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We want to hear from you! Take *The Voice* Reader Survey.

The Voice editorial team is conducting its [first-ever survey](#) and we're asking you to participate. Your feedback will help us to better understand what you value most in the content we put together every month and will help us shape future issues of the newsletter.

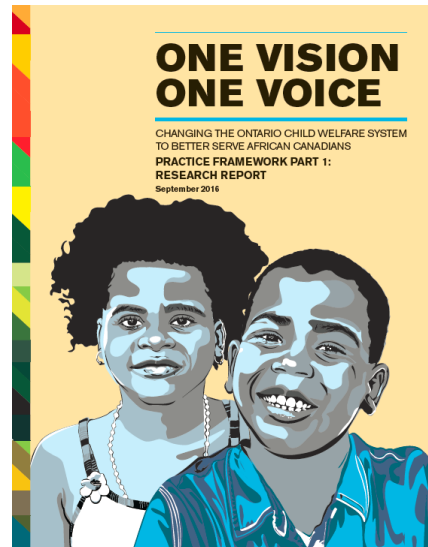
[Click here](#) to complete the survey.

To show our appreciation, 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 Practice Framework Set to Launch at September 29 Symposium

On September 29th, the [One Vision One Voice](#) project will launch the Practice Framework, comprised of Part I, the Research Report, and Part II, the Race Equity Practices, at a [one-day Symposium](#) at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel. Over the last year, One Vision One Voice has consulted with the African Canadian community and Ontario Children's Aid Societies to develop a Practice Framework to support better outcomes for African Canadians involved with the child welfare system.

Read about the One Vision One Voice project and Symposium [here](#).



October is Child Abuse Prevention Month: Go Purple on Wednesday, October 19

On October 3, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and Children's Aid Societies across Ontario will launch Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM), an annual campaign to raise awareness about child abuse prevention. You can buy a provincial CAPM t-shirt [buy a provincial CAPM t-shirt here](#). The goal of the campaign is to educate professionals and the public about the importance of speaking up and calling Children's Aid Societies with concerns about the safety and well-being of a child or youth.

"The community has a huge role to play in keeping children safe," says Mary Ballantyne, CEO of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. "Members of a community can support a struggling family by lending a hand, such as sharing a meal, or providing child care. Calling Children's Aid with a protection concern is another important way to help a child and family."



[Learn more](#) about Child Abuse Prevention Month and how you can participate.

Taking Indigenous Kids Home: Photo highlights from this summer's OACAS Youth in Care Gathering



“My favourite memory is fishing. I'm Mohawk and I learned how to fish from my dad. I'm hoping to catch a walleye.

Youth, age 10



This summer, Indigenous youth in care from across the province traveled to Bark Lake Leadership Centre near Irondale, Ontario for three days of cultural workshops and activities focused on building community. You can see some of the highlights of this dynamic gathering [here](#).

"This Gathering is a great way for Indigenous youth to build healthy cultural identities and engage with their Elders, traditional teachers, and other Indigenous kids in care,"

says Karen Hill, Director of Indigenous Services at OACAS. "This is their opportunity to normalize themselves and their experience in life. It makes them feel less alone."

Read the full story [here](#).

Your Story, Your Success: Ending the stigma for youth in care

"It's up to you to decide what you want your life to be; we're here to support your success."

Those were the words that greeted the 200-plus attendees at this year's [YouthCAN conference](#), the 10th annual conference for youth in care in Ontario. Henry Morales, a program coordinator with YouthCAN, delivered the message and, in just a few words, captured the purpose of the conference: to create the circumstances for youth to flourish.

For the past 10 years, [YouthCAN](#) has organized an annual conference that aims to develop leaders, build character, and motivate and inspire youth in care to succeed through communication, advocacy, and networking opportunities. Hundreds of youth from across the country attend each year, along with dozens of children's aid workers.

Read the full re-cap [here](#).



"Ati kapi ci wepik/We will never let this happen again": Sixties Scoop landmark trial begins



On August 23, after years of delays, the Ontario Superior Court began hearing a class action lawsuit launched on behalf of survivors of the Sixties Scoop. The "Scoop" refers to the thousands of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children across Canada who were removed from their homes by child welfare workers between 1965 and 1985 and placed with non-indigenous families. In 2009, two survivors filed a class action suit against the Government of Canada on behalf of 16,000 survivors from Ontario. The

class action lawsuit argues that the government failed to ensure that these indigenous children maintained their traditions, customs, and indigenous rights.

Read more [here](#).

How Children's Aid uses a simple circle to help resolve parent-child conflicts

Penny Anderson, a Family Support Worker at Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County, describes how Circle of Security makes lasting improvements in parent-child relationships.

“
The 'dance' in the
parent-child
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needs are.

Penny Anderson
Family Support Worker
Family & Children's Services of
Guelph and Wellington County



The primary goal of Children's Aid is to keep struggling families together more safely. How does Circle of Security support this goal?

Circle of Security is a program that we offer to parents who are dealing with serious conflict with their children where safety, whether it be physical or emotional, is at risk. In the 14 years I have been working at Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County, this has been the most effective intervention that I've used to work with parents who are really struggling in connecting with their children. The 'dance' in the parent-child relationship gets so much better after parents have an understanding of what their children's needs are. One mum said to me, "This should be taught in the school system. This should be happening before people have children."

Read the full story [here](#).

Resources You Can Use

Eligibility Spectrum (2016)

The [Eligibility Spectrum](#) is a tool designed to assist Children's Aid Society child protection staff in making consistent and accurate decisions about a child or family's eligibility for service at the time a society becomes involved. The revised Spectrum (2016) contains additional scales and items to assist decision making in areas resulting from changes in legislation, current research, practice and inquest recommendations from the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Safety Town Road Safety Education

As children return to school, safety around roads and vehicles as important as ever. Safety Town, the Road Safety Education Program in Australia has put together a [comprehensive resource](#) for parents and carers to keep kids safe in the traffic

Upcoming Events

[Honouring Indigenous Adoptees](#), Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, September 16.

[Fighting Stigma, Promoting Resiliency and Positive Mental Health](#), Calgary, Alberta, September 18-22.

[Youth Justice Ontario Annual Conference](#), Gananoque, Ontario, September 20-23.

[CMHA Mental Health for All \(MH4A\) Conference](#), Toronto, Ontario, September 29-30.

[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.

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

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