

# **Children's Aid and Indigenous Well-Being Agencies Across GTA Unite for First Time Ever to Appeal for Foster Caregivers**

*Group calls for more foster caregivers to support diverse youth across the region*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 28, 2025

**Toronto, ON** - Children's Aid Societies and Indigenous Well-Being Agencies across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) are coming together for the first time ever in a united call for new foster caregivers who can provide temporary, supportive homes for children and youth in the region with diverse identities and needs.

As an extension of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies' [There to Care](#) campaign, these agencies are coming together to inspire community members to open their homes and make a meaningful impact in the lives of children, youth and families in their shared communities.

The coalition behind today's appeal includes the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services, Durham Children's Aid Society, Jewish Family and Child Service, Peel Children's Aid Society, and York Region Children's Aid Society.

While more than 90% of the children and youth supported by these agencies remain with their families, there are times when they can no longer stay with their primary caregivers or kin. In these cases, they are brought to a place of safety with foster caregivers who provide them with a nurturing environment and support ongoing family contact and relationship building until their family can resume care or an alternative permanency plan is in place. Although some yearly turnover among foster caregivers is expected, the rise in retirements and transitions of longtime caregivers highlights the need to engage new ones.

### **Areas of Need**

There is a significant need across the GTA for foster caregivers who can support sibling groups, older children and teens, as well as children and youth with complex needs. This includes individuals experienced in working with neurodivergent young people or those with medical conditions.

The agencies also prioritize partnering with caregivers who can reflect, share and/or nurture the child or youth's cultural and community connections. Caregivers from a range of identities across race, culture, religion/creed, gender and sexual orientation play a critical

role in providing inclusive and compassionate support that responds to the unique needs of these children and youth.

### **Dispelling Myths**

The agencies are particularly focused on dispelling misconceptions about what it takes to be a foster caregiver. Many people may hold outdated views about foster caregivers, often imagining them as a heterosexual married couple living in a home they own. However, foster caregivers can be single, common-law partners or married, with or without children, living in a condo, apartment or house they rent or own, and of any sexual orientation and gender. Furthermore, there are misconceptions that foster caregivers may be required to provide long-term or permanent care, however, foster care is always meant to be temporary, with the end goal being supportive reunification with the child or youth's family.

The Children's Aid Societies and Indigenous Well-Being Agencies across the GTA are dedicated to protecting children's safety and well-being, strengthening families, and fostering nurturing communities through advocacy, education, and outreach. Working in collaboration with local communities, the agencies strive to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow in a safe, loving environment.

### **How to Get Involved**

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a foster caregiver is encouraged to visit [GTA.theretocare.ca](http://GTA.theretocare.ca) for more details.

For more information or to arrange interviews with society/agency representatives or current foster caregivers, please contact:

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