our "Kaps4Kids" fundraiser and work in partnership with the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation and the Inside Ride event that raises funds for our Parent Liaison Service. We are hopeful that this level of engagement will continue to provide the funds and awareness needed to support our work helping families across Ontario.

Many of the outcomes we achieved this past year would not have been possible without the involvement of our staff and Board team. Their commitment and passion for the work we undertake has helped us not only to continue to provide support to families but also open many doors to additional opportunities.

Best regards as we look forward to 2016 through 2017.

Thank You,

James Thomson  
President and Chair

# *Treasurer's Report - Fiscal 2015/2016*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL 2015/2016 (Un-audited)**  
**Year End May 31/16**

**Report prepared by James Thomson (Treasurer)**

## **STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**Fiscal 2015/2016 (June 1/15 – May 31/16)**

**Year End May 31, 2016**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2015</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2016</b>
Grants	60,679.00	50,000.00
Donations	47,723.34	35,024.89
GST Rebate	4,432.00	3,896.53
Bank Interest	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>112,834.34</b>	<b>88,921.42</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries	105,546.79	86,540.17
Bank Services Charges	0.00	0.00
GST/HST Paid	5,591.05	5,273.07
Travel/Transportation	5,600.78	3,040.73
Program Expense	15,010.79	6,705.25
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>131,749.41</b>	<b>101,559.22</b>
<b>EXCESS/DEFICIT OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(18,915.07)</b>	<b>(12,637.80)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> 2016**

**Assets**

Cash \$64,148.47

Total Assets \$64,148.47

**Liabilities**

Retained Earnings/Equity \$26,482.89

Internally Restricted (MDS) \$37,665.58

Current Liabilities \$ 0.00

Total Liabilities \$64,148.47

# *Board of Directors*

James Thomson, President and Chair  
Sunny Hayer, Treasurer  
Stathi Afendoulis, Director  
Helen Robertson, Director  
Lisa Skinner, Director  
Anna Lopes, Director  
Asaph Benun, Director

## *Staff (non-voting)*

Susan Kuczynski, Parent Liaison  
Sarai Porretta, Administrative Coordinator/Recording Secretary

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