



## Overview of Current Programs and Key Activities

### VISION

Every child and youth has a healthy future in a caring family, in supportive communities.

### MISSION

YRCAS collaborates with communities to provide and advance equitable and accessible supports to ensure the well-being of the diverse children, youth, and families of York Region.

### Overview of Services:

The York Region Children's Aid Society (YRCAS) is a non-profit community organization legally mandated to promote the well-being, best interests and protection of children and youth from abuse and neglect. As a leader within the child welfare sector, we aim to keep families together and partner with parents, caregivers and community to help create and sustain safe environments for children and youth, through equitable, child-centred, culturally aligned services.

Children's Aid Societies are independently governed agencies that are responsible for providing mandatory and critical services. Children's Aid Societies have been providing these services to communities in Ontario for over 100 years.

Under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, Children's Aid Societies are mandated to:

- Investigate allegations or evidence that children under the age of 18 may be in need of protection
- Protect children where necessary
- Provide guidance, counselling, and other services to families for protecting children or preventing circumstances requiring the protection of children
- Provide care and supervision for children assigned or committed to its care
- Facilitate the adoption process for children when needed

This legislation and the supporting regulations, directives and standards prescribe specific and detailed requirements for what services CASs must provide; how they must provide these services; including services to Indigenous children and families, and French language services, as well as the timelines in which these mandatory services must be provided.

CASs provide critical and essential services, which are a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our society – infants, children, and youth who are at risk of or are experiencing physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse, neglect or abandonment. CASs are mandated to intervene if a caregiver cannot adequately care for or provide for a child.

Children's Aid Societies protect and safeguard most children while they remain with their families in the community. This family-based support takes the form of intensive assessments and service plans, contacts with numerous other professionals and service providers, as well as ongoing supervision of the child while they remain in the family home. These are complex cases in which child protection concerns have been verified and there are risks of, or actual, abuse and neglect. As such, the work must be performed by skilled, qualified child welfare staff. Serving these children in the context of the home – when it is safe to do so – is consistent with the legislative and regulatory mandate and with the policy direction of government.

## What we do:

We work to keep children safe and families together by:

- Providing child protection services 24 hours a day, seven days a week;
- Engaging and supporting families at-risk in problem solving;
- Linking families with essential community services to ensure the best possible outcomes for families; and
- Providing prevention and awareness programs to keep children safe and families strong.

We believe that children belong with their families and our work is done with families and children in their own homes. If this is not possible, children are placed in safe, nurturing environments, including foster homes.

## Our mandate:

Children's Aid Societies are mandated by the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA, 2017) to:

- Investigate allegations or evidence that children under the age of 18 may be in need of protection;
- Protect children where necessary;
- Provide guidance, counseling and other services to families for protecting children or preventing circumstances requiring the protection of children;
- Provide care for children assigned or committed to its care;
- Supervise children assigned to its supervision; and
- Place children for adoption when necessary.

## Our Strategic Directions and Goals

