

# Youth success a priority at Peel CAS

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Helping youth is a commitment and priority for Peel CAS. In January 2018, the age of protection was raised to 18, and now the agency can provide a full range of child protection services to youth 16 and 17 years old including initial assessment, ongoing services, kinship, and out of home protection services. Since the new legislation came into effect, the agency has been able to provide support to almost 800 youth in this age group. Oakley is one of these youth.

Last year Oakley was 17 and living in a shelter. A support worker at the shelter told her about Peel CAS and the services the agency could provide to a youth in her situation. She began to voluntarily work with the agency and was assigned a worker who was able to provide support in a number of areas. “My worker helped to me to find somewhere to live, made arrangements for school, took me to appointments and even got me some financial literacy training,” says Oakley. “I’m now in a much better place than I was a year ago and working with Peel CAS has been a positive experience for me.”

## Committed to Education

A big part of helping youth succeed is done through focusing on education and employment. Youth involved with Peel CAS are encouraged to stay in school and can apply for bursaries to pursue post-secondary education. Thanks to the generosity Peel Children’s Aid Foundation donors, in 2018/2019, youth received bursaries totaling more than \$225,000. Tristan is one youth who will be receiving a bursary this year. Read how it has helped him to achieve his educational goals.



Tristan

When I was in high school, I sometimes felt like I wasn’t the same as everyone else because I was involved with children’s aid. I had very different worries than other students. Instead of worrying about an upcoming test, I worried about where I was going to live in six months or how I was going to manage when I aged out of care. I definitely didn’t think that going to university was an option for me.

Getting an educational bursary changed that. It actually made something that I felt was intangible into something that I could pursue. I’m currently in my third year of psychology at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. I’m also a Community Advisor in residence and provide support for other students living on campus.

It is so hard to put into words the feelings of gratitude that I have to the donors who support the bursary program. You don’t even know me, but your generosity has truly opened up a whole new world. Instead of worrying about putting food in my fridge, I’m able to focus on my grades and be an active part of my university community. All I can really say is thank you. It really has made all the difference.

May 14 is  
Child and Youth  
in Care Day!



This day acknowledges the enormous contributions current and former Crown and Society wards make to the Province, as well as the strength, bravery and resilience shown by these children and youth in the face of adversity.

## CELEBRATING SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH!

May is South Asian Heritage Month, a month dedicated to commemorating the historic contributions of South Asian Canadians to our communities. The agency’s focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and enhancing work with our diverse population is part of our journey to make Peel CAS an inclusive and equitable work environment. Some highlights from the month include a launch with traditional South Asian dancing, presentations from community partners focusing on supporting mental health in the South Asian community and a guest speaker specializing in equity and inclusion.