



Ontario
Association of
Children's
Rehabilitation
Services



Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Time for Transformation

This is a time of change and transformation for children's services in Ontario. A multitude of government initiatives are underway, all focused on making things better for children and families by changing the way services look and operate. Concurrently, OACRS has embarked on its own transformation – a process that began in early 2016.

Over the past number of months, OACRS has engaged in a process of community consultation, prudent analysis, self-reflection and decision-making. The OACRS 2020 Strategic Plan includes a vision and a clearly articulated purpose that reflect the voices of the many people we have spoken with – families, service providers, researchers, clinicians, members, partners and government officials.

As a result of our analysis, the OACRS Board solidly endorsed:

- **Understanding** the experiences of children and youth with special needs and their families
- **Broadening** OACRS' membership to be inclusive of an array of services and supports that enable children and youth with special needs to participate fully and improve their quality of life
- **Being** a provincial organization that has reach nationally and internationally
- **Focusing** on the importance of information, data and research, and playing a central role to ensure this knowledge can be used to improve services
- **Working** with a range of partners, decision-makers, organizations and associations to identify where and how we can work together to advance a common agenda

We are crystal clear on why we exist and we are well positioned to implement this transformation.

A comprehensive approach to implementation, member engagement and measurement is necessary for the OACRS Strategic Plan to be successful. This work is underway and the first steps include:

- > **Creation** of a Membership Committee to examine the elements of broadening membership, including membership structure and governance
- > **Establishment** of a Communications Committee to lead the work of rebranding the Association
- > **Formation** of the OACRS National Research Network
- > **Release** of the inaugural sector performance report

This plan provides the roadmap for harnessing knowledge and uniting voices so that we realize our vision that children and youth with special needs are living their best lives.

We look forward to sharing our progress in this journey.

Paula Grail,
Chair, Board of Directors

Jennifer Churchill,
Chief Executive Officer





Purpose

Harnessing knowledge and uniting voices for children and youth with special needs.

Vision

Children and youth with special needs are living their best lives.

Beliefs & Values

We believe all children and youth with special needs live their best lives when families are at the centre of care, when service providers collaborate and act upon evidence, and when public policy is in alignment.

We act with integrity and value shared leadership, collaboration, and change that makes a real difference in the lives of families.



We would like to thank our members, partners and stakeholders for their contributions and active engagement in shaping the strategic direction for OACRS over the next four years.



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