



*Thriving Children - Resilient Families - Caring Communities*



Ginelle Skerritt  
CEO, York Region Children's Aid Society

**A Message from Ginelle Skerritt**

Welcome to the York Region Children's Aid Society's quarterly community newsletter. In this edition of ***The Pulse***, I am excited to provide you, our community partners, with important updates within our organization from January to March 2023.

As a result of feedback from the community, families, children and youth as well as our operational review and Child Welfare Redesign, York Region CAS has recently made changes to help align our services. This was done to centre youth and families' wellbeing and to build on community partnerships and advocacy.

Our vision is to have a York Region where children, youth and families can thrive and be their best selves and we are committed to building collaborative community partnerships and act as advocates toward an equitable and effective circle of care for each child, youth, and family we serve. We strive to continue to listen to our partners and find collective solutions that will contribute to child and family wellbeing.

As always, your comments and/or suggestions are welcomed, and we look forward to hearing from you through [communications@yorkcas.org](mailto:communications@yorkcas.org).

Sincerely,  
Ginelle Skerritt  
CEO, York Region CAS

## TEAMING UP for Children and Families in York Region



York Region  
Children's Aid Society

Click the video above to learn more about York Region CAS' commitment to change in child welfare and the wellbeing of our children, youth, and families

### York Region CAS Seeking Partners to Share Offices in Richmond Hill/Markham

As part of our organizational realignment and our commitment to partnering with community in a way that puts our children, youth and families at the centre of how we provide service, York Region CAS is looking for a partner to co-share an office space in the Richmond Hill/ Markham area.

If your organization is interested in sharing an existing space with York CAS in a way that aligns with our service goals, or if you are interested in partnering in a new leased space, please let us know.

Below are the service factors that have to be met:

- Proximity to clientele - Richmond Hill/ Markham area
- Prioritizing family visit space -this is a key consideration and would account for the majority of the space required.
- Surrounding indoor and outdoor amenities within walking distance e.g. park or playground
- Public transportation
- Accessible hours and main floor access
- Compliment the service experience for children and families -shared space with other community agencies
- Safe location defined as surrounding area, lighting, visibility, traffic, front facing design and layout
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion lens including space layout, openness, signage, afterhours logistical considerations etc.
- Sufficient parking
- Technology enabled to support hybrid work environment.

All inquiries or offers of interest can be directed to [communications@yorkcas.org](mailto:communications@yorkcas.org).

### NEW Quality Standards Framework (QSF) Regulations

**Effective July 1, 2023**, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has introduced new regulatory amendments to support the implementation of the **Quality Standards Framework: A Resource Guide to Improve the Quality of Care for Children and Young Persons in Licensed Residential Settings**. The new Quality Standards Framework (QSF) regulations seek to improve the quality-of-care children and youth receive from service providers.

[Learn More](#)



### York CAS Hosts Teaming UP Forum

On March 29, York Region CAS in collaboration with Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag and Jewish Family and Child Service hosted a community forum titled, "Teaming UP for Children and





Families in York Region”.

With over 140 people in attendance representing over 40 different organizations, the forum was an opportunity to discuss ideas for positive changes in child, youth and family services while also addressing some of the ongoing issues that organizations are faced with.

[Read More](#)



**Teaming UP for Children and Families in York Region**

## Ginelle Skerritt Addresses York Region CAS Transformation in Article with Newmarket Today

In February, York Region CAS CEO, Ginelle Skerritt took part in an interview with Newmarket Today to discuss the organization’s transformation since its operational review in 2020.

Ginelle highlighted the organization’s progress based on the operational review as well as feedback from the province and consultations over the past year.

[Read More](#)



**Ministry Announces New Program Focusing on Life Skills and Post-Secondary Education, Training and Employment**



**Effective April 1, 2023**, The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services recently announced changes to the program that supports youth over the age of 18 that have been in the care of a children's aid society. The new program, "Ready, Set, Go", replaces the previous program titled, "Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY)".

[Learn More](#)

## York Region CAS Annual General Meeting to Take Place in June

Save the date!

York Region CAS will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **June 20, 2023**.

The purpose of the AGM is to inform the community about the annual report of York Region CAS' activities and the 2022 audited financial statements. York Region CAS community partners will also take part.

This year's event will take place both in-person and virtually with attendees having the opportunity to interact.

Please stay tuned for more information.



## Celebrating Black History Throughout the Month of February

### Ginelle Skerritt Speaks at NACCA Black History Month Event

In February, York Region CAS CEO, Ginelle Skerritt took part in a speaker presentation hosted by the Newmarket Public Library and moderated by the





Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association's (NACCA) Jerisha Grant-Hall.

The presentation was just one piece of NACCA's ongoing initiatives throughout the month of February highlighting Black History Month and this year's theme – The Black Family: Source of Perseverance and Resilience.

[Read More](#)

## Ginelle Skerritt Recognized as Keynote Speaker at YRP Event

In February, York Regional Police hosted a Black History Month event at their headquarters in Aurora.

York Region CAS CEO, Ginelle Skerritt was invited to deliver the keynote about Black Excellence. She encouraged community members, police, and organizations to work together to ensure equitable treatment of Black children and youth who experience a daily diet of racism and violence against Black bodies in-person and via media exposure.

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## York Region CAS Accepts Donation as Part of Safe Community Project Initiative

On February 7, 2023, Enbridge Gas Inc. in partnership with the East Gwillimbury Emergency and Community Safety Services donated 264 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to York Region CAS as part of their Safe Community Project Zero public education campaign.

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**Children are at the centre of everything that we do**

### **York Region CAS Recognizes Human Trafficking Awareness Month**

In January, York Region CAS recognized Human Trafficking Awareness month for the children, youth, and families receiving services or existing across diverse communities to honour them, their voices and their experiences.

Young people with histories in care overwhelmingly represent those who experience and survive the impacts of human trafficking, and unfortunately this trend is ongoing. As an agency, it is our duty and responsibility to work to prevent, unpack, and address child sex trafficking in our communities.

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### **Foster Care Recruitment and York Region Children's Fund**

Join us on **April 25 from 7-8 p.m.** to learn more about becoming a foster parent and the rewarding journey. Reach out to [fostering@yorkcas.org](mailto:fostering@yorkcas.org) for more information.

You can also make an impact today by donating to The York Region Children's Fund. All donations help children and youth who are supported by York Region CAS maintain their cultural identities, stay connected to their communities and further their education in their chosen path. Every donation counts and has a positive impact.

[Donate Today](#)

### **Black, Adolescent, Continued Care Committee (BLACC) Ongoing Initiatives**

The Black, Adolescent, Continued Care Committee (BLACC) was started in 2020 with the goal of ensuring that York Region CAS is engaging in

equitable practices that promote, develop, support, advocate, and foster well-being, cultural identity, community connections, and opportunities for Black children, youth, and young adults to thrive.

[Read More](#)



### Signs of Safety Implementation

As part of the multi-year implementation of the Signs of Safety model for child and family wellbeing, York CAS is proud to announce that Whole-System Learning Case sessions are well under way.

Whole-System Learning Cases are a key component to the agency's success in Signs of Safety implementation. Through these sessions, York CAS aims to learn, in real-time, about the use and application of Signs of Safety in practice while also learning about the potential barriers and opportunities to whole system implementation within the agency.

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### Subscribe to Our Newsletter and Stay Connected!

Want to stay informed with all things York Region CAS?

Click the button below to stay up to date with all of our upcoming initiatives and events! Feel free to share with your colleagues and staff who may be interested in our updates.

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Children's Aid Society

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