



Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer

*2018  
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 2018*

June 2018

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

This past year has been one of measured growth and development, continuing to build off of elements in our strategic plan that remain relevant as we navigate the continued uncertainty within the charitable sector. Slow and measured progress guided our decisions and actions to ensure our continued success and, as always, sustainability.

Founded over 22 years ago on a principle of “families first,” we remain committed to ensure that everything we do is of direct benefit to families while, at the same time, advocating for parents to raise awareness of the impacts of childhood cancer and the need for ongoing co-ordination within the system itself - whether it be medical professionals, volunteers, extended family or other childhood cancer organizations. As a unique, parent-led peer-to-peer parent organization, it is essential that we continue to bring our collective voice forward within the greater health care community.

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 and the addition of part-time positions 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 research initiatives such as the EPEC initiative with the Pediatric Advanced Care Team from the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) to enhance care and pain management for children and youth.
3. Ongoing development of our community engagement model to support the establishment of Parent Support Groups in local communities across the Province.
4. Provision of resources, information and referrals to all families needing assistance.
5. 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 continue to be a focus for us to ensure that the voice of parents are brought forward and heard; this is integral to the work we do each and every day. As a parent-led organization we need to be responsive to our membership and bring issues forward with a collective voice. Past activities in this area have included employment insurance reform at the Federal level and, most recently, working with Provincial organizations and the Province of Ontario to work on hospital parking rates.

Leadership is an important aspect for us and we cannot do the work we do each and every day without the commitment from our staff team and Board of Directors. As we are a small organization, we are reliant on these individuals to ensure that the work gets done. For all their contributions over this past year, I, on behalf of our membership, thank them.

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” fundraisers and work in partnership with our key supporter, the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation and the Inside Ride event that raises much needed funds for our Parent Liaison Service. Recently we also began the exciting work to hold our first-ever signature event, which will take place in the Fall of 2018. We are hopeful that this event, along with our continued level of engagement with our partners, will continue to provide the funds and awareness needed to support our work helping families across Ontario.

As we look forward, we are keenly aware of the need to continue to build our capacity - especially around our Board and volunteer tables. This is vitally important, as we are asked by our stakeholders to continue and to grow. Board recruitment and volunteer development will remain two main areas of focus for this year as we continue our work and that of our strategic directions.

This also will be my last report as Board Chair, as I will be stepping down from this position and remaining as Past Chair/Treasurer for the upcoming year. I look forward to working alongside the membership of the Board to continue to drive our important work forward.

Best regards as we look forward to 2018 through 2019.

Thank You,

James Thomson  
President and Chair

# *Treasurer's Report - Fiscal 2017/2018*

**TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL 2017/2018 (Un-audited)**  
**Year End May 31/18**

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

## **STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**Fiscal 2017/2018 (June 1/17 – May 31/18)**

**Year End May 31, 2018**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2017</b>	<b>May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018</b>
Grants	50,000.00	50,000.00
Donations	80,394.78	83,116.96
GST Rebate	3,674.92	3,674.92
Bank Interest	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>134,069.70</b>	<b>136,791.88</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries	75,167.61	111,515.37
Bank Services Charges	0.00	0.00
GST/HST Paid	4,039.70	7,130.79
Travel/Transportation	1,759.56	2,115.26
Program Expense	7,934.43	27,796.99
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>88,901.30</b>	<b>148,558.41</b>
<b>EXCESS/DEFICIT OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>45,168.40</b>	<b>(11,766.53)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**

**Assets**

Cash \$56,265.54

Total Assets \$56,265.54

**Liabilities**

Retained Earnings/Equity \$35,115.54

Internally Restricted (MDS) \$21,150.00

Current Liabilities \$ 0.00

Total Liabilities \$56,265.54

# *Board of Directors*

Corinne Eiriksson, Chair  
James Thomson, Treasurer  
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

## *Staff (non-voting)*

Susan Kuczynski, Parent Liaison  
Michelle Da Costa, Parent Liaison  
Karen Szukalo, Parent Liaison  
Sarai Porretta, Administrative Coordinator/Recording Secretary

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