



Newsletter – April 2018

Dear PONDA Members,

As we prepare for a provincial election in Ontario, the PONDA steering committee is preparing to advocate on behalf of children, youth, and adults with neurodevelopmental conditions. The expected date of the election is June 7, 2018. We have developed an Election Toolkit <https://pondaca.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/advocacy-toolkit-3.pdf> to give you some ideas for advancing the agenda of improving services for this population. Please stay tuned through social media as the election day draws closer.

Members of the steering committee, Alvin, Olaf, Ben and Ronit, recently met with Minister Michael Coteau to advocate for funding for developmental paediatricians at all Children's Treatment Centres in Ontario. Our ideas were very well received and plans for further meetings with the Deputy Minister of MCYS are in process.

We are also closer to finalizing our plans for our strategic planning exercise on June 22, 2018. This will help us determine the direction of PONDA over the next 5 years in terms of how we advocate for people with neurodevelopmental conditions, what our priorities should be, and how best to engage our membership in advocacy. We invite you to participate by signing up ASAP, since space will be limited. We have hired facilitators, Magda Rigo and Ali Shahzan. Please contact us if you would like more information.

Date: June 22, 2018

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Cost: \$80 includes coffee, tea, snacks and lunch

Location: OMA office, 150 Bloor St. West, Toronto, M5S 3C1

To secure a spot at this event, please email our treasurer Mohammad Zubairi and send an e-transfer for \$80 to m.s.zubairi@gmail.com. There is limited space so sign up soon!

The Advocacy Toolkit for Literacy Based Learning Disabilities/Dyslexia is now in its 4th edition <https://pondaca.files.wordpress.com/2018/04/advocacy-toolkit-3.pdf>. Nicky Jones-Stokreef and Todd Cunningham will be speaking at the ResearchEd conference on April 14th at Mississauga Secondary School in the GTA to an audience of educators, and the toolkit will be presented. If you or anyone you know is interested, registration for the conference is at the following link: <https://researched.org.uk/event/researched-ontario-2018/>

Many changes are taking place in the Education sector in Ontario. Nicky Jones-Stokreef is now the physician representative on the Minister's Advisory Committee on Special Education. Highlights of the last meeting in February 2018 will be shared in the near future. Your feedback

about how schools are working for kids with special education needs can be provided with the attached form. Please forward your comments to Nicky at nicolajs005@icloud.com. Feedback will be collated and presented at the next meeting in October 2018.

A special thank you to Abby and Stan Siapno who continue to manage the PONDA website www.PONDA.ca. Follow us on twitter: @pondanetwork and like us on Facebook!

Sincerely,

Nicky Jones-Stokreef,
Chair of PONDA
@pondanetwork

