

**Final Report of the Commission to
Promote Sustainable Child Welfare.
The Commission Recommended a
Four-Tiered Strategy for
Sustainable Child Welfare**

A modernized child welfare system providing
integrated child-focussed services fully aligned
with the broader network of children's services to
improve outcomes for children and youth.

Advance broader integration of services for vulnerable children and families	Reconfigure the organization of CAS structures and service delivery	Advance Aboriginal approaches to child welfare
	Change the approach to funding child welfare	
	Implement a new approach to accountability and system management	
	Strengthen and improve service delivery	



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

**MODERNIZING OUR CHILD
WELFARE SYSTEM:
MARKING OUR PROGRESS:
MOVING FORWARD**

The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies has worked with its members to carry forward the themes raised by the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare (2009-2012). Major milestones have been achieved in all of the areas of the Commission's focus. The commitment of the child welfare sector to innovate and change is long-standing, however, the government plays a crucial role in this change agenda. Building on the specific themes and tier's found in the Commission's framework, OACAS and member agencies are calling for specific support from the government in a number of key areas in order to build a sustainable child welfare system in Ontario.

Progress Made by Ontario's Children's Aid Societies

A modernized child welfare system providing integrated child-focussed services fully aligned with the broader network of children's services to improve outcomes for children and youth.

Broader Sector Integration

- High-level advocacy related to child welfare funding needs
- Protocols developed between Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children and Youth Services on information sharing
- Children and youth strategic direction developed by MCYS

Structural Change

- Shared services initiative
- CAS Amalgamations
- Devolution of services to Aboriginal Agencies
- Collaboration with other Children's Services system partners

Accountability

- Strengthened local governance
- Accountability agreements
- Performance Indicators
- Cyclical Ministry reviews

Funding

- Implementation of new funding model
- Funding efficiencies achieved across all agencies

Service Excellence

- Provincial service framework
- CPIN development and implementation
- Service excellence in: family based care, permanency, supports to youth, early help: providing the right protection services at the right time

Aboriginal services

- Culturally adapted training
- Framework on Reconciliation
- Support for Aboriginal agencies to achieve designation

What is needed?

A modernized child welfare system providing integrated child-focussed services fully aligned with the broader network of children's services to improve outcomes for children and youth.

Broader Sector Integration

Engage all children's services stakeholders in an active dialogue about **broader service integration**, developing a vision and possible paths to provide the best services for children and families in their communities.

Structural Change

Invest in **structural change** including specialized services and shared services

Accountability

Provide continued support and resources to phase in new **accountability** mechanisms and strengthen governance, and have sector participation in the development of the mechanisms

Funding

Commit to review the newly introduced **funding model**, accelerate implementation of the full model for those agencies identified as needing the resources and provide transitional support and time for those expecting funding reductions to implement new service models

Service Excellence

- Contribute to, and recognize the new **service delivery framework**, including strengthening family based care, protection services at the right time, adoption and youth supports and where needed, modify policy and standards
- Resources for the implementation of the Child Protection Information Network

Aboriginal services

- Act immediately on longstanding recommendations to implement **Aboriginal service** models supported by a specific funding model and standards
- Support the devolution of services process from non-Aboriginal to Aboriginal service providers