



POLICY²⁰₂₃

OMSSA | CONFERENCE



2023 POLICY CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1 PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

OMSSA is pleased to welcome attendees to the 2023 Policy Conference.

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the work of OMSSA Members has been forever transformed. The pandemic has demonstrated the vital socio-economic importance of children's services, it has forced a rethink of how employment and income supports are delivered, and it has exacerbated an already strained housing and homeless system.

Through all of this, OMSSA Members have had to rapidly develop new policies and to innovate ways of effectively supporting the services users. Through all this, the course that Members will need to plot is becoming increasingly clear. Alongside all the successes that Members have had navigating these trials, new economic challenges have emerged.

The 2023 Policy Conference is OMSSA's annual forum for discussion and debate focused on the present and future of human services policy in Ontario. This event brings human services leaders and policy experts, together with provincial leaders, stakeholder organizations, and other subject matter experts. This year's conference promises to be packed with relevant content for all OMSSA Members and beyond!



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THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE PARTNERS

OMSSA would like to thank our partners for their generous support of the 2023 Policy Conference.



Community Housing
Transformation Centre
Centre de transformation
du logement communautaire





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NOVEMBER 29 - WELCOME RECEPTION 5:00PM to 7:00PM | ROOM: YORK BALLROOM

We are re-imagining our Welcome Reception on November 29th by offering attendees a specially curated, sponsored presentation that sets the stage for the Policy Conference. Please see presentation details information below. We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Reception!

DAVIS PIER

Davis Pier

No More Poverty Strategies or Transformations: Tangible approaches to improving the lives of our most vulnerable

Governments are grappling with the convergence of numerous, complex societal challenges—food and income insecurity, the rising cost of housing, increasing social isolation, difficulty accessing childcare, mental health and addiction, the rapid sunseting of industries causing unemployment, and the inaccessibility of adequate healthcare. We have seen a rise in the development of large-scale poverty strategies and social service transformation initiatives to address the challenges our communities are facing. While the issues that face us warrant significant action, the approaches that most governments are taking are simply not having the intended impact. Join us for an atypical policy conversation about why the methods preferred by governments, think tanks, and consultants for social services transformation are flawed and what tangible approaches can be used to improve people's lives.



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DAY 1: NOVEMBER 30

8:00AM to 4:30PM

8:00AM to 9:00AM	Breakfast and Registration <i>Mississauga Ballroom Foyer</i>
9:00AM to 9:15AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
9:15AM to 9:25AM	2023 Awards Presentation <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i> <i>Patti Moore Human Services Integration Award</i>
9:25AM to 10:25AM	PLENARY: Paths and Perils: Social Services Provision in the Year to Come <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
10:25AM to 10:45AM	Break <i>Mississauga Ballroom Foyer</i>
10:45AM to 11:45AM	PLENARY: Paths and Perils: Social Services Provision in the Year to Come (Continued) <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
11:45AM to 12:00PM	OMSSA Update <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
12:10PM to 1:10PM	Lunch <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
1:10PM to 2:40PM	Breakout Sessions A. Part Technical, Part Getting Things Done: Housing Solution Lessons from Sault Ste. Marie and Niagara <i>Mavis Room</i> B. Understanding and Using Harm Reduction in a Social Services Context <i>Vista Room</i> C. Changing the Narrative on Homelessness: Addressing NIMBYism and the Criminalization of the Unhoused <i>York Ballroom</i> D. EarlyON in Focus: Thinking-Through Challenges, Advocacy, and Innovations <i>Dundas Room</i>
2:40PM to 2:55PM	BREAK <i>Mississauga Ballroom Foyer</i>
2:55PM to 4:25PM	CLOSING PLENARIES <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i> Presentation #1: Systemic Anti-Black Racism by the Numbers: Implications for Social Service Providers Presentation #2: (Sponsor) From Community Housing to Housing the Community



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DAY 2: DECEMBER 1 8:00AM to 3:10PM

8:00AM to 9:00AM	Breakfast and Registration <i>Mississauga Ballroom Foyer</i>
9:00AM to 9:05AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
9:05AM to 9:10AM	2023 Awards Presentation <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i> <i>Patti Moore Human Services Integration Award</i>
9:10AM to 10:40AM	PLENARY: Ministry Update Session with ADMs <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
10:45AM to 10:55AM	Break <i>Mississauga Ballroom Foyer</i>
10:55AM to 12:25PM	Breakout Sessions E. Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Creating Pathways Between Housing and Mental Health Support <i>York Ballroom</i> F. The Ontario Human Rights Commission: Human Rights-Based Approach for the Municipal Services <i>Erin Mills Room</i> G. Building Responses to Human Trafficking: Improving Support, Coordination, and Training <i>Vista Room</i> H. Developing Local Solutions in the Employment Services Transformation <i>Mavis Room</i> I. Special Needs Resourcing in Children's Services: Assessing Opportunities and Charting Paths Forward <i>Dundas Room</i>
12:25PM to 1:25PM	Lunch <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>
1:25PM to 3:10PM	CLOSING PLENARY: Counting Costs of Mental Health: Looking Upstream at the Social Determinants of Mental Health <i>Mississauga Ballroom</i>