

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE DECEMBER 2, 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Happy Holidays! The festive season is already upon us, and I can't believe the first half of my term as President has gone by so fast. Time flies when we are working hard and having fun!

I encourage your feedback on the changes we have been making to ensure our association communications are revitalized and have a consistent branding. This has been an important focus during the first half of my term, and will continue to be an area of work over the coming months.

We have accomplished a great deal together...as one voice representing a great association of business professionals! I hope each of you will take a few moments to reflect on your accomplishments and celebrate your successes as we move into 2011.

Work is under way on the May 4-6, **2011 Annual Conference** to take place in Niagara Falls, ON. The conference planning committee has agreed on the theme "Expanding Communications....Élargir les voies de communication". The conference program coordinators have contacted Chairs to establish Committee workshop topics and plenary speakers are in the process of being confirmed.

The Board reviewed the request from the Disability Management Committee for the development of a **Certificate Course** at the University of Guelph. Discussion took place on the process including identification of topic areas for each of 4 years, development of the courses and program direction, and submission of the outline to the University Senate Committee for approval. It was noted that the Committee needs to clarify the issues and learning outcomes.



**KAREN FOX,
OASBO PRESIDENT**

A review was made on the **process of a sub-committee becoming a Standing Committee**. Reference was made to the current policy and some additions were suggested as follows: a recommendation will originate from the Standing Committee associated with the sub-committee; sub-committee must be in existence for at least one year under the umbrella of a current Standing Committee; sub-committee must keep formal records and demonstrate a sustainable membership; and identify benefits as a result of a move to Standing Committee status.

The **Communications Audit** completed by Naylor (OASBO's publisher) provided solid information on redesign of *The Advocate* magazine and changing the content to include more articles about education issues and less time-specific information about OASBO. Also under consideration is converting the annual June newsletter to an electronic format. The Communications Working Group brought forward recommendations to the Board based on the Audit and membership input.



PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ DU PRÉSIDENTE - December 2010

A small work group was established to identify shortfalls of the **OASBO website** and prioritize issues. The target is to compile the information by January and hold a training session for Chairs at the February 18, 2011 Joint Meeting. The Communications Work Group will focus on 3 areas for the year: the OASBO website; access to teleconferencing equipment by Committees; and rebranding of OASBO publications.

Discussion took place on the possible **name change** for the current **Rep Team**. It was suggested that the term "liaison" be included since the Rep Team forms a connection between the Standing Committees and the Board of Directors. The possibility of increasing the term from 1 to 2 years to enable members to learn more about their roles and responsibilities was also considered. This item will be discussed at the next Rep Team meeting and ideas presented at the February Joint Meeting of Directors and Committee Chairs. By March there should be a redefined role and potential name change.

Three firms responded to the RFP for an external auditor and submissions were reviewed by several members of the Board and the Executive Director. Based on a scoring system of identified criteria, the Board approved the appointment of Gilmore & Co. as OASBO's **external auditor** up to the year ending August 2014.

The OASBO Executive recently held **meetings with the Minister of Education and the Assistant Deputy Minister** on general topics including an overview of OASBO, exploration of partnership opportunities, and inter-ministerial cooperation. The Minister was interested in the dynamics of membership and the various business areas.

The Board discussed **representation by the Ministry at OASBO Committee meetings**. In the past most Committees had attendance from the Ministry but recently this representation has decreased. The ADM is open to reviewing the request. OASBO will be compiling a list indicating where a Ministry representative is currently participating on a Standing Committee and invite representation for other committees.

Approval was given to award **Norma Townsend a Certificate of Merit** in recognition of outstanding contribution to Information Management/Privacy/ & Access Committee (IMPAC). The Board also supported the establishment of the "Norma Townsend Award" which would provide a membership to one individual each year who would otherwise not have an opportunity to join IMPAC.

It was agreed by the Board to offer a **free OASBO membership** (one per board) for the next 2 years (2011 and 2012) based on the criteria established last year (open to new members only). The letter will be addressed to the Superintendent of Business and copied to the Director of Education. It is hoped this will increase committee membership.

Another Joint Meeting of the OASBO Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will be held on Friday, February 18, 2011. All Committee Chairs are encouraged to attend this important communication exercise. Details will be forwarded early in the New Year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend warm wishes to all OASBO members for a happy, safe and enjoyable holiday season!

**KAREN FOX,
OASBO PRESIDENT**