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Reminder: Take *The Voice* Reader Survey.

Last month we asked for your participation in our [first-ever reader survey](#). We want to know what you like about The Voice, where we can improve, and what you'd like to see more of going forward. Your input will help inform and shape our content strategy going forward.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey.

Remember: We're offering respondents the chance to **win one of three \$15 Tim Horton's gift cards**. Enter your contact information at the end of the survey to be entered in the draw. Thank you in advance for your participation!

One Vision One Voice launches Practice Framework aimed at supporting better outcomes for African Canadians in child welfare

The publication of the two-volume Practice Framework, [*One Vision One Voice: Changing the Ontario Child Welfare System to Better Serve African Canadians*](#), is a historic event for both the child welfare sector and the African Canadian community in Ontario.



The Framework, which was launched at a one-day symposium at the end of September, is unique for Ontario child welfare in that it was authored by the African Canadian community through a 17-person steering committee, with direct input from over 800 community members, service users, and youth in care. A Reference Group made up of 13 Children's Aid Society staff also provided feedback toward the final recommendations. It was funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.

[Read more](#) about the One Vision One Voice Symposium and download the Practice Framework.

Kike Ojo, One Vision One Voice project lead, discusses the project's findings and what they mean for Child Abuse Prevention Month



Why is the release of the One Vision One Voice Practice Framework an important moment in child welfare?

The One Vision One Voice Project and Practice Framework is an acknowledgement by child welfare that we serve African Canadian families, children and youth. We're in an era where it's clear to us as an African descent community that there is a

debate as to whether our lives, our voice, and our perspectives matter. By doing this project child welfare in Ontario is saying, "we want to know what the community has to say and we want it to inform how we do our work with that community."

The launch of the One Vision One Voice Practice Framework coincides with Child Abuse Prevention Month. Does the Framework have recommendations that are relevant for this campaign?

During Child Abuse Prevention Month we are raising awareness about the importance of calling Children's Aid when there are concerns about the safety or well-being of children and youth. But research has shown that referrals, which are the first stage in the child welfare process, can play a role in the overrepresentation of African Canadians in the child welfare system.

[Read more](#) about the connection between referrals and overrepresentation, and how the One Vision One Voice project is hoping to improve the system.

Toronto remains the child poverty capital of Canada in 2016



[The 2016 Toronto Vital Signs Report](#), released last week by the Toronto Foundation, paints a grim picture of child and family poverty in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). While Toronto scores high on many quality of life measures, it remains the "child poverty capital of Canada." One in four children in Toronto is being raised in poverty, a number that has remained fairly consistent for the past two decades.

From the national data included in the [Toronto Report Vital Signs Report](#), it's also evident that child poverty is not restricted to Toronto. Based on data mapping of child poverty across Canada by federal ridings, seven ridings in Ontario are amongst the 15 in Canada with the highest levels of child poverty. Thirty GTA ridings have child poverty rates above the national average of 19%.

Learn more [here](#).

OACAS and Children's Aid Societies launch Child Abuse Prevention Month

OCTOBER IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

**SPEAK UP
FOR KIDS**

Children's Aid Can Help



OACAS and member Children's Aid Societies have officially launched [Child Abuse Prevention Month \(CAPM\)](#), a month-long campaign to raise awareness about child abuse prevention in Ontario. One of the key goals of this campaign, now in its 25th year, is to educate professionals and the public about how calling a Children's Aid Society with a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child or youth is one of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse and help a family in crisis.

Learn more about [CAPM here](#).

Ontario is Going Purple on October 19: Learn how you can join the purple wave!

On Wednesday October 19th, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), Children's Aid Societies (CAS), and key partners will mark [Child Abuse Prevention Month \(CAPM\)](#) with a provincial [GO PURPLE DAY](#) to raise awareness about how it takes a community working together to prevent child abuse. The provincial hashtag for the campaign is #iBREAKthesilence..

This year boards of education and schools across the province are joining the **GO PURPLE DAY** initiative by dressing in purple and participating in various "iBREAKthesilence" activities. Participating boards of education are tracked on [this interactive map](#).

[Learn more](#) about GO PURPLE DAY and how you can join in the fun.



Your Call Could Be the Most Important in a Child's Life: Meet Three People Who Tell You Why



Last year over 165,000 Ontarians reached out to Children's Aid with concerns about the safety of a child, an indication of the extent to which the community safety net for children and youth in Ontario is working.

But many people feel guilty about calling Children's Aid. They are not aware that their call connects vulnerable children and families to vital in-home supports and services that can make all the difference to their safety and wellbeing.

Meet three people who share their first-hand experience with calls to Children's Aid.

What does child abuse and neglect look like in Ontario today?

Child abuse and neglect have many faces. You can help a child or a family by knowing about the types of abuse and recognizing the signs of abuse. Click [here](#) for our interactive brochure that describes the types and signs of abuse.

Please share [these infographics](#) about how to recognize neglect, emotional abuse, exposure to domestic violence and physical abuse.

For a more in-depth understanding about the kinds of abuse that are hurting children and youth in Ontario today, read these interviews with our child welfare experts:

The Ontario Incidence Study is the longest running study to look at child abuse in our province. [Maria Harlick discusses the latest findings.](#)

Exposure to Domestic Violence is one of the leading reasons that Children's Aid gets involved with families. [Alison Scott discusses the problem of family violence](#) and how Children's Aid is addressing the issue.

Neglect is one of the most common child protection concerns in Ontario. [Mary Ballantyne discusses how Children's Aid helps families dealing with this issue.](#)

Human trafficking represents a growing form of child abuse in Ontario. [Nancy French discusses how pimps lure youth into the sex trade](#) and how child welfare is working with police to stop it.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse occurs when a child is hurt intentionally or when a parent or caregiver fails to protect a child in their care.

5 TYPES OF ABUSE

- 1 Neglect
- 2 Physical Abuse
- 3 Emotional Abuse
- 4 Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence
- 5 Sexual Abuse



Resources You Can Use

One Vision One Voice Practice Framework

The [One Vision One Voice Practice Framework](#) is comprised of Part I, the Research Report, and Part II, the Race Equity Practices.

The [Research Report](#) summarizes the research conducted, including literature and best practice reviews, along with what was heard through a series of community consultations.

The [Race Equity Practices](#) outlines 11 recommended practices that came out of the research. These recommendations are intended to help Children's Aid Societies better serve African Canadian families.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Campaign Materials

OACAS has developed a range of materials to assist organizations in promoting child abuse prevention in their communities. From posters, to infographics, to promotional items, [our Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign web pages](#) have it all.

Element Fleet Management Youth Capital Program

The Children's Aid Foundation of Toronto, in partnership with Element Fleet Management, has created [a program to help vulnerable young people transitioning out of care](#) to complete their educational goals, become financially empowered, and build skills and experience in employment preparation and entrepreneurship.

Homework Help

[Homework Help](#) is managed by TVO's Independent Learning Centre in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Education. The site is focused on math help for Ontario students in Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. Students have access to both guided and independent learning in a unique environment that combines technology and personal interaction – all for free!

Upcoming Events

[*Collaborating Across Systems: Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence against Women and Children*](#), Richmond, British Columbia, October 18-19.

[*KIND \(Knowledge, Information and Networking Day\)*](#), Markham, Ontario, October 20.

[*Re-imagining Child Welfare Systems in Canada Symposium*](#), Toronto, Ontario, October 21.

[*2016 Child Welfare Data Forum*](#), Toronto, Ontario, October 26-27.

[*OASW Social Work Provincial Conference 2016*](#), Toronto, Ontario, November 11-12.

[*The 5th Health and Wellbeing in Children, Youth and Adults and Developmental Disabilities Conference: Moving from Diagnosis to Practical Strategies*](#), Vancouver, British Columbia, November 16-18.

[Adoption Resource Exchange Conference](#), Toronto, Ontario, November 19.

[2016 CMHO Conference - FOCUS ON QUALITY: The path to better outcomes for children, youth and families](#), Toronto, Ontario, November 21-22.

[International Social Work Congress 2016](#), Ankara, Turkey, November 21-23.

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 webadmin@oacas.org for possible inclusion in our monthly newsletter.



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



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

STAY CONNECTED

