



**CHILDREN'S  
AID SOCIETY  
of TORONTO**

# pictures of the past faces of the future

1875

Infants Home established

1891

Children's Aid Society established

1920

CAS establishes first foster home program in Canada

1951

Children's Aid Society & Infants Home merge

1965

Duty to report child abuse becomes law

1975

Children's Aid Society logo is born

For more than 29,000 children and 12,600 families the CAS of Toronto is hope for a brighter future. We protect children from abuse and neglect. We help parents build healthy families. We provide a safe, nurturing place for children and young adults to grow up and realize their dreams.

## Annual Report 2001 + 02

### Report child abuse and neglect

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, it's your legal duty to report the situation to a children's aid society, even if you've already reported it on a previous occasion. For the child's sake don't delay, call 416-924-4646. Our phone lines are open 24/7.

### Volunteer

The greatest satisfaction of volunteering is knowing you've made a difference in the lives of children and their families. We need volunteers to work with families, foster parents and staff, and to assist with our programming.

### Take out a membership

If you want to learn more about child welfare, you can become a member of the CAS of Toronto. You'll receive our newspaper, be able to attend monthly Board of Directors meetings as non-voting guests and have voting privileges at our annual general meeting.

### Consider fostering

Foster families provide safe, stable and caring homes to children who are unable to live safely in their own homes. Foster parents are special individuals or couples, sometimes with their own children, who have the time, patience and understanding to nurture children.

### Make a donation

The Children's Aid Foundation, a registered charity since 1979, raises funds to support initiatives that are dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of abused and neglected children through education, enrichment and prevention. Last year the Foundation granted more than 5 million dollars to the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and other child welfare programs across the country.

If you would like to help, please call the Children's Aid Foundation at 416-923-0924 or visit our website at [www.cafdn.org](http://www.cafdn.org).

### Learn about adoption

Adopting a child is a life-long commitment. If you are seriously considering providing a permanent home to a child whose birth family cannot care for them contact our Society to learn more.

### Be an advocate

We need people to work with us to ensure that resources and services for children remain an important focus on the public and political agenda. Volunteers help us maintain this focus by keeping our Society in continuous contact with legislators, policy makers, funders and community groups.

### Request a speaker

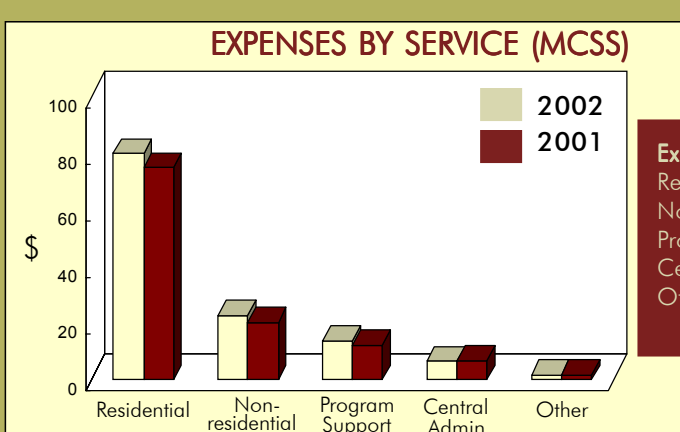
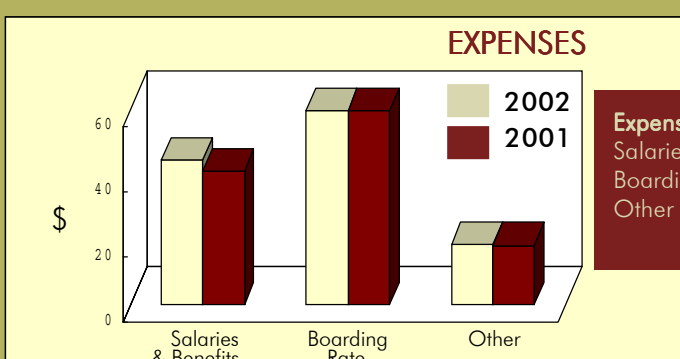
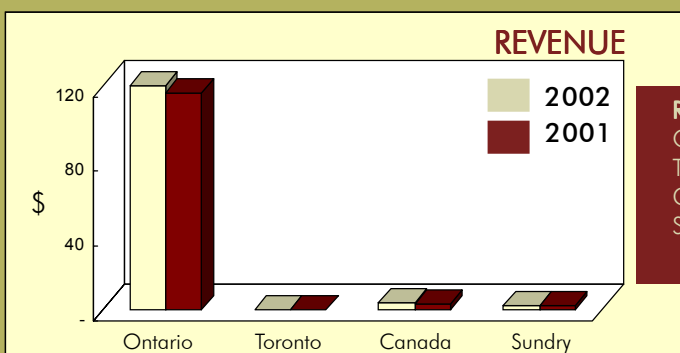
Staff members, foster parents and volunteers are available to speak to community groups and professionals about child welfare and the work of the CAS of Toronto.

Get involved!



## Condensed Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2002 with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2001 (In thousands of dollars)



## Service Statistics

	12 Mths 4/1/01 to 3/31/02	12 Mths 4/1/00 to 3/31/01
<b>Total Number of Children Served</b>		
In own home	25,518	24,512
In Care	3,489	3,481
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,007</b>	<b>27,993</b>
<b>Children In Care (as at 3/31)</b>		
Foster Homes	764	788
CAS of Toronto Residences	48	39
Independent Living	263	280
Non-CAS of Toronto Residences	1,026	933
Adoption	123	106
Other (home visits, etc.)	94	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>2,237</b>
<b>Admissions To Care</b>		
Admissions and readmissions to care	1,252	1,289
Discharges	1,171	1,244
Average number of days in care	597.7	550.5
<b>Families Served</b>		
Intake and Ongoing Protection	11,468	10,838
Adoption Disclosure <sup>3</sup>	1,029	1,154
Former Crown Wardship Disclosure	130	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,627</b>	<b>12,136</b>
<b>Protection Investigations<sup>1</sup></b>		
Physical Harm by Commission	3,302	3,472
Sexual Harm by Commission	656	620
Neglect	5,101	4,524
Emotional Harm	1,769	1,197
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,828</b>	<b>9,813</b>
<b>After Hours Services</b>		
Telephone Responses	51,672	52,490
Cases Served	14,979	14,285
<b>Foster Care and Volunteers (as at 3/31)</b>		
Foster Homes	364	369
Volunteers	569	553
<b>Permanent Staff Positions</b>		
Child Protection	368.3	331.9
Clerical/Case Aides/Writers	161.1	141.1
Specialists/Other	75.4	75.2
Child and Youth	106.5 <sup>2</sup>	112.5
Management	97.8	90.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>809.1</b>	<b>751.5</b>

Footnotes:  
 1. Protection investigation cases served with the Intake reason coded above the Intervention Line of the Eligibility Spectrum.  
 2. Within the fiscal year positions were converted from the Child and Youth Work category to case carrying child protection positions.  
 3. Figure is reported in our Child Welfare Funding Surveys according to Ministry definitions.

## A message from the Board President and the Executive Director

The past century has seen us grow from a single Infants Home to become one of the largest board operated child welfare organizations in North America. Throughout that time we broke new ground to better nurture and protect our community's greatest asset...children.

### Adopting new ways of working

With our adoption services now centralized at 32 Isabella Street, we are strengthening our focus on connecting more children and families on a permanent basis. Our Society is actively supporting greater openness for adult adoptees and birth family members in Ontario by lending our support to Bill 77 – The Adoption Disclosure Statute Law Amendment Act 2001. This year alone we provided 313 adult adoptees and birth family members and 53 former crown wards with non-identifying information about their past. We also facilitated 165 reunions between adult adoptees and their birth families.

Our real estate committee has championed the redevelopment of our Charles Street complex to accommodate a new headquarters and centralized service branches.

Together, management and union leaders tackled growing workload concerns. The joint committee recommended caseload targets for workers, extra staffing positions and examined ways to increase efficiency with new technology.

### Discipline without hurting

Section 43 of the criminal code, which allows parents to use "reasonable" force for the purposes of disciplining children, was upheld this year by the Court of Appeal for Ontario. This unfortunate decision stands in contrast to seventy two per cent of physical abuse cases we saw which typically began with episodes of corporal punishment, escalating to a child being injured.



For every child in our care we helped 8 more in their own homes.

### Our legacy of caring

This year we celebrated our longstanding with the publication of *A Legacy of Caring* tremendous contributions to community, lives of millions of children and their



commitment to Toronto's children and youth – a history book that chronicles the Society's legislation and social policy, as well as to the families.



### Preventing child abuse and neglect

We commend our investigative and ongoing protection staff for their incredible work with 12,627 families and 29,007 children this year.

This year, our speakers bureau educated hundreds of people about abuse, neglect, positive discipline and everyone's duty to report protection concerns to children's aid societies.

Our community development and prevention team raised 2 million dollars for community groups. This group aims to build strong families and healthy communities by reducing the social stresses that contribute to child abuse and neglect such as, poverty, family violence and poor access to affordable housing and quality child care support.

Along with the University of Toronto, we released a study this year that shows housing is a children's issue. The research found that in 20.7 per cent of cases where we bring a child into our care, inadequate housing is a factor influencing that decision.

### Embracing our diversity

Our bridging diversity committee – with input from many ethno-specific communities – continues to expand our understanding of the growing diversity of our city and strengthens our capacity to respond to the needs of Toronto's most vulnerable children.

The Stop, T.E.A.C.H. and Speak-out Program ensures youth voices are heard and others are educated about sexual orientation and gender identity.

### Motoring into the future

Motoring Mike is a child robot who is cycling his way into the hearts of Toronto children. The robot visits groups of children to encourage them to read, to help them prepare to testify at court and he motors around public events informing our community about our role in keeping kids safe.

In 2002-2003 our Society will focus on supporting young people in crisis by linking with extended family members and kin who are able to safely care for the child when he or she cannot remain at home.

Dedication, commitment and courage in the face of adversity are cornerstones to the history of this vital organization. The work of our staff, foster parents and volunteers is inspired by the strength and resilience of the young people we serve.



## faces of the future

[www.TorontoCAS.ca](http://www.TorontoCAS.ca)

416-924-4646



The Society purchased 229 Simcoe Street for \$9,000 in 1902. It occupied the land between Simcoe Street and University Avenue and had a frontage of more than 40 metres.

Central Branch  
33 Charles Street East  
Toronto ON M4Y 1R9

Toronto Branch East  
15 Huntley Street  
Toronto ON M4Y 2K9

Toronto Branch West  
900 Dufferin Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite 201  
Toronto ON M6H 4B1

North Branch  
Foster Care Resource Services  
4211 Yonge Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M2P 2A9

Scarborough Branch  
843 Kennedy Road  
Toronto ON M1K 2E3

Internal Resources  
837 Kennedy Road  
Toronto ON M1K 2E3

Etobicoke Branch  
70 Chartwell Road  
Toronto ON M8Z 4G6

Finance, Information Services, Human Resources  
625 Church Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M4Y 2G1

Legal Services  
45 Charles Street East, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M4Y 1S2



## Board of Directors

Richard Cunningham, President \* Valerie Witterick, Past President \* Kevin Drynan, Vice President \* Paul Gallagher, Treasurer \* Stephen Lewis, Secretary \* Debbie Chin \* James Donaghy \* Marguerite Jackson \* James Klotz \* Lisa Lifshitz \* Janet Morrison \* Robert Paul \* William Perkins \* Tuan Phung \* Azmina Rana \* Lucille Roch \* Liz Rykert \* P.C. Janet Sullivan \* Purvaiz Yusuf \* Bruce Rivers, Executive Director

1979  
Children's Aid  
Foundation  
established

1995  
With the assistance  
of trained volun-  
teers, the Criminal  
Injuries Compensa-  
tion Project helps  
kids in care get half  
a million dollars in  
awards.

1998  
Community Work &  
Prevention Program  
celebrates 30<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

1999  
Intake  
centralized

pictures of the past

2000  
First same sex  
couple adopts child

all our community branches

2001  
International Year of  
the Volunteer cel-  
ebrated by CAS of  
Toronto volunteers &  
staff