



# *Annual Report*

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*April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023*



## *A YEAR OF GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION*

It has truly been a transformative year at Peel CAS.

We have launched innovative new service offerings to better support the children, youth and families in our community. Our new Trailblazers Youth Centre is an inspiring example of a new approach to supporting youth success. Our Early Help program is changing the way we work with families to focus on prevention and early intervention. We continue to expand our culturally competent services through our new SEEA program for South-east and East Asian families. Our Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence is making a national impact through outreach, training, and partnerships across Canada.

At the same time, our Board of Directors, leadership team, and staff developed a detailed work plan to improve our agency's policies and procedures, and build on our strengths to create a positive, rewarding workplace for our staff. Together we are making steady progress. Currently, 82% of the 106 recommendations are completed or

on schedule and our workplace restoration plan is in its final stages.

We are so proud of everything we have accomplished over the past 12 months. We have shown this year that, together, we can achieve great things. None of this would have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our staff, Board, volunteers, caregivers, youth, and community partners. We are deeply grateful to all of you for being a part of this journey of growth and change at Peel CAS.

Read on to learn more about what we've been up to, and where we're headed. We look forward to another exciting year ahead.



*Mary Beth Moellenkamp*  
CEO



*Carol Kotacka*  
Board President

## BY THE NUMBERS



**10,269**  
Referrals received



**7,537**  
Families served



**304**  
Homes providing care  
(incl. kin, foster, adoption,  
customary care)



**150**  
Children and  
youth in care  
(on average)



**143**  
Youth age 18+ supported  
(on average)



**45**  
Languages spoken  
(by interpretation)

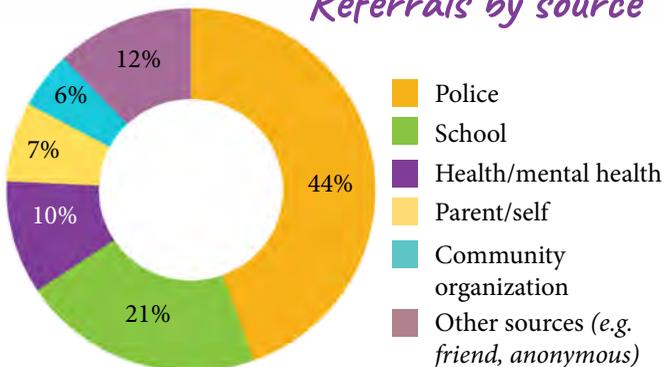
**99%**

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

**74%**

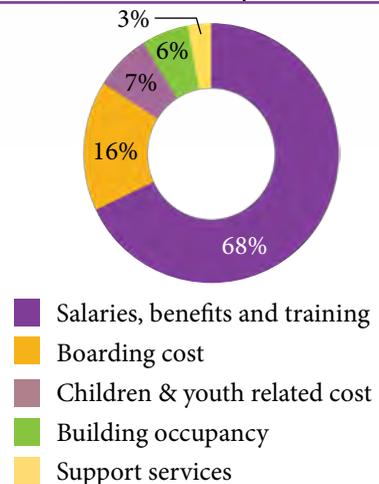
Of clients would refer a friend  
or family to our agency if they  
needed help

### Referrals by source



### Our Financials

	2022-2023
Revenue	75,285,996
Expenditures	74,962,509
Surplus	323,487



# TRAILBLAZERS YOUTH CENTRE

On August 31, 2022, Peel CAS celebrated the grand opening of its innovative Trailblazers Youth Centre, located on the lower level of Peel CAS's Mississauga office. The Trailblazers Youth Centre offers an innovative and equitable service delivery model – developed and led by youth – for children and youth to access exceptional services and supports to thrive, belong, and build life-long connections. Youth representatives have been involved in the centre from its inception, offering guidance and feedback on interior design elements, programming options, and branding. The centre offers an array of opportunities for young people to have fun, develop life skills, build social connections, and access services.



Ages served:

8+

37

Programs offered

Registrations:

656

## What's in a name?

The name “Trailblazers Youth Centre” was selected as the winning submission from more than 90 names contributed by youth who are or have been involved with Peel CAS. The contributor provided the following rationale to explain her name suggestion:

*“A trailblazer is someone that is not afraid to try something new. They pioneer their own path, even if it means taking the path less beaten. They're brave, innovative and don't back down. As a crown ward, I know all kids in care will appreciate this centre, not just because of what they can do there – but because this centre represents the bright, trailblazing future ahead of each and every youth.”*



## GETTING EARLY HELP TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

This year Peel CAS launched an Early Help pilot project, which aligns with a key pillar of the Ontario Government's Child Welfare Redesign, focusing on strengthening partnerships, prevention, and early intervention. The goal of Early Help is to connect families to the community resources and support they need quickly, without going through the traditional investigation process. This allows us to respond to less severe concerns with a preventative approach before the family's

difficulties escalate.

Families engaged via Early Help are more receptive to CAS involvement, and our staff and community partners have recognized the value of this approach. It is our goal that early help and prevention will increase positive outcomes for the families we serve, help to address the over-representation of marginalized groups, and reduce the number of children and youth that come into our care.

**326** Early Help cases opened

**5**

Became protection files

# EXPANDING OUR CULTURALLY COMPETENT SERVICES



Peel is one of the most culturally diverse regions in Canada, and we are proud to reflect that diversity in our staff, on our Board, and in our culturally responsive programming. This year we launched SEEA, a wraparound service model for South East and East Asian communities. Developed in partnership with Community Family Services of Ontario and the Newcomer Centre of Peel, SEEA offers parenting and networking support; assistance with settlement, employment, and education services; and facilitating mental health services. SEEA builds upon our existing wraparound service models which serve our Black, South Asian and Arab communities.

**4**

Ethno-cultural wraparound service models (Akoma, Saath, Ma'an, SEEA)



**35**

Cultural and anti-racism training sessions to **597** staff and stakeholders



**154**

Presentations to **5,883** community members



**3**

Affinity groups for Black, South Asian, and 2SLGBTQ+ youth



# CHILD WELFARE IMMIGRATION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

This year marks the fifth anniversary of this Ontario-wide centralized consultation centre, offering Canada-wide training on the intersection of child welfare with unresolved immigration status issues, unmet settlement needs, and border-related issues. Visit [CWICE.ca](http://CWICE.ca) to learn more.



**659** new referrals — an average of **55** referrals per month.



**348** people trained at **26** sessions



**122** service requests for unaccompanied and separated children

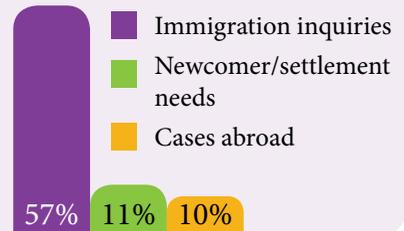


**917** individuals served from **89** countries on **6** continents



## CWICE

*The top three identified reasons for referrals:*



## THANKS TO OUR FOUNDATION...

**3,000** children, youth and families received **15,000** items of clothing



PEEL CHILDREN'S AID  
FOUNDATION



**68** educational bursaries were awarded



**1,200** children and youth received gifts and toys for the holidays



**650** backpacks were fully stocked with school supplies



**\$250,000** raised at signature and third party events  
**\$260,000** raised through Holiday Wishes



**300** children enjoyed trips, music lessons, bikes and activities



# Peel Children's Aid Society

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

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Peel  
CAS 