



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION  
OF INTERVAL &  
TRANSITION HOUSES



# Mission & Vision of OAITH



2019/2020 brought forth opportunities to work closely with our membership in the development of a Mission & Vision for OAITH.

Starting in May 2019 we began an engagement process through in person sessions and surveys with OAITH staff, board of directors and membership. The establishment of the Mission & Vision Working Group allowed for ongoing engagement from May 2019 through to February 2020 and we announced this in June 2020. Thank you to the working group, staff, board of directors and our membership for all of your contributions.

## **OAITH Vision**

An Ontario that is safe,  
equitable and just for all  
women,  
girls and gender-diverse  
communities

## **OAITH Mission**

OAITH works towards  
ending all forms of gender-  
based violence  
and oppression through  
advocacy, education,  
research and training

## Perspectives from OAITH's President & Vice President



**Arlene McCalla,  
OAITH President**



**Sue Weir,  
OAITH Vice President**

### 1. What have been OAITH's greatest successes from 2019-2020?

*"One of OAITH's greatest successes in 2019-2020 was the positive financial and legislative impact that OAITH's collaborative relationship with government had on VAW shelters during the COVID-19 crisis".*

*"I think the greatest success of OAITH in 2019-20 was its durable and growing membership and its role in helping government have a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities and nuances in the work of the VAW field. I look at the way that our sector has responded to the current crisis and its continued focus on the needs of the women and children we serve, and that makes me feel proud"*

### 2. What makes you optimistic looking forward to the next year?

*"Regardless of our differences, OAITH members united in crisis and built a strong foundation that will continue to benefit us all in the coming year and for years to come".*

*"I think the fact that OAITH makes space for all of the ways we keep this focus is impressive. The capacity that OAITH has to generate a cohesive message from all of the varying strategies and service approaches is something that makes me feel that all is possible and makes me feel hopeful."*

### 3. As President and Vice President, what makes you most proud when you think of OAITH?

*"OAITH is recognized as the provincial expert in all matters related to gender-based violence"*

*"Giving voice to varying opinions in a way doesn't feel divisive is the great strength of this organization and the welcoming of so many perspectives in an inclusive way makes me also feel proud. Being able to lean into difficult dialogues and keep the door open for all to walk through in a welcome and respected way is what makes me the most proud of OAITH and its work".*

# Wrapped in Courage

Entering into its 7th year, Wrapped in Courage continued to engage communities across Ontario in supporting shelters and raising awareness about gender-based violence throughout the month of November. Ontario Nurses' Association continued on as our Provincial Sponsor providing significant support to the campaign. OAITH was present at the ONA Biennial Convention and sold over 500 scarves and ties to ONA members across Ontario. Every year of this campaign brings new opportunities and surprises.

In 2019 Three Oaks packed a bus and headed to a live taping of The Social, with scarves for everyone. Thank you to the Three Oaks team for all your support of Wrapped in Courage!



## Wrapped in Courage *Success Story*

Wrapped in Courage has provided much needed financial support to shelters across Ontario. We would like to send our congratulations to Hiatus House in selling close to 9,000 scarves and raising over 75,000.00 in net proceeds over the last 6 years. This is a true example of the success of Wrapped in Courage!

# Policy Committee Report

Kendall Trembath, Policy Committee Chair

According to the Collins Dictionary a policy committee is “a group of people who provide ideas or plans that are used by an organization or government as a basis for making decisions.” This year our major tasks included some foundational policies as well as Bylaws, Risk Management (the mitigation plan and follow – up), Fundraising, and the Virtual Office.

While OAITH has been using the virtual office for a while, the policy surrounding this practice needed updating. It was a timely accomplishment since COVID-19 in March. Now it clearly lays out the expectations of the virtual offices, work days, equipment, costs and confidentiality. The committee is happy to report that we managed to tick all the boxes on our policy to do this for 2019-2020 including the bylaws.

Frankly, looking at bylaws is comparable to hanging patterned wall paper. You put it up, step back and look, step in and tweak the position a bit, step back out –turn your head to the side and ask others their thoughts on the matter. Thank you to Marlene for the extra patience and work she put into this task. Now it is the hands of the membership and we want to thank you for your critical thought and engagement in the process. Looking forward to supporting Marlene and the Board of Directors in their policy development, analysis and application in the coming term.

## Aging Without Violence

Amber Wardell, AWV Project Coordinator



This year marked the end of the Aging Without Violence project (AWV) which, under the guidance of a cross-sector advisory, has been working to increase the capacity of Ontario's frontline workers to provide service and care to older women with experiences of violence. 2019-2020 AWV highlights include:



- 5 in person, full day **Regional Training Sessions** with 182 training participants total
- New online training course: **Safety Planning and Risk Assessment with Older Women**
- Interactive brain map & art based neurobiology of trauma training tool **"Her Brain Chose for Her"**
- Fact sheets focused on **Immigrant and Refugee Older Women, Older Women & Sexual Violence**, and **Older Women with Disabilities and Older d/Deaf Women**
- **Handouts for VAW workers** re: primary & vicarious trauma (such as the **"Tree Tracker"**)

As part of the Regional Training Sessions, AWV worked with Mixed Company Theatre to develop an interactive play ("Never In the Room") focused on an older woman's experiences of violence. These interactive training sessions built on knowledge from the **"Her Brain Chose for Her"** Visual Training Tool, available as an interactive online application and also a downloadable PDF featuring over 33 unique illustrations related to trauma informed approaches across the lifespan.

# Government Relations & Advocacy

It's been a busy year engaging government on a number of issues identified as priorities by our membership at last year's Strategy Day. We continued to advocate for funding into shelters through OAITH's Pre-Budget Submission process, with presentations made to government committees and the Minister of Finance. We were happy to learn that investments into the sector continued into the 2020 Fiscal Year for shelters. In December 2019 we were happy to attend the grand opening of the Green Haven Shelter for Women Re-Build!

OAITH was invited and participated on various government tables including the Housing Roundtable, Child Welfare Review Table and the HT Roundtable. On November 25th, OAITH staff and board of directors met with Minister's and Staff in Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Housing and Ministry of Infrastructure. We also met with Opposition Critics for Women's Issues and Social Services and Housing to ensure they're aware of needs facing VAW shelters in Ontario.



## Training Hub

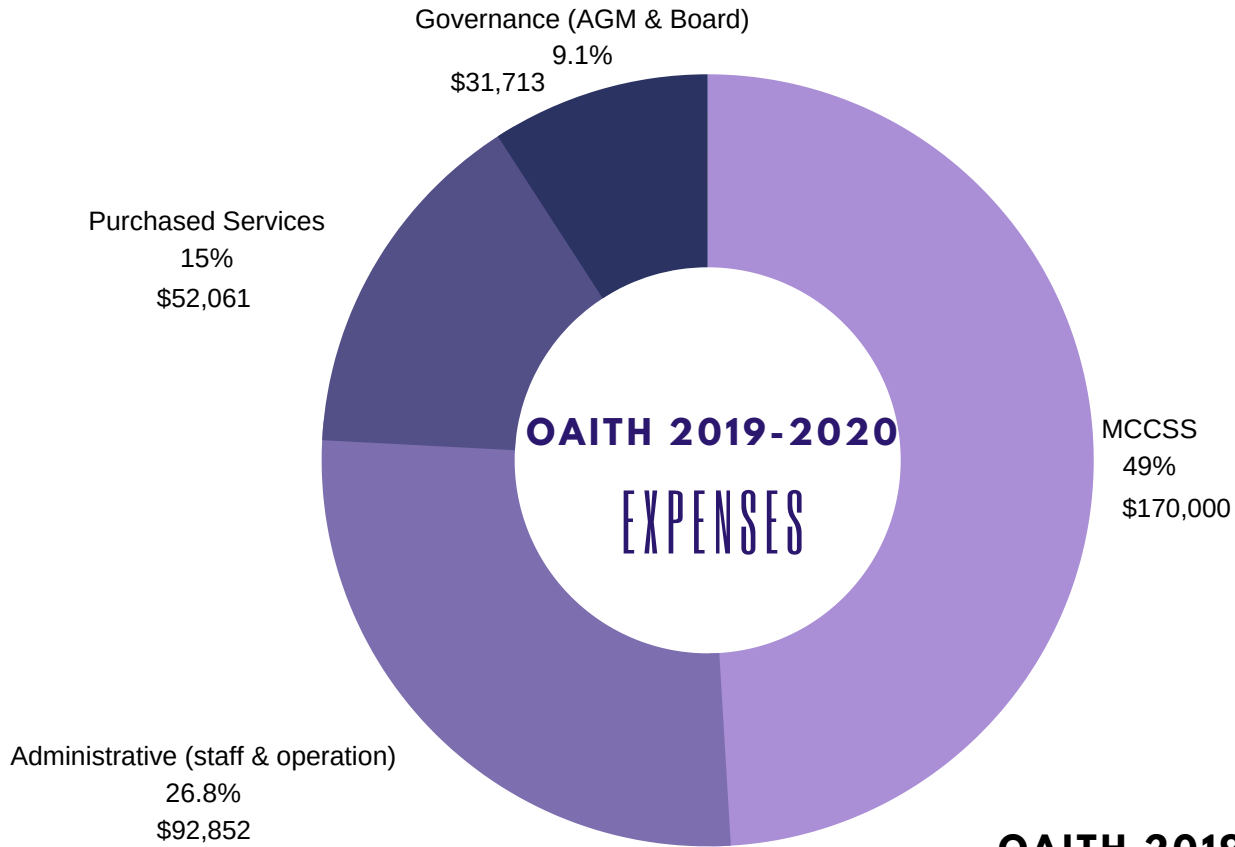


In 2019 2020 we continued to received project-based funding from MCCSS to support OAITH's training initiatives. ***A few highlights from this past year include:***

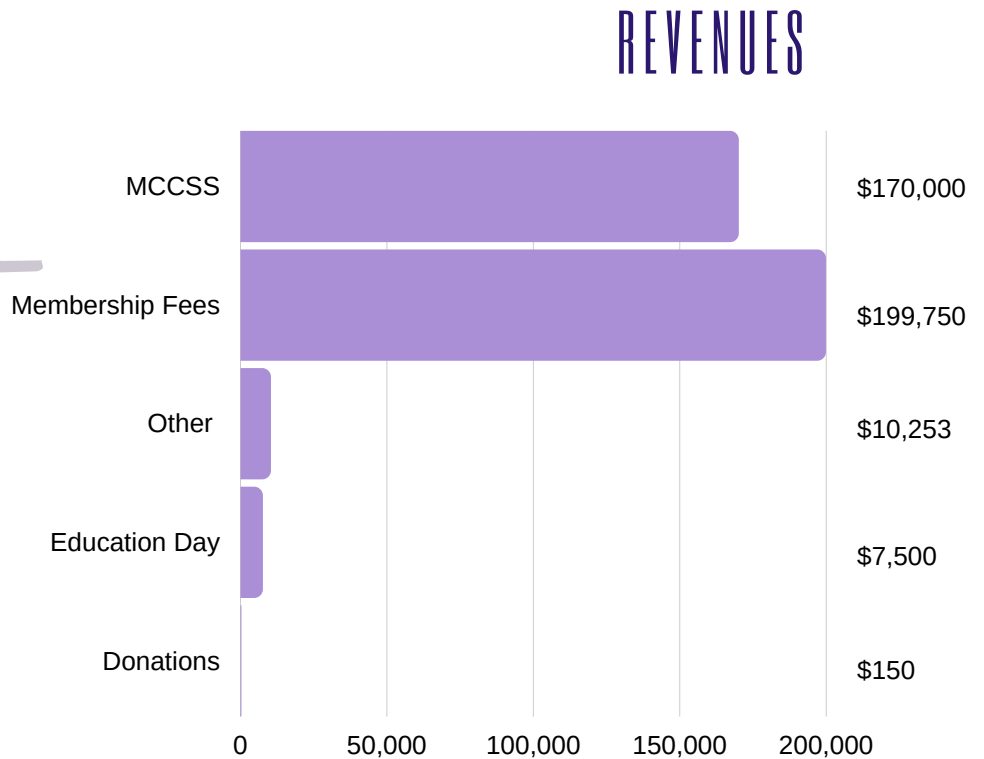
- 24 courses total now available in the training hub**
- 933 new registered users**
- 830 completions of the "Getting Started" pre testing survey from new learners**
- 4139 total learners registered to the training hub.**

This year we've also added course outlines for all of the courses available in the training hub on our main website. Learn more about all of our courses [here](#).

# Financial Outlook



## OAITH 2019-2020 REVENUES



### Total Expenses

**\$346,626**

### Total Revenues

**\$387,653**

# WITH TREMENDOUS THANKS

## 2019/2020 PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Aging Without Violence Advisory Members (full list [here](#))

Lakehead University

University of Guelph

Mixed Company Theatre

Luke's Place

Arthur J. Gallagher

HR Downloads

Holiday Inn Toronto

## 2019/2020 SPONSORS

Ontario Nurses' Association

Arthur J. Gallagher