

HS-B1-1

For Information

DATE: September 13, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **OMSSA 2012 LEARNING SYMPOSIUM**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

To inform of a Learning Symposium that is being hosted by Peel's Human Services Department and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) from June 17-20, 2012.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Peel's Human Services Department and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) will host a Learning Symposium from June 17-20, 2012.
- This event provides an opportunity for municipal staff and elected officials to meet and discuss issues relevant to the delivery of human services in Ontario.
- Planning for the 2012 symposium will begin in mid to late September 2011 and will include OMSSA members from around the province, as well as staff from OMSSA and the Region of Peel.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

Each year, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) has a Learning Symposium. This event provides an opportunity for municipal staff and elected officials to meet and discuss issues related to the delivery of human services in Ontario. OMSSA's Annual General Meeting is also held at this time. The Association's Board of Directors includes Janet Menard, Peel's Commissioner of Human Services, for a two-year term of office.

The last time Peel hosted the Symposium was in 2003, which was the first year OMSSA offered a front-line forum, in addition to the Symposium. Before 2003, the symposium content was geared towards middle and upper management. The addition of a front-line forum has been very well received and has allowed OMSSA to provide content specific to front-line professionals.

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In 2003, the attendance at the learning symposium was 340; at that time, this was one of the highest participation rates at an OMSSA Learning Symposium. The 2003 Symposium drew 300 participants from across the province, as well as 40 front-line forum participants. A total of 78 Region of Peel staff participated in this 2003 event as delegates and volunteers.

In addition to Peel's involvement in OMSSA's Learning Symposiums over the years (including making Peel presentations to showcase the Region's latest achievements in human services), there are other examples of both organizations working together. These examples include: the development and delivery of Ontario Works Training Programs through OMSSA; and "A Guide to Thinking About Human Services Integration: Making a Greater Difference for People and Communities"; this guide was a joint project of OMSSA and the Service Manager Housing Network (including Peel), and was introduced in September 2007.

2. Findings

Planning for the 2012 symposium will begin in mid to late September 2011 and will include OMSSA members from around the province, as well as staff from OMSSA and the Region of Peel. Although a theme has not been determined yet, the OMSSA Board of Directors will provide direction in the development of the theme. As OMSSA continues to move towards a model of human services integration, it will endeavour to provide content that is applicable to all human services professionals throughout the province.

The 2012 Learning Symposium will be held from June 17-20, 2012 at the Delta Meadowvale in Mississauga. The final agenda and registration for this event will be available mid-April 2012.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Peel's participation in OMSSA's 2012 Learning Symposium will have some financial implications. Peel's commitment, however, will be defined by in-kind Regional staff time and does not require any funding from the Region.

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CONCLUSION

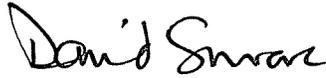
The OMSSA Learning Symposium provides an opportunity for human services organizations from across the Province to collaborate to enhance the delivery of human services in Ontario.

If members of Council are interested in attending this event, they should contact the office of the Commissioner of Human Services. A registration package will be provided as soon as it becomes available.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



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