

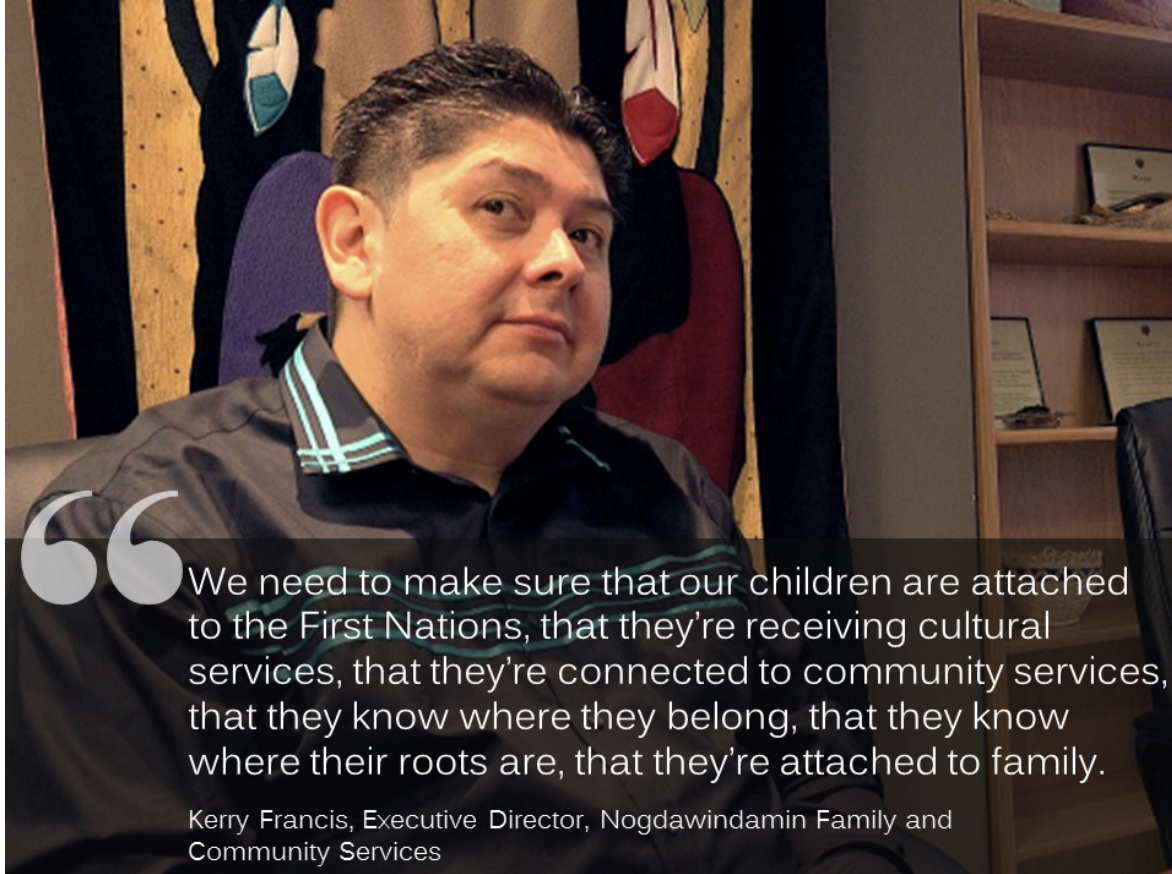


In the April Issue

- Taking their children back: The journey to designation for Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services
- Volunteering in child welfare: It takes a community to keep kids safe
- Be the One: Meaghan Martin talks about her drive to Be the One for others as a way to thank her foster parents
- 5 things you should know about the recently released child welfare performance indicators
- Resources You Can Use
- Upcoming Events
- Send Us Your News & Events

***And don't forget, we're changing the way you get The Voice. Don't miss out!

Taking their children back: The journey to designation for Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services



“We need to make sure that our children are attached to the First Nations, that they're receiving cultural services, that they're connected to community services, that they know where they belong, that they know where their roots are, that they're attached to family.

Kerry Francis, Executive Director, Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services

Kerry Francis, Executive Director of Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services, sat down with us recently to talk about his organization's designation, the journey it took to get here, and what it means to him and to the First Nations communities of the North Shore.

On April 1st, 2017, [Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services](#) (NOG) assumed responsibility as the recognized child welfare authority for Lake Huron North Shore First Nations. Congratulations! Can you tell us first what it means to be a designated agency, and the process it took your organization to get here?

What does it mean? Wow. What a celebration. I'm truly honoured in my capacity as Executive Director to have been part of this journey for the past seven years. Nogdawindamin has been around for almost 27 years, but these last seven have truly been the most intensive in terms of building our capacity to accept responsibility for child welfare in the seven North Shore First Nations. So I guess that's how I'd like to answer that question. It's just so powerful. I'm not sure that it's even settled with me yet.

And how would you define what it is to be a designated child welfare agency?

Designation means that we've received approval [from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)] to provide child welfare services under provincial legislation. But for us it's also about providing those services in a culturally relevant way.

Read our full [interview with Kerry](#).

Volunteering in child welfare: It takes a community to keep kids safe

Happy National Volunteer Week!

Volunteers play a significant role in the work of child welfare in Ontario. Women and men across the province donate their time, talent, and resources to assist children and youth in a variety of capacities, including driving, mentoring, tutoring, assisting with special events, and providing administrative support. Check out our infographic below which highlights some of the key facts about Ontario's child welfare volunteers.

To see the infographic in more detail and to learn how you can get involved, [click here](#).

VOLUNTEER SERVICES IN CHILD WELFARE

It takes a community to keep kids safe: How volunteers support the well being of Ontario's children and youth

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FACTS & FIGURES

The following data is drawn from the 2014–2015 Volunteer Services Survey.

3,791



Total number of
volunteers

586,457



Total number of
volunteer hours

155



5.4





Average number of
volunteer hours per
volunteer



Average number of
years volunteers are
retained

17,030,426



Total kilometres
driven by volunteer
drivers

425



Number of trips around
the world the total kms
driven equates to

DEMOGRAPHICS



72% of volunteers
are women



The average age of
volunteers is 60+

ROLES

Volunteers perform a variety of tasks and fill a number of different
roles in Children's Aid Societies.



Driver



Mentor



Tutor



What is a volunteer driver?

Volunteer drivers transport children and youth in care to a variety of appointments and events. For example, they may take them to visit with their family, attend medical and educational appointments, or participate in events and extra-curricular activities.

On behalf of all of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies, we would like to say

THANK YOU

to all of the dedicated volunteers who contribute to the well being of our province's children and youth.

Source: All data is drawn from the Volunteer Services Survey for the fiscal year April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, representing 39 of 43 Children's Aid Societies.

Note: Data does not include volunteer hours that may be contributed by foster families or members of Boards of Directors.



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

Be the One: Meaghan Martin talks about her drive to "Be the One" for others as a way to thank her foster parents



“I found it important for me to give back to those who gave to me, in other words “Be the One” for someone else who may need a helping hand in their life.

Meaghan Martin
Former youth in care

I came into the care of the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS) a day before my 15th birthday. I had spent most of my childhood living in an unstable environment. My mother is an alcoholic and so growing up was quite hard. It meant

dealing with a difficult parent most of the time and never knowing what sort of environment it would be at home. Home changed often too. Sometimes we lived in hotels, cars, trailers, etc. After many physical and verbal altercations with my mother that only increased in intensity as I got older, I started to reach out for help. At age 13 I called KHCAS to find someone to talk to about what was happening at home. Through their support, I found the courage to leave home and on my 15th birthday I entered my first foster home.

Read Meaghan's whole story [here](#).

5 things you should know about the recently released child welfare performance indicators



Through the implementation of a provincial performance measurement and management system, Ontario's Children's Aid Societies have taken an important step to enhance their accountability and commitment to achieve better outcomes for the children, youth and families they serve.

1. The three core areas of child welfare work are safety, permanency and well-being. These are reflected in the five performance indicators that Children's Aid Societies publicly report on as an annual commitment to increase the accountability and transparency of the child welfare sector. You can find performance indicator results for individual agencies [here](#).
2. The most recent performance indicator results (2014-15) remain on trend and include the highest number of agencies validating, including three agencies using the [Child Protection Information Network \(CPIN\)](#), the provincial child welfare information system.

What are the other three things you should know? Find them [here](#).

We're changing the way you get The Voice. Don't miss out! Ensure you're registered at myOACAS.org.

If you're an employee or Board Member at a Children's Aid Society and you haven't already done so, complete your registration at [myOACAS.org](#) to continue receiving *The Voice*. There you have the option of selecting which electronic publications you would like to receive from us. Make sure you check "The Voice" to receive future issues.

If you've already signed up for [myOACAS.org](#) but you aren't sure if you opted to

Resources You Can Use

Conflict Resolution Resource Guide

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services recently released a [conflict resolution resource guide](#) to build the capacity of residential care providers to respond to conflict in more restorative ways. It focuses on the strategies and tools that can be used in preventing and resolving conflict, building positive and healthy relationships, and building a group home culture and environment that fosters youth engagement and positive youth development.

Towards Race Equity in Education: The Schooling of Black Students in the Greater Toronto Area

[This report](#), written by in collaboration by Dr. Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora at York University; the African Canadian Legal Clinic; and the Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators provides evidence of the anti-Black racism in the GTA's public education system.

Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy

The [Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy](#) believes in the value of play therapy and its contribution to an individual's mental, emotional, social and psychological well being. They offer a variety of training and educational opportunities for professionals looking to enhance their toolkit in using play therapy to deal with trauma, abuse, anxiety and other behavioural issues.

Upcoming Events

[*Childism: Maltreatment of Children Hidden Secrets - Overt & Covert Across Generations*](#), Toronto, ON, April 29, 2017

[*Adoption Resource Exchange Conference*](#), Toronto, ON, April 30, 2017

[*International Child and Youth Care Workers' Week*](#), May 1-7, 2017

[*Adoption Worker Training Day*](#), Toronto, ON, May 2, 2017

[*6th Biennial Body Image & Self-Esteem Conference*](#), Toronto, ON, May 11-12, 2017

[*League of Ontario Foster Families: Embracing Challenge*](#), Alliston, ON, May 13-15, 2017

[*Children and Youth in Care Day*](#), May 14, 2017

[*25th Harm Reduction International Conference*](#), Montreal, QC, May 14-17, 2017

[*Missing & Exploited Children Training Conference*](#), Winnipeg, MB, May 16-18, 2017

2017 OACYC Provincial Conference, Toronto, ON, June 1-2, 2017

18th Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference, Ottawa, ON, June 2-3, 2017

Send Us Your News and Events!

The Voice has an extensive readership in Ontario and across Canada.

Please forward any child-welfare related news, events, or announcements to public_editor@oacas.org for possible inclusion in our monthly newsletter.



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**L'Association ontarienne des
sociétés de l'aide à l'enfance**
Unis pour le bien-être des enfants de l'Ontario

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