



January 30, 2006

Dear Stakeholder,

In November 2004 the Ontario Peer Development Initiative (OPDI) announced that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) would be conducting an Operational Review of OPDI. The review, conducted by Johnston Consulting was completed in May 2005. After six months, November 28, 2005, the Ministry presented the outcomes of the review and their response to the OPDI Executive Committee.

**The findings of the review include:**

- OPDI was not fulfilling the mandate for which it was funded.
- Stakeholders were dissatisfied with the technical supports being provided by OPDI and were seeking this support elsewhere.
- Stakeholders would like to see OPDI providing a stronger “provincial voice” for Consumer Survivor Initiatives (CSI).
- There were identified deficiencies in governance and operational management.
- There was recognition given to recent positive changes taken by OPDI to address the identified deficiencies and the passionate commitment of Board and Staff to improve the lives of Ontario’s consumer/survivors.
- There is wide-spread agreement amongst stakeholders of the importance of having a strong, coordinated provincial voice for consumer survivor organizations.
- OPDI was acknowledged to be in the best position to fulfill that role.

**In response to the review the MOHLTC has determined:**

- OPDI is to focus on being a “provincial voice” for consumer/survivor initiatives.
- OPDI will no longer be funded to provide technical supports and resources to CSI’s.
- OPDI’s Operating Budget is to be reduced by 50% effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.
- OPDI is to engage the membership in a consultation process that will inform the development of a new vision for the organization.
- OPDI is to engage the services of an Executive Coach to provide guidance and advice to the Board and Executive Director.
- OPDI must develop a work plan to address governance structures, policies and procedures to address identified gaps.

This is a critical time for OPDI and your input will be important in shaping its future direction. We need to understand the expectations stakeholders have of OPDI as a 'provincial voice' for C/S organizations. OPDI also wants to gain support from the mental health community in building a new direction.

OPDI has engaged the consulting services of Neasa Martin & Associates to provide executive coaching and planning support to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors as they move toward achieving MOHLTC's deliverables.

- o OPDI has surveyed its member groups. It is now consulting with stakeholder groups. It will also be conducting telephone interviews with key informants to ensure it understands their needs, define future membership and set benchmarks from which to measure gains.
- o A summary report of these survey findings will be prepared by the Consultant and will be available to all interested participants.
- o The Board of Directors and Executive Director of OPDI will hold a vision planning session with the Consultant in March 2006. Building on your input, they will craft a new vision, goals and strategic objectives for OPDI.
- o A revised Operational Plan and Budget will be prepared for the MOHLTC, in a written report and presented in a face-to-face meeting, at the end of March 2006.
- o The OPDI will use the information gathered to build its programs and services, align staff roles and responsibilities and to establish benchmarks for measuring its success in meeting your expectations over time.

We have our work cut out for us and we will need to move quickly to meet our deadlines. This will not be the one and only time we will consult with you on your issues and concerns and expectations from the OPDI. This kind of grass-roots planning is consistent with the values and culture which characterizes Consumer Survivor Organization's (CSOs) and will be exemplified in our new direction. We sincerely hope that you will take the time to contribute to this process. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours truly,



Barbara Frampton  
Board President



Shawn Lauzon  
Executive Director