



# OMSSA Member/Sector Leads Best Practices

Congratulations on your appointment as one of OMSSA's 47 Leads or Sector Lead!

In your role as a Member/Sector Lead, along with OMSSA staff, you support, connect, and advocate for our members across Ontario to achieve their collective mission of delivering the best human services outcomes for Ontario's communities.

This document outlines some best practices to keep in mind as you succeed in your role:

## **1. Be respectful of each other and what other Leads bring to the table**

Your personal skills, experience, and insights got you here and are valuable to OMSSA. The same applies to everyone else around the table. Your fellow Member/Sector Leads have different approaches and opinions, just like in your other professional roles. OMSSA's Leads succeed when all members treat each other and staff with respect and encourages differing opinions and thoughts to be shared.

## **2. Attend meetings and actively participate in the Association**

Become well informed about the work of the Association and be prepared to ask discerning questions.

While OMSSA Sector Leads are only convened for consultative purposes, you are encouraged to actively participate in the meetings you are called into.

## **3. OMSSA's Leads are counted on as strategic thinkers**

The Member/Sector Leads are a collective group of individuals who must act as a team. While you don't carry out policy or get involved in the operational aspects of OMSSA – that's the role of the Executive Director.



OMSSA staff take policy direction from members, Committees/Networks and the Board. The OMSSA Leads have a role in policy, but decisions must be supported by the majority of our membership and the Board. Be prepared to give advice, if/when asked. Your insights are invaluable to the Association and the Board.

**4. Unapproved actions can harm the Association**

Members who take Board actions without the approval of the full Board can seriously damage the credibility and operation of the organization. Members do not have any right or authority to act upon his/her own in the name of the organization unless delegated specific authority by the Board of Directors.

**5. Each member, regardless of personal or political viewpoints, is responsible for supporting Board decisions and OMSSA in public.**

In your role, you will support the direction the OMSSA Board has set out for the Association. You may also meet with elected officials and Ministry staff in meetings, at events and/or conferences.

Because the nature of members' work, it is important for members in any leadership role to refrain from allowing personal or political viewpoints to become public in any setting.

However, there may be instances where members may be required to speak with media on behalf of your organization. If this is the case, your position would need to be approved by your Council, independent of OMSSA.