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YORK REGION CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY HIRES TWO LEADERS TO INCREASE EXPERTISE IN EQUITY



Aleem Punja
Chief Operating Officer
York Region Children's Aid Society



Alison Moonsie-Mohan
Director, Legal Services
York Region Children's Aid Society

Newmarket, ON, October 29, 2018 – York Region Children's Aid Society's (CAS) Chief Executive Officer Nancy French and the agency's hiring panel, made up of the full senior management team, are proud to announce the appointment of two distinguished and highly-respected leaders within the child welfare sector who have joined the agency's senior leadership team. These two leaders' expertise will help York Region CAS move forward on key issues surrounding equity in child welfare.

"York Region Children's Aid Society is grateful to employ the knowledge and experience of these senior executives," said Nancy French, CEO. "These individuals bring specific skill sets, expertise, and lenses that will further the work of our agency in supporting children, youth, and families in York Region, as well our reconciliation work with Indigenous communities, removing barriers to equity, and ushering in changes brought about by the new Child, Youth and Family Services Act."

Aleem Punja is appointed Chief Operating Officer, with responsibility for all service areas, ensuring operational excellence across the agency. Prior to joining York Region Children's Aid Society, Aleem was the Sector Leader/Senior Manager at the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, where he led the child welfare sector on the development, implementation, and sustainment of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). Additionally, Aleem led Reconciliation and Indigenous Services, where he was responsible for implementing the child welfare sector's Reconciliation Commitments to Indigenous children, youth, and families in Ontario. Aleem brings over 17 years of experience working in child welfare service delivery, leading provincial transformation and currently serves on the Toronto District School Board's Equity Policy Advisory Committee reporting directly to the Board of Trustees.

Alison Moonsie-Mohan is appointed Director, Legal Services. Alison has 18 years of legal experience and extensive knowledge of the agency's legal department having served as Legal Counsel for the past 10 years. Alison previously worked as an Associate Lawyer at Paquette Renzini Law Firm that performed

legal services for Children's Aid Society of the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. She was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2006. She has international experience in criminal law, having worked in Trinidad and Tobago as a State Prosecutor. Alison provides comprehensive legal consultation and representation in all manners related to the agency's mandate under the new *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*.

Aleem and Alison are part of an organization on the cutting edge of innovation, equity, and change within the region, the province, and the sector.

About York Region Children's Aid Society

York Region Children's Aid Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to work in partnership with our increasingly diverse community to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide a safe, secure, and caring environment when needed. Ontario children's aid societies are mandated by the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*, to investigate allegations or evidence that children under the age of 18 may be in need of protection, and to protect children where necessary.

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