There can be **NO KEENER REVELATION of A SOCIETY'S SOUL** than the way in which it **TREATS ITS CHILDREN** — NELSON MANDELA

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### CHILD WELFARE MATTERS IN ONTARIO: KEY FACTS *

- **$1.4 billion**
  - Child Welfare budget envelope

- **38**
  - Non-Indigenous Children’s Aid Societies

- **3**
  - faith-based agencies

- **11**
  - Indigenous Well-Being Societies

#### Governing Legislation
- Child and Family Services Act, 1990 (which will be replaced by the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 in Spring 2018)
- **9,000**
  - Child welfare employees across the province, following 1 authorization process

- **3 Unions**
  - CUPE, OPSEU, Unifor

- **365 days a year**
  - 24 hours a day

Children’s Aid Societies provide mandated services to keep children and youth safe

- **167,733**
  - Calls and referrals with concerns about the safety and well-being of children and youth in Ontario

- **82,687**
  - Investigations

- **97%**
  - Of investigations children remain with their families

- **43,129**
  - Families provided with ongoing protection services

- **85%**
  - Of children are discharged from care within 36 months

- **12,794**
  - Monthly average number of children in care

- **4,872**
  - Monthly average of children who were permanent wards of the crown

- **775**
  - Adoptions last year

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### CHILD WELFARE VOTES

- **SOCIAL SERVICES**
  - Ensure equitable access to health and mental health social services so struggling families get the early help they need.

- **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
  - Ensure that adults and children experiencing mental health challenges receive the right supports at the right time so that child welfare services are not needed.

- **RECONCILIATION**
  - Restore jurisdiction for child welfare to Indigenous communities and ensure families have the services they need to care for their children.

- **CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE SERVICES**
  - Invest in culturally appropriate and specialized care services in Indigenous communities so that youth do not have to travel 2,000km to receive treatment.

- **CPIN**
  - Fund the new provincial Child Protection Information Network so that service dollars can maximize direct services.

- **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**
  - Fund the disclosure and privacy of records for all those receiving child welfare services.

- **CYPJA: AGE OF PROTECTION**
  - Give 16, 17-year-olds the help they need to stay safe by fully funding Ontario’s new age of protection.

- **KINSHIP**
  - Support grandparents and extended family willing to step up for kids when their caregivers are struggling.

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**ON JUNE 7, THE CHILD WELFARE SECTOR WILL VOTE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES. TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER ONTARIO.**

**OUR FUTURE – OUR VOTE!**

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*Data Sources: Ministry Quarterly Reports, 2016-17; Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, 2015; Child Welfare Performance Indicators

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About the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies (OACAS)

For over 100 years, OACAS has been enhancing and promoting the welfare and well-being of children, youth, and families in Ontario. OACAS works to create a highly effective system of services for children which has the confidence of Ontario families and communities.

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**Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies**

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CHILD WELFARE 2018: THE LANDSCAPE IN ONTARIO

CHILD

89% of children who receive CAS services live in families that are struggling to meet their basic needs.

FAMILY

53% of families receiving CAS services live in socio-economic hardship.

46% of families receive CAS services because of adult mental health issues (including addictions).

COMMUNITY

76% of families surveyed say it is difficult to know where to get help for mental health challenges.

185,000 families are on wait lists for affordable housing in Ontario.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

40% of Indigenous children live in poverty.

43% of First Nation people on reserve live in homes that need major repairs.

2000km

how far some Indigenous youth must travel to receive mental health services

→ Watch the video at oacas.org

* Data Sources: 1, 2, 3 Ontario Incidents Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, 2013; 4 Children’s Mental Health Ontario; 5 Office of the Auditor General of Ontario; 6 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; 7 Statistics Canada