

PEEL CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT
2023-24



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & BOARD PRESIDENT

It has been an exciting year at Peel CAS, and we are delighted to share a snapshot of some of our achievements. Our role is to support vulnerable children and youth through innovative partnerships and collaborative efforts with our community. This year, we have continued to invest in early help and prevention strategies, we are redesigning our space in preparation for a Mississauga expansion of the Safe Centre of Peel, and we have advocated on the national stage at the Senate of Canada for improved pathways to citizenship for children and youth in care.

As the third-largest Children's Aid Society in Ontario, public education and advocacy are critical parts of our work. We have raised awareness of the importance of community support for our children and youth, including the need for foster caregivers and our efforts to combat human trafficking. Our subject matter experts have appeared on numerous media outlets to promote the work of Peel CAS and championing the needs of children, youth with lived experience in child welfare.

At Peel CAS, we are guided by the fundamental values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and Truth and Reconciliation. Recently, our DEI branch underwent a significant transformation, honouring

our commitment to reconciliation by including "Truth & Reconciliation" in its name. This change reflects our deep commitment to fostering meaningful relationships with our Indigenous community and amplifying their voices in our work. Through ongoing partnerships with Indigenous and ethnocultural partners, we continue to promote inclusive approaches and equitable services for all children, youth, and families in Peel.

As we continue with our transformation agenda, we are pleased to confirm the completion of all recommendations in our Comprehensive Review Work Plan. As we envision our future, we have begun engaging with our community to develop a bold new strategic plan. Our goal is to help children and youth in our community thrive by providing innovative services and supports that adapt to the evolving needs of families in our rapidly growing region.

We are proud of the outstanding achievements of our team this past year, which could only be accomplished with the dedication and passion of our staff, caregivers and volunteers. Many more exciting developments are on the horizon, and we look forward to sharing them with you in the months ahead.



MARY BETH MOELLENKAMP
Chief Executive Officer



CAROL KOTACKA
Board President

BY THE NUMBERS



10,831

Referrals received



7,423

Families served



133

Children and youth in care (on average)



288

Homes providing care (incl. kin, foster, adoption, customary care)



47

Languages spoken (by interpretation)



6,031

Community members reached through presentations, booths, etc.



1,139

Internal and external stakeholders attended trainings

99%

Of our work is done with children, youth and families in their own homes

82%

Overall client satisfaction rate

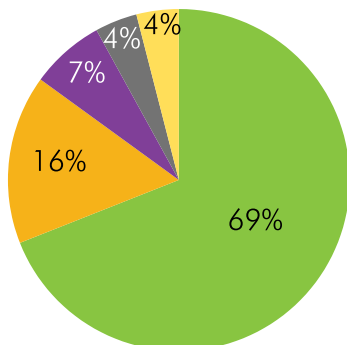
FINANCIALS

For the period: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Revenue 79,230,242

Expenditures 79,196,660

Surplus 33,582



- Salaries, benefits and training
- Boarding cost
- Children & youth related cost
- Building occupancy
- Support services

For complete audited financials, visit [PeelCAS.org](https://www.peelcas.org)



CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF EARLY HELP

Our Early Help Initiative has already made a remarkable impact in its first year of operation. By connecting families directly to community resources and support through a holistic wraparound service, without going through the typical investigative process, we are able to get families the help they need quickly, addressing concerns before they escalate. Cases opened through Early Help involved asylum-seekers and international students who faced food and housing insecurity, expectant parents and conflict between caregivers and their children.

Across the sector, the over-representation of Black children in care is a well-documented issue. Early Help has shown great promise this year in helping to address this concern. Between January and April 2024, 71% of Early Help cases were Black families, who were able to benefit from timely support, without the need for an investigation. Nearly all the cases opened through Early Help go on to be closed without the need for further CAS involvement. Of the 695 Early Help cases opened last year, only 10 cases required ongoing services, avoiding more intensive CAS interventions for more than 98 per cent of these families.



ADVOCATING FOR CITIZENSHIP FOR YOUTH IN CARE



Peel CAS and our Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence (CWICE) team have been collaborating with community partners and the Honourable Senator Mobina Jaffer on her proposed Bill S-235 - An Act to amend the Citizenship Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. This bill will ensure that children and youth in care across Canada are able to obtain citizenship, allowing them to achieve the permanency and sense of belonging they urgently need and deserve.

On December 6, our CEO, Mary Beth Moellenkamp, and CWICE representatives, Danielle Ungara, Fatima Mukai, and Liz Okai were honoured to be part of a panel which presented before the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology in support of the bill.

WELCOMING THE SAFE CENTRE OF PEEL TO OUR BUILDING

In November 2023, the Safe Centre of Peel, a collective of 17 partner agencies who work collaboratively to support survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV), announced its intention to co-locate with Peel CAS in our building at 25 Capston Drive in Mississauga. Our IPV teams have been a part of the Safe Centre for many years at its location in Brampton. Expanding to a second location in Mississauga will increase the Safe Centre's capacity to serve more clients and make it easier for individuals experiencing intimate partner violence to access the support they need.

Work is now underway to prepare the second floor of our building to house the Safe Centre, while the third floor is converted to workspaces, meeting rooms and collaboration zones for Peel CAS employees when they are in the office. We look forward to opening the Safe Centre's new location later this year.



(L-R) D/Sgt. Michael Stone and D/Sgt. Rebecca Miller-Small (Peel Regional Police), Shelina Jeshani (Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin), MP Iqra Khalid, MP Ruby Sahota, Mary Beth Moellenkamp (Peel CAS), Sharon Mayne (Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin), Deputy Chiefs Nick Milinovich and Mark Dapat (Peel Regional Police).

CONTACT US

Peel Children's Aid Society
25 Capston Drive, Mississauga ON L5W 0H3

Phone: 905-363-6131

Toll-free: 888-700-0996

Fax: 905-363-6133

Email: mail@peelcas.org

Website: peelcas.org

Stay up-to-date with Peel CAS news, events and more!
Email us or sign up on our website to join our mailing list.

Connect with us and join the conversation:



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Peel CAS is grateful for the ongoing support of the Peel Children's Aid Foundation and its generous donors. Visit PeelCAF.org to learn more.

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