



2017 OFCP Program Achievement Reports

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy
104-1630 Lawrence Avenue West
Toronto, ON M6L1C5, Canada

Phone: (416) 244-9686
Fax: (416) 244-6543
Toll-Free: 1-877-244-9686 (Ontario only)
www.ofcp.ca

Charitable Registration Number: 10779 - 7722

President's Report - Victor Gascon



It seems that for the last 6 years I have started the President's report with news around change, long term planning, stability and a view to the future.

This report is no different.

This year, the Federation has gone through the most significant change in its recent history! And.....it's all good!!

On August 31st, 2017, the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy completed a divesture process, whereby the Household Pick-Up Services were separated from the program side of the charity. The Household Pick-Up Services are now conducted through a separate entity. A newly formed trust, called CP4CP (Clothing Pick Up for Cerebral Palsy)



will continue the great work performed on the "pick up side" to collect used clothes and monetize those donations into funds that will be used to support our members. The OFCP follows the example of many other charities that have completed a similar process, where the collection of in-kind donations are subsequently undertaken by a trust that has been established to support the charitable

works of the charity, in this case, the OFCP. This divestment process was achieved, in no small part, because of the efforts of the OFCP Board of Directors, the McMillan law firm, and the amazing directors, managers and staff of our 4 pick-up branches in Cambridge, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa. I owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid!

This change will have no impact on our members. Funding programs, supports, staffing and our locations remain the same. The OFCP will continue the great work of advocating for and supporting, our members across the province. The governance structure of the OFCP, and the accountability of the organization to our membership, will remain the same.

I have been honoured to lead this organization through the last 6 years as President. Perhaps the biggest change for me is that, effective September 1st, I resigned my post as President and Linda Bowen, First Vice Chair stepped in as interim President. I am thrilled to have been nominated and have accepted the role as Chair of the Trustee of CP4CP. I leave this position knowing that the OFCP has never been stronger or better positioned to create a major impact on our members, our communities and our legislators to support people across the province with cerebral palsy.

I leave you with one last message, Please donate all your gently used clothing items to CP4CP---as you know, the proceeds are going to support my favourite charity.

Executive Director's (Interim) Report - Gordana Skrba



What is a federation?
My favourite definition
comes from Roget's
Thesaurus and says: a
group of people united in
a relationship and having
some interest, activity, or

purpose in common. The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy is just that. 2000 people that have come together, within the province of Ontario, to show a commitment and connection to people with cp. We are united and connected in so many ways. We are committed to our vision statement that states the following:

The Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy is an organization committed to supporting independence, inclusion, choice and full integration of all persons with cerebral palsy, in the community of their choice.

Our vision statement is alive in our organization. The Members, our Board of Directors, employees and funders all strive to make our values a focus of every decision and action taken by our agency. We believe in the goal of a barrier free, fully integrated province that supports inclusion for all. I am proud to lead an organization that supports our members in so many ways. Children and family services, planning supports, resource sharing with cities, governments and service providers, advocacy, research and funding for activities and equipment, there are many different ways that the team at OFCP supports our members. A huge thank you to our Board of Directors, who work tirelessly to promote our mission.

And as always, to our members.....we are

united in our interest, activity and purpose to support all individuals with cp in the province, the country and worldwide. That is what defines our Federation.

*“What is a federation?
My favourite definition,
from Roget's
Thesaurus says:*

*A group of people
united in a relationship
and having some
interest, activity, or
purpose in common.*

*The Ontario Federation
for Cerebral Palsy is
just that.”*

- Gordana Skrba

OFCP Awards And Scholarships



*Cathy Persons, Manager,
Children and Families
Program*

The OFCP **Outstanding Teacher Award** recognizes

the contribution of a teacher who is providing outstanding, exceptional support and guidance to a student with cerebral palsy. Students are invited to nominate an educator whom they believe should be honoured. Our recipient for 2016 was Dr. Robert Loewen from The Royal Conservatory of Music – The Glen Gould School in Toronto. Dr. Loewen was nominated by Shira Weinstein.

Shira was very proud to share that she feels that with an amazing teacher like Dr. Loewen, it has helped her greatly with her self-esteem. It has also helped her to become more confident with her abilities and disability. Shira feels it is a great privilege to take lessons with such a fantastic teacher who also takes an interest in her, her abilities and to learn about cerebral palsy. Congratulations Dr. Loewen!

The OFCP **Mona Winberg Award**, presented in the amount of \$500.00, is made to a person with cerebral palsy in recognition of his/her personal achievement of such caliber as to be a significant role model to all. Our 2016 recipient was Terri-Lynn Langdon.

Terri-Lynn has been an advocate who is never afraid to speak-up on behalf of people with disabilities. As an individual with cerebral palsy, she has dedicated a great part of

her professional and volunteer career to working with people with ABI, cerebral palsy and spinal cord injuries. In 2002 Terri-Lynn swam across Lake Erie to raise money and awareness for cerebral palsy and the OFCP. The marathon swim and fundraiser earned approximately \$10,000.00! Terri-Lynn is a true champion of equity and accessibility in our city. Her passion and enthusiasm to serve the community and people with disabilities is truly inspiring. Congratulations Terri-Lynn!

The OFCP **Eric Waldron Scholarship Award** presented in the amount of \$500.00, is provided to a student with cerebral palsy who is enrolled in an Ontario College or University and has completed his or her first year of instruction. Sarah Singh is our recipient for 2016. Sarah is a student at the University of Windsor in the Bachelor of Social Work Program. She has already received a diploma from Humber College in the Developmental Services Worker Program.

Sarah has volunteered extensively at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and served on many committees. She has shown with her patience, perseverance, her wonderful sense of humour and her commitment to fairness and equity - Sarah shows her genuine compassion and respect for others. Congratulations Sarah!

The **Nicholas Milojevic Scholarship Award** presented in the amount of \$500.00, is presented to a student, enrolled in an Ontario College or University entering their second year, with cerebral palsy who has persevered in their studies and whose character includes perseverance, positivity and strength.

Our recipient of the OFCP Nicholas Milojevic Scholarship Award for 2016 is Sandy Watson.

Sandy is a student at Loyalist College in Belleville currently enrolled in the Social Service Worker program. She has always enjoyed interactions with people and would like to make a difference in someone's life. It always makes her feel good to know she can make someone's day better.

Sandy has been a volunteer student at the Volunteer and Information Centre in Belleville not only at their front reception desk but is the front of the line person answering the phone and directing calls to the appropriate person and providing information to solve the caller's problems. Sandy greets any situation with optimism and grace. She takes great pride in her work and strives to be the best version of herself. Congratulations Sandy!

The **Therapy Scholarship Award** presented in the amount of \$500.00, is presented to a student who has completed their first year of instruction at an approved institution of higher learning in Ontario offering the following courses: Speech and Language, Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy. Our recipient for 2016 is Candice Toth.

Candice is a student in the Speech-Language Pathology Program at the University of Toronto. As a future speech-language pathologist, her goal is to help people communicate to improve their quality of life. Candice understands the importance and the impact of speech and language therapy in the lives of others with cerebral palsy to be able to communicate in a way that works best for them. She excels at teaching

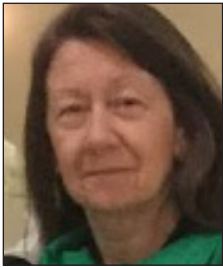
and encouraging children to meet their full potential. Candice strongly believes in the importance and positive impact of working as a team with her clients, their families and other professionals. Congratulations Candice!

The **Volunteer of Distinction Award** is presented to an individual with cerebral palsy or a family with a member with cerebral palsy, in the amount of \$500.00, who has volunteered to help in fulfilling the mission of OFCP in Ontario. This year the award was presented to Lara Wong.

Lara has volunteered in various capacities, doing public speaking for 'Friends of We Care', Easter Seals and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation. She assists at Holland Bloorview as a mentor and also as a volunteer for therapeutic recreation programming.

Lara was also presented with a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal by the former Lieutenant Governor David Onley recognizing her community service. As shared by Lara's nominator the Honourable David C. Onley, Lara demonstrates the best elements of leadership and advocacy in promoting accessibility awareness. She is a positive role model on many fronts and is a strong supporter in advocating for greater accessibility for all Ontarians. Congratulations Lara!

Children and Families Program



*Cathy Persons, Manager,
Children and Families
Program*

This past year we have continued to provide relevant information as requested, attend events to bring awareness regarding cerebral palsy and respond to inquiries from families, individuals, professionals and organizations.

We have provided cerebral palsy information to Children's Treatment Centres, hospitals, schools and other organizations. Information requests received range from topics such as availability of financial assistance, families/refugee families looking for permanent accessible accommodation, parental concerns for supports, education plans and safety in the classroom and media inquiries regarding issues relating to cerebral palsy. We are extremely fortunate to be able to liaison with the OFCP Medical Research Advisory Committee when we receive questions that are medical or therapeutic in nature.

Some of the events that we attended were the first 'Abilities Expo Toronto' in Mississauga, the Federated Health Charities Health Fair and collaboration with colleagues to present an Educational Session to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care Assistive Devices Program/Psychiatric Patient Advocacy Program.

Membership Services



Lynn Addae – Manager

OFCP is pleased to announce new funding opportunities for member groups! The purpose is to provide financial support for activities which directly improve the quality of life and well being of persons with cerebral palsy.

OFCP is also pleased to announce that our membership has grown again this year! Lifetime, individual and group members continue to benefit in a number of ways from OFCP. Whether through planning supports, access to funding, contributing to research or even linking with other members within local communities, the benefits of membership continue all through the year.

Individual Membership is open to all people with cerebral palsy, their parents/family members as well as professionals/supporters who have an interest in the welfare of persons with cerebral palsy. Individual members who have cerebral palsy are eligible to apply for funding assistance from OFCP for equipment, recreation, vacation and community based day programs. Member groups are non-profit organizations who provide services to people with cerebral palsy and other physical disabilities in their communities.

As Manager of Membership services, I would love to hear from you. I encourage you to email me, call or even drop by to share your thoughts and opinions on how to help shape our Membership program.

Social Media & IT Update



Steven Beith – Manager

2017 has been a busy year for IT and social media at OFCP. The OFCP Facebook page

continues to gain followers almost daily. We started 2017 with just over 1500 followers, now we are over 1800. Some of our posts and shares reach thousands of people in a matter of hours, such as the post about OFCP making arrangements to have the CN tower lit up green on World CP Day eve, that post was shared and spread so much, over 12 000 people saw it within half a day. Our OFCP newsletter has reached over 1500 subscribers this year.

The IT department is also involved in looking after the online fundraising portion of events such as a Windsor Gala and the Nicholas Milojevic Walk 'N' Roll-A-Thon in Brampton to name a few. All these events allow for online registration and donations, and uses social media and newsletters to promote and connect all of our friends and followers.

OFCP Funding Programs



Biswatie Oodal – Executive Assistant

Another successful year for the OFCP Funding Programs!

The Life Enrichment Activity Fund (LEAF) provides the opportunity to our Members with cerebral palsy to access financial assistance to enrich their lives. Our Members have the choice of attending activities within their community and vacation worldwide. Last year, 224 of our Members of all ages accessed this funding. Activities/items that were approved over the past year include camps, swimming lessons, art supplies, vacations, fitness memberships, therapeutic horseback riding, ipads, head phones and more.

We are pleased to announce that the Life Enrichment Activity Fund (LEAF) is now available to our Member Groups. Last year 5 of our Members Groups accessed this funding. Member groups were able to assist their clients with summer camps, accessible gardens, equipment and much more.

The Assistive Devices Funding Program provides financial assistance to our Members with cerebral palsy to purchase or lease assistive devices. Last year 88 of our Members of all ages accessed this funding. Items that were approved over the past year include wheelchairs, car seats, hospital beds, lifts, commodes and more!

Planning Services



Cindy DeGraaff – Manager

Planning Services helps individuals and their families by providing support, information, and referrals to adults with

cerebral palsy in all areas of their lives.

We assist members in accessing appropriate services to maximize full participation in the communities of their choice. This program is goal oriented and member directed.

We are committed to the ongoing evolution and transformation of our service provision models to better meet the needs and wants of our members. In our efforts to accomplish this, we adopted a System Navigation service model – which is an innovative program that utilizes a spectrum of tools/resources to provide easier access to help our members get the information they need to set and work towards their goals.

We are utilizing social media platforms and on-line resources and continuously exploring innovative ways to educate and create public awareness. As well, in our efforts to raise awareness and to advocate on behalf of all people with cerebral palsy in the province, we actively participate and partner with many national, provincial and local coalitions, organizations, schools and institutions. Some of the committees we have been involved in over the past year are: Elections Ontario Accessibility Consultation Committee, Accessibility Outreach Network City of Toronto, Strength Based Parenting

Network, Transition Interest Group – Toronto, and Halton Region Transitional Planning Committee.

Together we advocate for a better life.



Cindy DeGraaff & Miriam Running