

# Canadian Child Welfare Services: How Much Do We Share With Our Neighbours?

Haskell Master Class Lecture 2009  
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# Transfer Payments

Provinces and Territories Submit Taxes to the  
Federal Government



Federal Government Allocates Funds to  
Provincial Social Services Ministries



Ontario Ministry for Children and Youth Services  
Allocates Funds to the Provincial Children's  
Aids

# Child Protection Services

- ❖ Mandated Under the Child and Family Services Act (2006)
- ❖ Primary obligation to investigate suspected abuse and neglect within specified time limit.
- ❖ Ontario's 53 Children's Aid Societies charged with responsibility for carrying out investigations.



# Service Delivery Options

- ❖ Work with child and family in the home.
- ❖ If safety cannot be assured remove child to foster or group home with the goal of child returning home in a short time.
- ❖ Continue to work with child & family to determine best interests of the child.
- ❖ Child will be placed in a longer term placement if a return home is not possible.
- ❖ The best possible permanent solution for the child must be decided within 2 years.



# Immigration Specialist

- ❖ The Immigration Specialist provides expert advice and advocacy for children who are experiencing immigration issues
- ❖ Issues include:
  - Locating biological parents or caregivers
  - Obtaining identifying documentation
  - Lack of funding for legal costs
  - Confidentiality conflicts



# New Worker Training Program

Compliments of the Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society

- The Society's agency based New Worker Training Program is designed to meet the following objectives:
  - ❖ To help new workers gain knowledge of the corporate and branch organizational systems and structures
  - ❖ To help new workers gain the basic clinical skills necessary to provide effective service to clients
  - ❖ To provide new workers with a positive and supportive learning environment
  - ❖ To integrate and apply the classroom learning to day-to-day practice and to casework
  - ❖ To support and encourage the new workers' entry into the Society and to the Child Welfare Services
  - ❖ To assist new workers in the development of their confidence in their ability to perform the role



# Education Advocate Program

The major components of the program include:

- ❖ Enabling education policy
- ❖ Establishing education roles
- ❖ Providing ongoing systemic advocacy
- ❖ Providing direct education support
- ❖ Conducting ongoing research involving qualitative and quantitative data collection
- ❖ Developing necessary resources
- ❖ Organizing professional development, partnerships, and opportunities for child/youth participation
- ❖ Planned recognition of effort and achievement.



# Foster Home Recruitment Issues

- ❖ High Cost of living in urban areas often requires two incomes
- ❖ Many families are forced to accept smaller accommodations with no extra space
- ❖ Stringent government regulations for foster parenting discourage possible applicants
- ❖ White foster families feel illequiped to foster multi-racial children.