



Halton Children's Aid Society 102nd Annual Report—2015/16



The DREAM canvas was inspired and created by Crown Wards from the Dufferin/Halton/Peel Crown Ward Education Championship Team (CWECT) to encourage other youth to never give up on their dreams, their hopes and their goals for who they want to be and what they want to achieve for their future.

The canvas symbolizes the creativity, talent and beautiful dreams of a bright future that all our youth possess.

It is a physical representation of the youth voice and an expression of hope, strength, determination and resiliency. It embodies a statement of courage for youth to pursue their dreams in the midst of every obstacle they face and is a call to youth to seek the help they need from caring adults who will guide and support them on their journey. It represents the diversity and freedom of expression for all youth in care.

Helping Children, Youth and Families Thrive



Greetings from the Board Chair and Executive Director

Although children's aid societies (CAS) are accustomed to change, in 2015/16 the pace of change was accelerated as we accepted new challenges when we were publically criticized in the media, the auditor general's report, the Provincial House of Commons and through inquests. Independent CASs rose to the challenges and committed to work together through a Call to Action that sets out eight priorities: (i) address service delivery issues through consistent application of legislation, standards and inquest recommendations (ii) improve the competence and expertise of child welfare human resources, (iii) improve the structure of the system, (iv) improve governance practices, (v) continue with deployment and sustainment of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), (vi) enhance data collection and public reporting, (vii) move forward with truth and reconciliation for aboriginal people and (viii) provide culturally appropriate and responsive outcome-based service delivery.

Our newly-constituted Strategic Plan that directs our work until 2018 aligns with the majority of the Call to Action priorities. It includes a Strategy Map, a scorecard and an accompanying Service Plan. It has the following five overarching goals: **◆ Improve Safety, Permanency and Well-being for Children, Youth and Families**, **◆ Grow and Strengthen Strategic Partnerships**, **◆ Engage and Support our Workforce**, **◆ Align Internal Systems to Support Service Delivery** and **◆ Optimize Funding**.

We proudly champion our community-based service delivery model where over 93% of our community protection staff work in schools, hubs, police services and counselling agencies. We have strong collaborative relationships with our community partners that allow us to intervene early to help children, youth and families and work together to provide services. We are part of the Our Kids Network and recognize the contribution they make to the well-being of families in Halton Region.

As we further develop permanency options such as guardianship, kinship, customary care and adoption, we have fewer children and youth remaining in care. We currently have our lowest number (135) of children and youth in care. The majority (53) who remain in permanent care are youth who are aging out and we are working hard to support them in achieving their educational goals transitioning into adulthood. The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton provides additional financial resources to help them meet their dreams. Our YouthSAID Advisory Group guides our services to our resilient youth in care.

As we live in a high-growth population area, we continue to see an increase in demand for services. In the past five years, we have experienced a 17% growth in investigations. We continue to provide the majority (96%) of our service to children and youth in their own homes.

Our services go beyond child welfare as we reach out to over 200 homeless youth across the region providing them counselling and shelter.

During this new fiscal year, accelerated change will continue. No matter what change brings, we remain committed to positive outcomes for our children, youth and families. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team, we thank our staff, resource parents, volunteers, community partners, YouthSAID Advisory Group and the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton.

You are all an awesome team!

Board Chair

Executive Director

2015/16 Board of Directors and Leadership Team

Officers/Executive Committee: **Paul Bartu** (Chair), **Cecilia Taylor-Clare** (Vice Chair until Jan/2016), **Emad Elsayed** (Vice Chair, as of Feb/2016), **Steve Cranna** (Secretary/Treasurer), **Joan Lewis** (Director at Large), **Scott Waterhouse** (Past President)

Directors: **Siobhan Byron**, **Rick Craven**, **Ken Kelertas**, **Marcus Logan**, **Mike Reid**, **Brad Saunders**, **Joyce See**, **Terry Spearin**

Leadership Team: **Nancy MacGillivray** (Executive Director), **Lynn Barker** (Director of Service—Children and Youth Services), **Jennifer Binnington** (Director of Service—Community Protection), **Don Bryce** (Director of Quality Assurance and IT—on secondment with Ministry), **Robyn Connolly** (Board/Communications Specialist), **Derek Evans** (Director of Finance), **Ladan Hourfar** (Manager of Strategic Planning/Analytics), **Michelle McGaw** (Director of Human Resources)



2015/16 Financial Report

Revenue	2015/16	2014/15
Province of Ontario	\$17,999,581	\$17,560,373
Other	\$ 1,466,720	\$ 1,808,284
Total Revenue	\$19,466,301	\$19,368,657
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	\$12,040,779	\$11,960,405
Boarding and Client Services	\$ 6,183,075	\$ 6,067,744
Administration	\$ 1,243,063	\$ 1,367,667
Amortization	\$ 187,953	\$ 202,755
Total Expenses	\$19,654,870	\$19,588,571
Excess of (Expenses over Revenue)	\$ (188,569)	\$ (229,914)

This is a condensed statement. Full financial statements, audited by SB Partners, are available upon request.

Funding Model

- ◆ Children's Aid Societies currently receive over 90% of their operational funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)
- ◆ Bridging the Gap funding (\$318,059) flows through the Halton Region to provide supports to youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- ◆ The Our Kids Network is a Halton-wide partnership of organizations and agencies serving children and youth; funding (\$713,823) is provided by the Protocol Partners, the MCYS and grants



Working with families and communities to protect children and youth while respecting their diverse needs

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2015/16 Program Highlights



73

children/youth attended FUTURES educational, life skills and recreational programs

53

youth supported transitioning to adulthood



Our Kids Network Data Portal is a doorway to information about Halton children, youth and families. Users will find community and neighbourhood-level information, demographics and OKN research data on health, safety, education and more.

5,438

people contacted OKN Hubs for support, programs, service or referrals

70

participants attended Putting People First Relationship Forum



22

youth received bursaries to attend post-secondary education

\$134,647

in bursary funds provided with the support of the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton



Bridging the Gap strives to provide readily and easily accessible support for youth between the ages of 16-24, residing in the Halton Region, who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

206

youth received outreach services in 2015/16

15

youth participated in Bridge House and Host Home program



2015/16 Service Trends

	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
Total Children and Youth Served	5,681	5,482	4,977
Number of Referrals (calls from concerned citizens, health care professionals and police)	3,923	4,236	4,584
Number of Investigations Completed (reports of child abuse and neglect investigated by the Halton Children's Aid Society)	2,610	2,385	2,114
Average Number of Families Receiving Ongoing Services	317	305	294
Average Number of Children and Youth in Care	146	156	159
Percentage of Family-Based Care	69%	75%	80%
Number of Adoption Finalized	17	22	11
Average Number of Foster and Kin-in-Care Homes	63	75	84
Number of Families Assisted with Admission Prevention	374	199	262

