

History of York Region Children's Aid Society

Our Vision

Thriving children, resilient families, caring communities.

Our Mission

To champion the care and protection of children and youth, and the wellbeing of their families.

Our Core Values

- **Child-Centred:** Katelynn's Principle – The voice of the child is at the hear of everything we do.
- **Integrity:** We are committed to excellence and to the principles of honest, respect and fairness.
- **Accountable:** We take responsibility for our work, our decisions and our results.
- **Courageous:** With confidence and resolutions, we always strive to do the right thing.
- **Inclusive:** We value diversity, treat each other with dignity and compassion and empower individuals to participate in decisions that affect them.

Please see our [Mission, Vision, Values + Strategic Plan](#) for further details of our core values, strategic directions and priorities.

Our History

For more than 60 years, York Region Children's Aid Society has protected children and youth and strengthened families through services that are professional, responsive, child-centred and family-focused.

Funded by the [Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services](#), we are mandated to provide child protection services 24 hours a day, seven days a week under the legal framework of the [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#), of Ontario. We work with community partners throughout York Region to support children, youth, and families.

Historical Milestones

- 1875** Concerned women founded the Infants' Home & Infirmary of Toronto for the care and protection of unmarried mothers and children.
- 1887** Toronto Humane Society was founded by John Kelso to protect both children and animals from cruelty and abandonment.
- 1891** The name was changed to Toronto Children's Aid Society with Kelso as first president.
- 1933** Incorporated under Letters Patent of the Province of Ontario as a non-share capital corporation serving the original boundaries of York County from St. Clair Avenue north.
- 1935** The Children's Aid Society of York County was granted official charter on January 16, 1935.

- 1957** The Children's Aid Society of York County restricted its operation to the area north of Steeles Avenue.
- 2018** On January 1, 2018, the age of protection for a child was raised from 16 years of age, under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*, making it possible for Children's Aid Societies across Ontario to provide child protection services to children up to 18 years of age.
- 2019** On February 28, 2019, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services received designation by the Province of Ontario to deliver child protection services under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*. Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services works in partnership with five local Children's Aid Societies: York Region, Durham, Highland Shores, Kawartha-Haliburton, and Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions.

On April 1, 2019, York Region Children's Aid Society joined the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), a provincial information management system allowing Children's Aid Societies to securely share with one another confidential information to make decisions with families to ensure children's wellbeing. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services had worked since 2014 to implement CPIN at all CASs as part of their plan to modernize the child protection system to ensure vulnerable children and families continue to get services they need.

- 2020** On January 1, 2020, Part X (10) of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017*, took effect resulting in additional rules for Children's Aid Societies to keep personal information safe and secure and giving individuals the increased rights and access to their personal information.

Over the past 65 years, York Region's population has quickly increased from 60,000 residents in 1955, to over 1.1 million residents in 2012.

For more detailed historical information about child welfare in Ontario, please see [*Then and now: Moments in the history of child welfare in Ontario.*](#)