

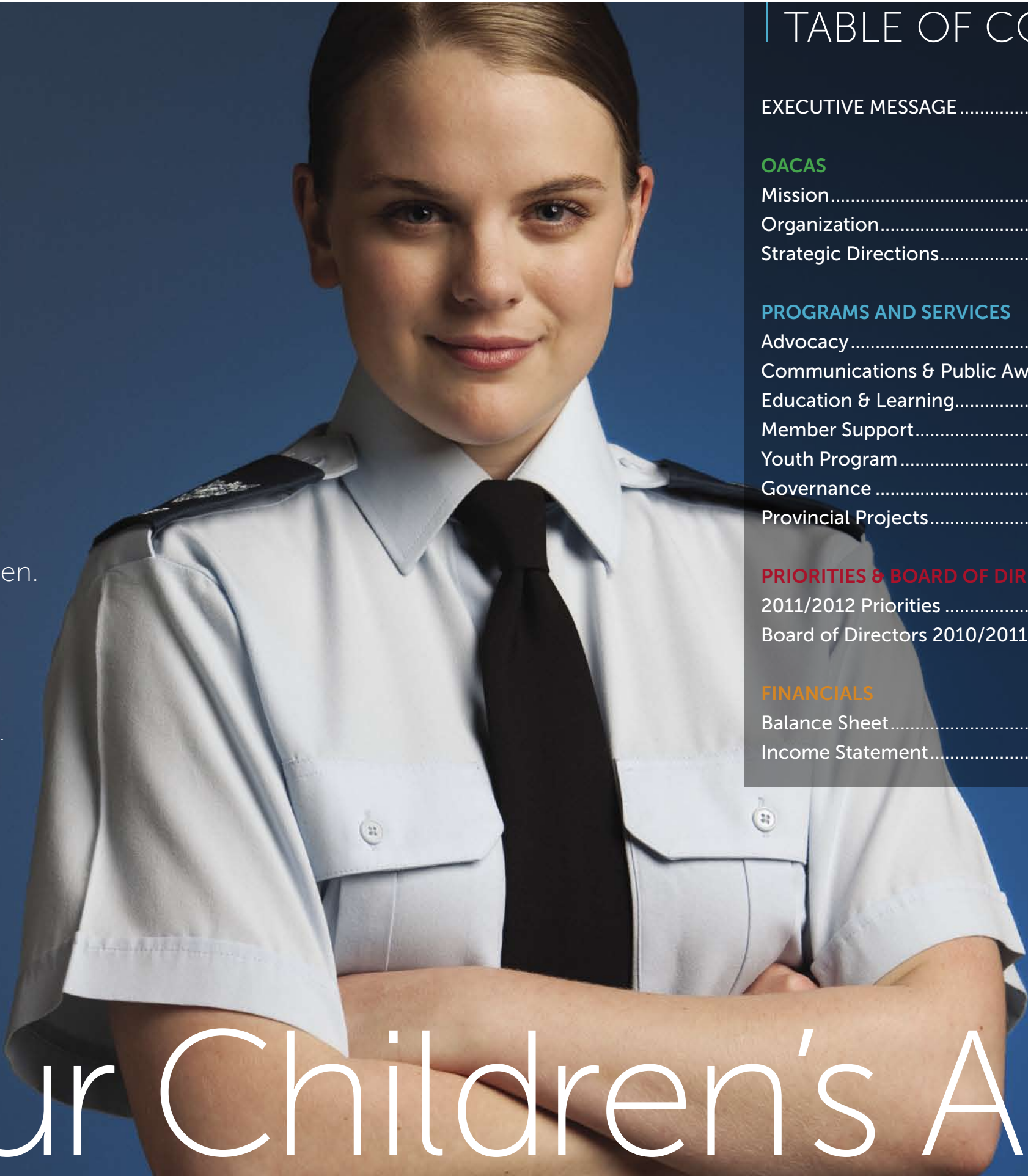


"I Am Your Children's Aid."



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies
The voice of child welfare in Ontario

2010/2011
ANNUAL REPORT



JESSICA
Air Cadet
Warrant Officer
College Student

"I entered Air Cadets at twelve. Neglected at home, I was in Children's Aid care at fourteen. The structure of Cadets, and the affection of my foster mom, gave me the confidence I needed to succeed. One summer at Cold Lake, I was responsible for 600 fellow Cadets. I now have a scholarship to college and I'm committed to earning a Master's Degree."

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"I Am Your Children's Aid."

The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) is the voice of child welfare in Ontario and has been speaking out and standing up for vulnerable children and their families since 1912. OACAS, through its ongoing programs and projects, endeavours to lead the field in realizing a vision for Ontario where all children have safe homes, loving families and opportunities to succeed.

In 2010/2011, OACAS came closer to realizing that vision through strategic initiatives and public education campaigns. OACAS achievements are the result of the collective efforts of a dedicated, committed staff and Board of Directors, working with and on behalf of members to ensure the voice of child welfare is heard.

Over the last year, advocacy efforts focused on: supporting youth beyond their 21st birthday; improving life opportunities for Aboriginal families and children; and permanency options for children and youth. Efforts were supported by continuing to build a strong relationship with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare.

In November 2010, OACAS welcomed new Executive Director Mary Ballantyne to help lead the Association in supporting member agencies, advocating for children and youth and creating awareness for the work of Children's Aid Societies (CASs).

The "I Am Your Children's Aid" public awareness campaign continued into its second year with great success. The stories of youth, parents and workers whose lives have been impacted by Children's Aid were seen and heard across Ontario. Traffic to www.useyourvoice.ca increased by 310% as a result of the campaign.

The funding challenges of 2009/2010 carried into 2010/2011. Many member agencies faced considerable financial strain and historical debt.

OACAS supported member agencies through the year by advocating for sustainable child welfare services, working with the government and exploring different funding models with the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare. CASs were in a stronger position by the end of the fiscal year.

One of the critical roles OACAS fills is to bring together people from many areas and perspectives to discuss important issues, develop a common voice and influence change to better the lives of the children, youth and families we serve. There is no doubt that the child welfare field has plenty of champions for children, youth and families, as well as a huge amount of work to accomplish. This is a critical time in child welfare, as OACAS works with the government, Ministry and Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare to lead the numerous changes before the field, within another provincial budget of fiscal constraint. Significant changes are coming and OACAS is diligently working to ensure that we are prepared, so that these new initiatives have a positive impact on children and families.

At the end of the day, OACAS exists to support Ontario's children and youth and help build a brighter future for them. OACAS Board and staff are committed to speaking up for the vulnerable members of society and will continue to be the voice of child welfare in Ontario.

KEITH SPARLING, PRESIDENT
MARY BALLANTYNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ONTARIO'S CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES ARE MANDATED UNDER THE *CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT* (CFSA) TO:

1. Investigate allegations of abuse and neglect;
2. Protect children where necessary, and provide guidance, counselling and other services to families for protecting children and for the prevention of circumstances requiring the protection of children;
3. Provide care or supervision for children assigned to its care; and
4. Place children for adoption.

MISSION

OACAS, in support of its members, is the voice of child welfare in Ontario, dedicated to providing leadership for the achievement of excellence in the protection of children and in the promotion of their well-being within families and communities.

ORGANIZATION

Since 1912, OACAS has represented Children's Aid Societies in Ontario and provided service in the areas of government relations, communications, information management, education and training to advocate for the protection and well-being of children.

Governed by a voluntary Board of Directors, OACAS responds to the Province of Ontario on the development of legislation, policy, standards, and review mechanisms, as well as contentious issues. As the voice of Ontario's CASs, OACAS advocates in the best interests of the communities they serve.

OACAS also represents the interests of its members in public forums and, on a non-partisan basis, makes presentations to standing committees of the Ontario Legislature and meets with political leaders and government staff.

A critical role for OACAS is building public awareness. The people of Ontario must understand the needs of children, youth and families in order to support the measures necessary for the safety and well-being of all children in this province.

OACAS STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

CHILDREN

Promote the well-being of children in care and children receiving services from Children's Aid Societies.

PUBLIC COMMITMENT

Influence public commitment to addressing social policy affecting children and families.

BEST PRACTICES

Identify, promote and implement services and organizational best practice.

MEMBER AGENCY CAPACITY

Strengthen the capacity of member agencies to fulfill their mandate.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Provide a productive and supportive working environment for Association staff.

ORLENA**Radio and Television
Personality**

"Child abuse is like an invisible war. I know. I was abused from the time I was four until I was fourteen. Children's Aid saved me. They gave me the support and counseling I needed so that I'd grow up to be healthy. Sure the scars are there, but trust me, the feisty and talkative kid that I once was—I am again! So, when it comes to Children's Aid, count me in."

A portrait of Orlena, a woman with voluminous, curly brown hair and blue eyes, smiling gently. She is wearing a dark purple lace-trimmed top. The background is a solid blue color.

"I Am Your Children's Aid."

Advocacy & Government Relations

OACAS promotes and recommends policy directions and positions based on identified priorities. Advocacy may be directed to government, to other organizations or to the public. Advocacy strategies may involve collaboration and coalitions with other stakeholders. In addition, OACAS maintains and continues to develop a network of relationships with individuals and groups and other organizations – inside government and outside – who share common interests in supporting children and families.

OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The outcomes for children and youth who come in contact with the child welfare system continue to be a priority for OACAS advocacy and government relations efforts. Youth who are the permanent responsibility of the Ontario Government (Crown wards) are less likely to graduate high school and less likely to enroll in post-secondary institutions relative to their peers. OACAS continues to have significant success in improving supports, which will lead to the enhancement of outcomes for Ontario's children in care.

Achievements include:

- **Crown Ward Aftercare Benefits Program was established by OACAS, funded by the Green Shield Canada Social Surplus Program and delivered by Shepell.fgi.** This pilot program offers 24 months of counselling and support services to former youth in care who turn 21 in 2011 or 2012.
- **Gateway to Success Cycle II survey was completed.** While results show modest improvements over 2007/2008, they underscore that investments in post-secondary supports can only achieve gains if youth graduate high school.

ABORIGINAL SERVICES

OACAS has continued to advocate for better life opportunities for Aboriginal children and families, particularly with respect to adequate funding for a range of services, a unique funding model and Aboriginal children being served by Aboriginal service providers.

Achievements include:

- **OACAS initiated work with Aboriginal CAS members to create a Director position at OACAS.**

OACAS works with Government Ministries, including the Ministries of:

- **Children and Youth Services (MCYS)**
- **Community and Social Services (MCSS)**
- **Education (MED)**
- **Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU)**
- **Finance (MOF)**
- **Aboriginal Affairs (MAA)**
- **Government Services (MGS)**
- **Attorney General (MAG)**
- **Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS)**
- **Ontario Women's Directorate**



ADOPTION AND OTHER PERMANENCY OPTIONS

OACAS continued to advocate in support of public adoption of children and youth.

Achievements include:

- **OACAS organizes the semi-annual provincial Adoption Training Days.** The training qualifies for credit as part of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services annual training expectations for adoption agencies, licensees and approved practitioners in Ontario.
- **In November, OACAS launched Adoption Awareness Month across the province.** The campaign featured educational material and profiles of adoptive parents, adoptees and child welfare workers.

FUNDING ADVOCACY

OACAS provided targeted advocacy in support of CASs with high deficits, resulting in direct support from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and assistance for in-year deficits and amalgamation costs. As of the end of March, the Ministry addressed in-year costs and provided some support for amalgamating agencies.

OACAS consulted with membership to provide a response to the Commission to Promote

Sustainable Child Welfare's proposal for a new funding model. As of the end of the fiscal year, no decisions have been made.

Achievements include:

- **"An Agenda for Children and Youth: Pre-Budget Consultation" was submitted to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.**
- **Quarterly service and financial reviews, analysis and use of data was collected to support key advocacy and government relations issues.**

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

OACAS works to support member agencies in their relationships with local government and politicians. OACAS has increased its capacity to monitor and report to members on the proceedings of the Ontario legislature, anticipate changes to legislation and respond to issues.

Achievements include:

- **OACAS held its first MPP Briefing Day at the legislature in May 2010. Children's Aid Societies met with their MPPs throughout the day to discuss issues that impact their local community.**

Communications & Public Awareness

OACAS communication, public education and awareness efforts focus on improving outcomes for Ontario's children, youth and families. The Association works with member agencies to better the public's understanding of the importance of the role of Children's Aid in the community, strengthen member communications and provide appropriate and timely information to assist CASs in achieving their goals.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

In 2010/2011, OACAS launched the second year of the "I Am Your Children's Aid" campaign to continue to educate Ontarians about how they can get involved in improving the well-being of children and youth in Ontario. Additionally, three awareness campaigns were held: Child Abuse Prevention Month and Foster Family Week in October and Adoption Awareness Month in November.

Achievements include:

- **Public service advertisements featuring the stories of youth, parents and workers whose lives have been impacted by Children's Aid Societies were seen or heard through print and electronic media.** This resulted in 5,023 spots on English radio, 234 spots on

French radio, 4,883 clicks online, 706 screens in cinemas, 52 posters in cinema lobbies, 318 spots on television and 24 English and 14 French advertisements in print.

- **For Child Abuse Prevention Month, a media kit was designed to encourage media participation and editorial content.** OACAS sent out 532 media kits in English and French. Additionally, 219 packages were requested by agencies to be customized and sent to local media outlets.
- **A public education brochure was created for Child Abuse Prevention Month featuring information on how to report child abuse and neglect, signs of abuse and what happens when you call Children's Aid.** More than 10,000 brochures were printed and included in the media kit.
- **During November, OACAS and member agencies promoted Adoption Awareness Month to raise awareness of adoption and increase the number of children adopted in Ontario.** The campaign featured a public service announcement, comprehensive information package for the media, news release and information on publications, websites and on-line resources. The focus was finding families for older children and youth.

IN 2010/2011, OACAS
LAUNCHED THE SECOND
YEAR OF THE "I AM
YOUR CHILDREN'S AID"
CAMPAIGN

310%

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT SITE (WWW.USEYOURVOICE.CA) HAD AN INCREDIBLE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC OF 310% OVER THE YEAR.

PUBLICATIONS

OACAS publishes four external publications each year: the *OACAS Journal* (distributed four times annually); *The Voice* (distributed 11 times annually); an annual report; and the *Child Welfare Report*.

Achievements include:

- **The first annual *Child Welfare Report* was released in April 2010 to educate the public about CASs and support advocacy efforts.** OACAS, with the support of member agencies, highlighted three areas where change is needed: youth, adoption and Aboriginal services.
- **An Editorial Board was established and a new process for reviewing submissions to the *OACAS Journal* was developed.** Last year, more than 2,500 Journals were printed and over 10,000 copies were sent electronically.

WEBSITES

OACAS supports five websites: public website (www.oacas.org), public education and engagement site (www.useyourvoice.ca), YouthCAN

website (www.ontarioyouthcan.org), Members website and the OACAS Intranet.

Achievements include:

- **The public website had over 335,000 visits between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011.** This is an increase of over 5% from 2009/2010.
- **The public education and engagement site was redesigned to incorporate creative and messaging from the "I Am Your Children's Aid" campaign in English and French.** The site had an incredible increase in traffic of 310% over the year.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Last year, OACAS joined the social media world and created a Twitter account (@our_children). The account is used to create connections between OACAS' followers and the work of the Association, provide information on what's new and give tips and tools on topics such as child safety and adoption.

Education & Learning

OACAS has implemented a new teaching approach: transforming knowledge into skills. In this new approach, the emphasis in the curricula is on the powerful application of child-focused, family-centred, strengths-based practices that protect children and respect families. Through a unique blend of presentations, case studies, small group discussions and self reflection assignments, OACAS courses are designed to generate practical and action-oriented knowledge about child welfare in Ontario. Critical themes and relevant issues pertaining to the daily practice of child welfare are examined. These programs play a vital role in enabling CAS staff and resource families to become reflective professionals, innovative leaders or strong resource families in the province of Ontario. The Education Learning Portfolio is delivered under contract to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

The curricula promote current promising practices related to child safety, diversity and anti-oppression, parent collaboration, resiliency, community development and permanency planning. Supplementary research materials are provided to learners after courses have been completed. The Education Services team believes that education in child welfare is not a one-time event, but rather a life-long learning process.

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST CONFERENCE

OACAS hosted a three-day international conference for child welfare experts and professionals working with children. *Putting Children First: Making a Difference* celebrated excellence in child welfare and featured renowned speakers, plenary sessions

AREAS OF TRAINING

- Foundations of Child Welfare Practice
- Advanced Child Welfare Practice
- Management and Leadership
- Specialized Child Welfare Practice
- Resource Families
- Trainer Development

and workshops on child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth, chronic child neglect and balancing strength and risk in practice.

Achievements include:

- **The Conference featured 9 keynote speakers from across the world. More than 38 plenary sessions and workshops were hosted.**

THIRD PARTY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

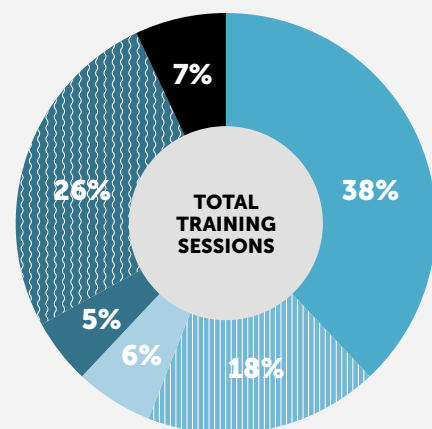
In 2010/2011, OACAS started phase one of a three-year plan based on the third party review recommendations. Service areas reflect a multi-year plan toward training excellence in the areas of course administration, course content, program evaluation and program administration. By addressing the global recommendations, OACAS will improve its overall customer satisfaction rating, improve the levels of quality assurance, both in course content and trainer capacity, and enhance the quality of communications throughout the training community through the development of a virtual learning environment.

TRAINING DELIVERY

OACAS provides training to Children's Aid staff, prospective foster and adoptive parents, child welfare practitioners, private adoption practitioners and management. Training is offered in the areas of: Foundations of Child Welfare Practice; Advanced Child Welfare Practice; Management and Leadership; Specialized Child Welfare Practice; Resource Families; and Trainer Development.

Achievements include:

- **OACAS held 693 training sessions, delivered 1,789 days of training and trained 10,683 participants.**



E-LEARNING

Education Services introduced e-Learning last year to increase the accessibility of training and education across the province. The e-Learning webinars and webconferences are accessible from the office or at home, are less expensive to participate in and do not require the expense of travel. Recorded webcasts can be reviewed again by participants and can be made available to individuals who were unable to attend. OACAS is pleased to be able to offer this service to members and child welfare professionals across Ontario.

Achievements include:

- **The webinar series, Working with Adolescents, was successfully launched. Four presentations were offered on internet safety, youth and HIV, self-harm and self-esteem with over 900 participants in total.**

ONTARIO PRACTICE MODEL

The intention of the Ontario Practice Model is for Ontario's children in care to be parented by families who:

- Understand the needs of children
- Have the capacity and willingness to meet those needs
- Understand the impact of positive, day-to-day experiences
- Believe in "resiliency" and the child's ability to do well in life

The model is the integration of three frameworks: PRIDE, SAFE and Looking After Children.

PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education) is a training model for the development and support of resource families. It is designed to strengthen the quality of kinship care, foster care, customary care and adoption services by providing a standardized, structured framework for recruiting, preparing, and selecting foster and adoptive families. It also provides resource family service training and ongoing education and development opportunities.

Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE) is a homestudy methodology that provides a set of comprehensive tools and practices for evaluating placement resources for children. The SAFE homestudy process was selected by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services after consultation with the field that involved private and public sector input. SAFE enhances child welfare professionals' skills at using state of the art tools and methods to find families for children and strengthen resource family functioning.

Looking After Children (LAC) is an international initiative within child welfare that has had an important impact on promoting monitoring of outcomes for children and youth. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services' policy directive issued in August 2006 required all Children's Aid Societies in Ontario to implement LAC by December 2007. The LAC approach assists agencies to ensure children in Ontario are cared for according to evidence-based best practices. The data generated by LAC enables the child welfare field to measure outcomes for all the children in long term out-of-home care in Ontario.

Achievements include:

- **OACAS delivered a presentation at the International Looking After Children Conference in Montreal titled "On a Scale of 1 to 10: How well is child welfare doing at meeting the needs of youth?".**
- **The first phase of the project to update the PRIDE pre-service curriculum for Ontario was completed.** In addition to incorporating revisions made by the Child Welfare League of America, the copyright holder for PRIDE Pre-Service Model of Practice, the Ontario revisions addressed issues related to kin families. Throughout the revision process, there were consultations to address issues related to cultural diversity; Aboriginal issues, culture and traditions; anti-oppressive practices; strength based language; inclusion of kinship and customary care giver issues; and inclusion of youth.

Member Support

OACAS provides direct support and services to members through communications methods and, wherever possible, through personal contact. Services include issues management, monitoring the legislature, tracking policy and operational priorities, convening events, providing infrastructure and technical support and direct support to Zones, Networks and provincial projects.

COMMISSION

OACAS facilitated CAS representation on reference groups related to most aspects of the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare's work, influencing recommendations related to administrative streamlining, the funding model, accountability and Aboriginal services.

Achievements include:

- OACAS facilitated field involvement in all Commission reference groups and hosted three consultations with the Commission.
- Through the Local Directors' Section, OACAS provided detailed submissions related to *Streamlining Children in Care and Child Protection Standards*.
- OACAS provided targeted briefings on topics such as adoption, permanency, Ontario Looking After Children and accountability.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

CAS issues were prominent in the legislature in 2010/2011, with numerous questions being raised related to priority issues. The main issues and responses in the legislature reflected a better understanding of child welfare by key members of the Cabinet.

Achievements include:

- The Week in Review publication was distributed to member agencies every Monday highlighting key bills tabled, motions, petitions, and statements, as well as questions raised during Question Period.
- The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services, raised child welfare issues such as Adoption Awareness Month, the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, Child Abuse Prevention Month, CAS funding cuts and Aboriginal children and youth.

ISSUES MANAGEMENT

OACAS worked with member agencies to develop timely responses on specific issues, provided coaching and support to agencies and developed an issues management framework. In addition, OACAS facilitated the creation of the Central Zone Communications Group.

Achievements include:

- OACAS released 12 issue and briefing notes over the year in support of member agencies.
- The Association continued to build strong relations with national media, which resulted in an increase in positive coverage.

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS, THE OACAS AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION A REALITY FOR MORE THAN 55 YOUTH OVER THE LAST YEAR.

YOUTHCAN WORKS TO EMPOWER YOUTH IN CARE SO THEY CAN FLOURISH IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS THEM TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

EVENTS MANAGEMENT

In 2010/2011, OACAS enhanced its capacity to host high-quality, informative and effective events through increased communications, new branding and a better registration process. OACAS will continue to work with member agencies as well as other stakeholders to plan and undertake successful events.

Achievements include:

- C-vent was selected for event management and registration software and the new system was launched to make registration easier and more efficient.
- OACAS hosted two adoption training events, an MPP Briefing Day at the Legislature, a youth conference, two Consultations, an HR symposium, a two-day Alternatives to Bargaining meeting, a symposium on woman abuse and child safety and provincial webinars on funding issues.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Through the generosity of donors, OACAS had the opportunity to award scholarships and bursaries to youth in care across the province. These supports have made attending post-secondary education a reality for more than 500 youth over the last 21 years.

Achievements include:

- Ron and Nancy Clark continued to fund the Clark Bursary Fund, which celebrated 21 years of providing support and opportunities for post-secondary education to former Crown wards. In 2010/2011, 19 youth received Clark Bursaries for university studies in the amount of \$4,500 a year for four years or for college studies in the amount of \$3,000 a year for two to three years. 85 youth were returning recipients

who continued to receive support for their education. 19 youth received \$1,000 Clark Grants. 9 former Clark Bursary recipients received the Clark Graduation Award for completing their post-secondary education.

- PHD Canada, a media buying company, hosted several events with proceeds going toward scholarships for youth in care. The funds raised were presented as one-time scholarships of \$3,480 for 4 youth.
- RONA Canada raised funds through teddy bear sales in support of children in need. Through a partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation, 15 \$1,500 RONA Scholarships were awarded to youth to help with their post-secondary education.

Youth Program

YouthCAN supports policy, advocacy and government relations work related to youth in care and youth transitioning to adulthood. YouthCAN includes communications, advocacy and networking initiatives. Guided by the policy test, "what would a good parent do?", YouthCAN is dedicated to positively impacting Ontario's child welfare system so that youth in care are empowered, secure and can flourish in an environment that is conducive to realizing their full potential.

COMMUNICATION

The purpose of Youth Communication is similar to that of the OACAS communications mandate with its broader membership – to promote the interests of young people in care, provide opportunities for youth and staff to share ideas and promising practices, and to build capacity through sharing.

Achievements include:

- **The YouthCAN conference, held at the Oakville Campus of Sheridan College, hosted over 240 youth and chaperones and featured interactive youth-focused workshops, social activities, networking and team building exercises.**
- **YouthCAN facilitated delegations of youth in care and former youth in care to:**
 - World Forum in New York, which included over 45 youth and staff
 - National Youth in Care Network Conference in Ottawa, with a delegation of almost 30 people

ADVOCACY

The Youth Policy Advocacy and Advisory Group (YPAAG) is a self-identified group of approximately 20 youth aged 14 to 25 from all parts of Ontario. The group meets quarterly and communicates frequently to provide input to government policy, program, funding and legislative matters. Much of the advocacy of YPAAG is at the invitation of government and other decision makers.

Achievements include:

- **A three-part series in the Toronto Star on youth aging out of care. The articles highlighted the need for more support and the challenges for youth living on their own.**

NETWORKING

YouthCAN supports youth and staff network groups in each of the six member zones. In 2010/2011, the number of zone events increased, as did the number of youth involved. A key marker of success is that at least two of the zones have developed capacity to provide leadership with other zones, increasing the opportunities for exchange of ideas, resources and mutual support.

Governance

The Board delegates authority to the Executive Director, who provides direction and leads the work of OACAS, in consultation with the Local Directors Section and other stakeholders.

BOARD STRUCTURE

New OACAS by-laws were approved and a transition plan implemented that resulted in the election of a new 16-member Board of Directors on June 7, 2010. Through more frequent meetings, this smaller, more streamlined Board has been able to act more efficiently and effectively in dealing with the issues and concerns of OACAS members. One of its first successful initiatives was the creation of the Agency/OACAS Board Intra-Zone Network, which has provided CAS Board Presidents with the ability to have more input and better communication amongst themselves and with the OACAS Board through their zone representatives.

THE AGENCY/OACAS BOARD
INTRA-ZONE NETWORK WAS CREATED
TO ENGAGE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
BOARD PRESIDENTS AND OPEN
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR
DISCUSSION OF PROVINCIAL ISSUES.

**Local Directors' Section Provincial Projects**

OACAS allocates up to \$100,000 annually to support priority projects from the Local Directors' Section. Each year the LD Section calls for proposals and a selection committee identifies those projects which fit the Section's priority criteria.

In 2010/2011, the following projects were funded:

- Child Welfare Leadership Development System
- Children in Care & Foster Care Licensing/Regulations Standards
- Kinship Services: Implications for Service & Unintended Consequences
- Developing an Anti-Oppression Framework for Child Welfare in Ontario
- Enhancing Communications Capacity Across the Province
- Clinical Counselling: A Vital Part of Child Welfare Services
- Measuring Transformation Goals to Child Welfare Practice
- Child Welfare Legal Custody

PRIORITIES & BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**CONNIE****Foster Child****Foster and Adoptive Parent**

"At Christmas, our twelve kids—many of whom never knew a happy Christmas before coming here—take dinner, with all the trimmings, to the retirement home nearby. Imagine that, kids who once had nothing but pain, eager to share with others—that's the power of Children's Aid."

A portrait of Connie, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a light-colored, possibly yellow or cream, top with intricate gold and pearl embroidery around the neckline. The background is a solid dark red color.

"I Am Your Children's Aid."

2011/2012 Priorities

OACAS will be guided by five priorities developed by the Board of Directors and Local Directors Section. These priorities are:

1

ENHANCE THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND OUTREACH TO ALL MEMBER AGENCIES

to deal with the significant changes and uncertainty during the current period.

2

STRENGTHEN THE VOICE AND SYSTEM OF CHILD WELFARE IN ONTARIO

through engagement and alignment of the OACAS Board, Local Directors' Section, provincial network groups and local Boards.

3

ENHANCE POSITIVE PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

and address the implications of government social policy with respect to services to children and families.

4

INFLUENCE THE COMMISSION AND GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS REGARDING THE EVOLUTION OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

so that it can continue to meet its mandate with respect to social policy, fund allocations and evidence informed practice requirements.

5

ENGAGE ABORIGINAL CHILD WELFARE SERVICE PROVIDERS THROUGH DEDICATED RESOURCES AND STRUCTURE CHANGE

for the purpose of giving voice to issues affecting Aboriginal children and families.

OACAS Board of Directors 2010/2011

PRESIDENT: KEITH SPARLING

PAST PRESIDENT: DONNA DENNY

VICE PRESIDENT: MARILYN DUMARESQ

SECRETARY/TREASURER: GARY HARRON

LD SECTION LIASON: PAUL ZARNKE

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: CATHERINE MOREAU

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: GARY HARRON

CENTRAL ZONE AGENCY BOARD DIRECTOR: MARILYN DUMARESQ

CENTRAL ZONE AGENCY STAFF DIRECTOR: PAUL ZARNKE

EASTERN ZONE AGENCY BOARD DIRECTOR: TERRI MCDADE

EASTERN ZONE AGENCY STAFF DIRECTOR: BARBARA MACKINNON

GRAND RIVER ZONE AGENCY BOARD DIRECTOR: HARRY EMMOTT

GRAND RIVER ZONE AGENCY STAFF DIRECTOR: DOMINIC VERTICCHIO

NORTHERN ZONE AGENCY BOARD DIRECTOR: FRANK GILLIS

NORTHERN ZONE AGENCY STAFF DIRECTOR: JIM BARANIUK

NORTHEASTERN ZONE AGENCY BOARD DIRECTOR: JOHN STOPPER

NORTHEASTERN ZONE AGENCY STAFF DIRECTOR: JOHN RAYMOND

SOUTHWESTERN ZONE AGENCY BOARD DIRECTOR: JAMIE HENDERSON

SOUTHWESTERN ZONE AGENCY STAFF DIRECTOR: JANE FITZGERALD

REENA**Mother, Drummer**

"I'm an addict—four years clean—and a mother. The key to my recovery was: I got honest. I got honest with Children's Aid, and with their help I was able to get my kids and my life back. I'll always be grateful to them—they're the unsung heroes of my life. I don't sing, but I will play the drums to say, 'Thank you'."

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a dark jacket and pants, is shown in profile, playing a large, ornate drum. She is captured in a dynamic pose, with her hands raised and blurred, suggesting movement. The drum has a colorful, geometric pattern. The background is a solid, warm brown color.

"I Am Your Children's Aid."

OACAS Balance Sheet (Year ended March 31, 2011)

	TOTAL 2011 \$	TOTAL 2010 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	640,021	1,214,409
Accounts receivable	1,152,639	550,872
Prepaid expenses	73,655	1,045,825
Inventory	4,430	15,260
	<u>1,870,745</u>	<u>2,826,366</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS	3,991,743	1,443,316
	5,862,488	4,269,682
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,557,379	1,512,855
Deferred revenue	915,931	481,439
Credit facilities	998,932	—
	<u>3,472,242</u>	<u>1,994,294</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Invested in capital assets	3,991,743	1,443,316
Externally restricted	181,198	152,628
Unrestricted	(1,782,695)	679,444
	<u>2,390,246</u>	<u>2,275,388</u>
	5,862,488	4,269,682

OACAS Income Statement (Year ended March 31, 2011)

	TOTAL 2011 \$	TOTAL 2010 \$
REVENUE		
Government of Ontario	4,709,348	4,265,172
Membership fees	2,704,713	2,672,941
Other	549,854	559,522
Program administration	372,418	361,777
Registration fees	308,858	347,224
Publications	102,825	71,702
Interest	—	115
Donations	345,934	295,292
	9,093,950	8,573,745
EXPENSES		
Salaries	3,228,453	3,039,146
Purchased services and training services	2,481,041	2,455,975
Employee benefits	667,598	612,365
Program administration	372,418	361,777
Facility rental	280,151	273,867
Travel	259,645	217,170
Office expenses	450,223	447,384
Publications and promotions	162,836	158,468
Occupancy	290,327	157,761
Equipment	100,541	108,741
Other	134,583	112,535
Amortization of capital assets	108,625	68,972
Staff training	46,810	54,036
Resources and memberships	78,581	51,870
Bursaries awarded	317,260	297,650
	8,979,092	8,417,717
Excess of revenue over expenses	114,858	156,028
Fund balances, beginning of year	2,275,388	2,119,360
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	2,390,246	2,275,388



NICK

Athlete, Entrepreneur, Chief

"At fourteen, I asked Children's Aid to remove my brother, sister, and myself from the abusive home of my father. In foster care, we all thrived. Encouraged by my foster parents and coaches, I became a wrestler and went on to win a Gold Medal for Canada at the 2002 Commonwealth Games. In December 2008, I was invited back to Nigeria, where I was born, for a great honour—my coronation as Chief Ikuku. Ikuku means 'air,' as in 'air gives life.'"

"I Am Your Children's Aid."



Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies

The voice of child welfare in Ontario

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES
75 FRONT STREET EAST, SUITE 308, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5E 1V9

WWW.OACAS.ORG
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