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OCA Newsletter March 2018

Message from Your OCA President



Hello Camp Professionals,

It's hard to believe the summer of 2018 is upon us. By now you are most likely busy with staffing your camp, preparing exciting programs, updating your safety plans and talking to families about the upcoming season to name a few things on your list. For some, school groups will ascend upon your sites and for others, you may begin a new creative plan for staff development. Whatever you are up to, the OCA is here to support you during these exciting times.

Speaking of exciting times, the OCA office staff, committee volunteers and Board of Directors are busy planning informative educational events and documentation that will help support the implementation of our new standards, preparing for Year-round Standards training and working with various organizations.

I would like to thank all the individuals who took part in various consultations related to the new standards over this past year. It has been a very challenging but necessary exercise to get to where we are today.

I would like to remind all Members that the voting ballots will be sent to you to complete between March 20 and 22, 2018. We hope you will recognize the value of such standards and help us include them in our Year-Round Standards.

The communication to Members dated March 7, 2018, indicated that by creating standards that align with OCA Core Values and creating Positive Space policies for all campers, youth and staff, we will be a much stronger Association.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the office staff, the LGBTQ+ Task Force, the Equity and Diversity Committee, Chairs of the Standards and Standards Review Committees, additional volunteers, Members, and individuals in the community who have worked on these standards to help truly make a difference in our industry.

I would also like to thank the Government Relations Committee for their recent work with the Ministry of Health to better understand and clarify regulations under section 503/17 (scheduled to come into law July 1, 2018). It has become clear that the Camp Safety Plan will be one of the most important documents for your camp to have. This document will be requested by Health Inspectors starting July 1st (see Reg. 503/17 section 10 for details). The OCA will be sending useful templates on the Camp Safety Plan in the coming weeks that will aid you in creating this document. We also needed some clarification on a waterfront regulation related to supervision.

The response you are expected to provide your Health Inspectors if you run waterfront programs is based on the Ministry of Health's response to OCA as follows:

With respect to Section 24 (1) of O. Reg 503/17, the requirement is that bathers in the designated swimming area of the waterfront be under the supervision of a lifeguard who is at least 16 years of age and who holds a lifeguard certificate (as defined in O. Reg. 565, Public Pools) obtained within the past two years, and that is in accordance with the ratios set out in section 24 (2).

With respect to boating activities such as canoeing and kayaking, operators will need to establish a process or continue to use appropriate safety protocols and best-practice guidelines recommended by industry experts (e.g., Ontario Camps Association, Lifesaving Society, Canadian Red Cross). Details of the safety protocols would be captured in the Camp Safety Plan.

The ministry appreciates your continuing collaboration and the Ontario Camps Association's efforts to help recreational camp operators prepare for the new regulations that come into effect on July 1, 2018.

[Click here to view O. Reg 503/17 – Recreational Camps](#)

[Click here to view O. Reg 565 – Pools](#)

Note: Both regulations have been updated since 1990. O. Reg 503/17 was formerly O. Reg 568

If you should have any questions at any time feel free to call the OCA office or send along an email for assistance.

The following are important dates and reminders to add to your camp calendars:

- [AODA Workshop Ottawa](#) - April 17, 2018 (Noon - 4:00 p.m.)

- **Campfire of Inclusion** - April 19, 2018 (Registration date to be announced)
 - First Session 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.
 - Second Session 5:45 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Health Conference**
 - May 4, 2018 Pre-conference Round Table (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.)
 - May 5, 2018 Health Conference (8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.)
- **AODA Workshop London** - May 8, 2018 (Noon - 4:00 p.m.)

I wish you well as you prepare for a successful and fun summer ahead.

Respectfully Yours,



Eric Shendelman



Canadian Camping Association
Association des camps du Canada

Hello camp directors!

We hope you had a great holiday season, and now that you are back you know what that means: registration season is right around the corner! (It may even already have begun for some of you!)

You may have heard of the [Thanks to Camp movement](#) in the last year. It's not too late to join! Here are a few social media tips from the Canadian Camping Association, to help boost your camp's visibility *and* promote the positive impact camp can have on young people's lives:

Use **#ThankstoCamp** stories to your advantage on your camp's social media accounts:

- Ask returning staff to send their **#ThankstoCamp** stories, and use them on social media to announce who will be returning next summer and to create a hype around registration period.
- Reach out to that camper or alumni you know should share their **#ThankstoCamp** story!
- Why not offer a small incentive or discount to campers who join their Thanks to Camp story to their camp registration?
- Watch our video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAyya70r02M> and share it so your contacts can feel that warm and fuzzy mix of nostalgia and butterflies!

Thank you for helping camps shine!



#THANKSTOCAMP
PRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION
Sharing camp's positive impact across the nation





Kids in Camp Raffle - Our Best Year Yet!



On February 28th, a cheque in the amount of \$2,722.00 was presented to Bob Smith, President of Kids in Camp, and Jocelyn Palm, OCA Past President and Past President of Kids in Camp, by Jonathan Nyquist, OCA Board Member and Co-chair of the Preferred Vendor Committee, and Bruce Phillips, Co-chair of the Preferred Vendor Committee.

These funds were raised through the generous donations of raffle prizes from Preferred Vendors who were Exhibitors at the OCA's 2018 Annual Conference.

On behalf of the OCA Board of Directors, thank you to all of the Preferred Vendors and Delegates who supported this raffle and made it such a success.

Working Towards a First Nations Perspective



[Working Towards a First Nations Perspective](#) offers a collection of cooperative games, drama activities and performance ideas for campers age 7+.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Margaret Boersma OCT is an educational consultant, thought leader and teaching artist passionate about transforming the education system. She specializes in social-emotional learning empowering students to make a difference in the world. Her experiences as a camp leader allow her to adapt her methodology, training staff and campers, elevating self-esteem, communication skills and leadership skills.

Congratulations Camp McGovern!



It is with great joy and overwhelming gratitude that I (Alyssa) write to you this morning!

Last evening (February 28, 2018) Camp McGovern was voted as the charity to support at the current meeting of 100 Women Who Care Waterloo Region. With their support, we will be receiving enough to fund our expanding LEADership programs! The funds mean our programs are only going to get better for the kids we all love and support.

With deep gratitude for your ongoing support and patience,

Alyssa, The Board of Directors, Staff, Campers & Volunteers

Alyssa Light
Executive Director



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OCA Ontario Camps Association

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Please welcome the following new Preferred Vendors:

Phiinom Adventure Sports - Joe Velacich

E: jvelacich@phiinom.com

W: phiinom.com

U Can Do It - Richard Gervais

E: ucandoit@bellnet.ca

W: u-can-do-it.ca



17 CAMPS HAVE CONTACTED US
SINCE THE CONFERENCE...

DID YOU??

MAYER HYMAN *Managing Partner, HiTech Canada*
O: 416 907 0597 x 2257 Toll Free: 855 907 0597 x 2257
E: mayer@hitechmerchants.ca W: www.hitechmerchants.ca

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Mistakes to avoid when choosing a camp management software

Now that you have finally made the decision to streamline how you manage your camp day-to-day operations, you are probably overwhelmed by all of the camp management choices in the marketplace.

Have no fear, we're here to help. Before deciding on what to use, it's important to do your research, as your camp management software is the backbone to everything you do at camp. The software you choose should ultimately match your camp's specific needs and also be easy to use.

When you make the decision to use a software to streamline your camp operations, you should also have the option to choose your own processor for credit cards.

To read the full article, [click here](#).



OCA's next Newsletter will be sent to you on June 15, 2018.
Please send your articles or information by June 1st to
info@ontariocamps.ca.

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