



Peel Children's Aid Society **2025-26 Annual Report**



A Message from our CEO & Board Chair



Mary Beth Moellenkamp
Chief Executive Officer



Lisa Hewison
Board Chair

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the strength of our community and the many partnerships that continue to support children, youth, and families across Peel Region. At Peel Children's Aid Society, we know that meaningful change happens when people come together with a shared commitment to care, connection, and belonging. This **spirit of collaboration** has always been at the heart of our work and continues to guide us forward.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the launch of **The Circle: Peel Centre for Child, Youth & Family Well-Being**, a space built on the value that families should be able to access support in one welcoming and connected environment. The Circle represents more than a building, it embodies a new way of working together to ensure the safety of our region's most vulnerable. By bringing community partners, wellness supports, youth services, and family-focused programs all under one roof, we are helping to create easier pathways and reducing barriers to care. Through this collaborative space, Peel CAS continues to grow as a transformative system leader by helping to build a more coordinated and preventative system of wraparound support throughout Peel Region.



This year marked a significant milestone in our efforts to address human sex trafficking as our agency began **leading nCourage**, Peel Region's Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Integrated Services Hub, on behalf of the region and alongside community partners. Children and youth involved in the child welfare system face heightened vulnerabilities to sex trafficking, and this evolution of service delivery will help ensure pathways to safety and healing.

Every step forward reflects the dedication of our staff, caregivers, volunteers, donors, partners, and community leaders who continue to walk alongside children, youth, and families with compassion and care. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community where every child, youth, and family has the support they need to be empowered and **build bright futures**.

By the Numbers



12,760

Referrals Received



8,154

Families Served



82%

Client Satisfaction



444

Children & Youth
Supported



238

Homes Providing
Care

89%

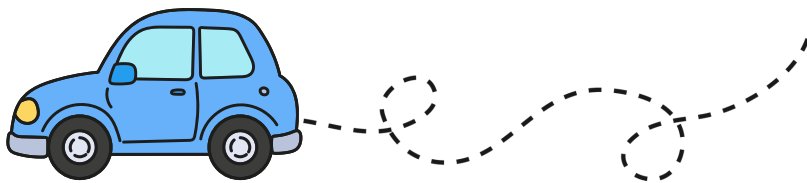
of community partners see Peel CAS as a
strong collaborator for system change

1,013

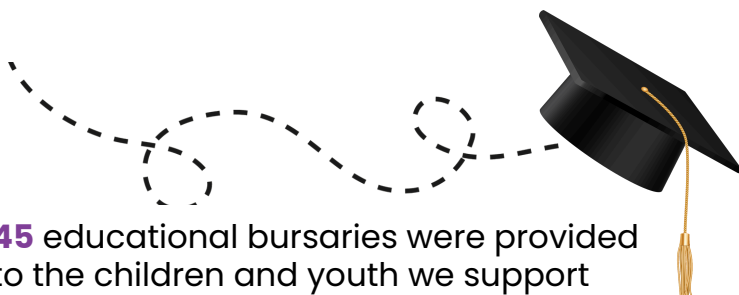
children, youth and families received support
through our ethno-cultural wraparound
programs rooted in the family's cultural heritage

99%

of the work we do is with children,
youth and families in their own homes



Our volunteer drivers safely transport children and
youth to appointments, school, youth programs
and more, contributing over **23,700 hours** of time



45 educational bursaries were provided
to the children and youth we support
through Peel Children's Aid Foundation



nCourage Launch

a safe place to share

202

Peel children and youth were involved in human sex trafficking last year

In January 2026, Peel CAS began leading nCourage, Peel's Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Integrated Service Hub, on behalf of Peel Region and community partners. This work aligns with Ontario's renewed Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy 2025-2030, placing an emphasis on protecting children and youth at risk and strengthening coordinated responses across sectors.

In Canada, the average age of recruitment into sex trafficking is just 13 years old. Vulnerable children and youth involved in the child welfare system experience an increased risk of exploitation.

Key elements of the newly integrated anti-human sex trafficking hub include:

- **Youth-Focused Mandate:** early intervention and protection for youth ages 12-24
- **Integrated Pathway:** collaborative model linking child welfare, housing, health, and justice
- **Ongoing Partnerships:** Our Place Peel and EFry Hope and Help for Women remain vital partners in supporting clients and coordinating services
- **Continued Adult Support:** adults 18+ continue to receive services through referrals

With the announcement came nCourage's move to a newly dedicated space within The Circle: Peel Centre for Child, Youth and Family Well-Being, to increase accessibility to supports and strengthen service collaboration all under one roof. Together, Peel CAS and its partners continue to advance a safer, more responsive system of care - one that meets youth where they are and supports their path toward healing and hope.



"nCourage brought my life back"



"I didn't have to continuously retell my story which made me very comfortable"

 @nCourage_Peel
 @nCourageSafeSpace
 @nCourage-Peel

Celebrating 1 Year of



In March 2026, we proudly celebrated YWHO Brampton's first anniversary of the Hub's satellite location at Peel CAS. In its first year, we welcomed more than **2,700 visits** and engaged over **700 youth participants** through free interactive wellness programming designed by youth. The Hub continued to strengthen its collaborative approach through partnerships with 14 community organizations that form the Network for YWHO Brampton. Together, we delivered programs focused on mental health, stress management, anti-human trafficking awareness, substance use, STEM, entrepreneurship, employment, education, fitness, and life skills. Youth also had access to free mental health counselling through walk-in and appointment-based services.

This past year marked the launch of the Voice For All Youth Advisory Board, helping to shape Hub operations and governance, as well as the introduction of the WellNxtlink online registration platform to improve entry for programming. The Hub also expanded outreach through after-school wellness programs, transportation supports for newcomer youth, large-scale community events, and presentations across schools and community organizations.

WELLNESS YOUR WAY

Powered by Youth

Strengthened by Community



@YWHOBrampton

Thank You!

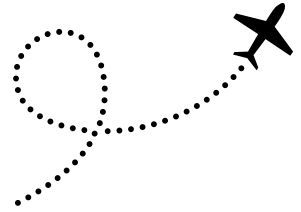
to our Partners



CWICE

Child Welfare Immigration
Centre of Excellence

National Outreach Project



The Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence (CWICE) National Outreach Project, funded by the Northpine Foundation, was established to expand CWICE's Ontario-informed model **across six provinces** between 2024–2026. The initiative aims to strengthen child welfare responses for refugee, newcomer, immigrant, and Government Assisted Refugee families by building sector capacity, increasing awareness of immigration-related complexities, and promoting equitable outcomes for children and youth involved in care systems.



To date, CWICE has delivered training in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Alberta, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan. The project also sparked an emerging partnership in Manitoba exploring the intersection of Indigenous and immigrant populations through culturally responsive approaches.

Key project activities included outreach and engagement with provinces, formal partnerships through Memorandums of Understanding, specialized training delivery, support for immigration status data collection, and ongoing consultation services for complex cases. A major success has been CWICE's collaborative approach, which **brought together child welfare and local settlement organizations** to strengthen coordinated supports for families.

Across participating provinces, there has been growing recognition of the need to improve immigration status identification and permanency planning for children and youth in care. Several jurisdictions are now exploring policy and practice enhancements to help ensure youth exit care with resolved immigration status and greater long-term stability.

Overall, the project continues to build a strong national foundation for collaboration, systems change, and more equitable outcomes for newcomer, refugee, immigrant, and Indigenous children, youth, and families across Canada.

631

individuals
trained

92%

recommend
training to
colleagues

Early Help & Prevention Model

One of Peel Children's Aid Society's most transformative initiatives is our Early Help model, an innovative approach that **connects families directly to community supports** before concerns escalate into crisis. Rather than relying solely on clinical investigations, Early Help provides rapid access to wraparound community services such as food support, housing assistance, parenting programs, settlement services, and mental health resources.

The impact has been significant:

- Early Help & Prevention cases increased from 0% (2023) to 7% (2026), **reflecting a growing shift toward earlier identification and proactive support** for families before risks escalate.
- Only 4% of Early Help cases progressed to protection concerns, and just 1% resulted in out-of-home care, demonstrating the effectiveness of prevention-focused interventions in stabilizing families early.

695

families received support through Early Help

98%

of cases were resolved without requiring ongoing CAS intervention

60

families received support to help address food insecurity through "Harvest Hope", a program in partnership with Seva Food Bank

Additional positive outcomes included reduced investigations and repeat involvement, improved housing stability, increased school attendance, **stronger family engagement**, and enhanced collaboration with community partners.

Our Early Help model gained provincial and international recognition this past year through presentations at the International Conference on Changing Child Welfare. Peel CAS also collaborated with the University of Toronto on academic research supporting prevention-focused practice. Interest in the model continues to grow, with child welfare organizations across Canada exploring similar approaches to early intervention and family support.



Our Commitment to Equity, Inclusion & Reconciliation

Peel CAS serves one of Canada's most diverse communities. We recognize that Black, Indigenous, and marginalized children and youth have historically been overrepresented in child welfare systems, and we are committed to changing that reality.

We are engaged in ongoing collaborations with an array of community partners who work together with us to develop **culturally competent wraparound service models** that are rooted in the family's heritage. Through **271 activities** and consultations, our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Truth & Reconciliation (DEI-TR) team engaged more than 1,700 individuals and delivered over **350 hours of education** focused on improving outcomes for families from equity-deserving communities. We also provided more than **200 case consultations** supporting Indigenous, Black, ethnocultural, Arabic-speaking, and 2SLGBTQIA+ children, youth, and families.

Each year our agency hosts major events and heritage month celebrations recognizing Indigenous communities, African Heritage and Black History, Pride, Asian Heritage, Truth and Reconciliation, and many other important cultural and community observances. These sessions equip our staff with valuable information, resources, and training, which helps them to support the children, youth, and families we serve.

These efforts are producing measurable results:

- Admissions to care involving Black children **decreased by 11%**
- Admissions involving Indigenous children **decreased by 13%**
- **95% of caregivers** reported that their cultural and religious backgrounds were respected
- Services are now provided in **47 different languages**

We continue to embed anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and community-led approaches throughout our work as we strive to create a more inclusive, responsive, and culturally safe environment for the children, youth, families we serve.



Community Safety in Action

Peel Children's Aid Society extends its sincere gratitude to system and community leaders, government partners, donors, and service providers who continue to champion the collective work of strengthening child and family well-being across Peel Region. This work is not possible in isolation. It takes a village to raise a child, and it is only through shared responsibility, coordination, and trust that we are able to create meaningful and lasting change for children, youth, and families. We are proud to continue advancing the goals of Peel Region's broader vision for community well-being, including the priorities outlined in **Peel's Community Safety and Well-being Plan**. Together with our partners, we are strengthening prevention-focused, equity-driven approaches that support safety, stability, and well-being across our communities.

Our vision is simple but powerful: children and youth are safe, empowered, and thriving (SET)

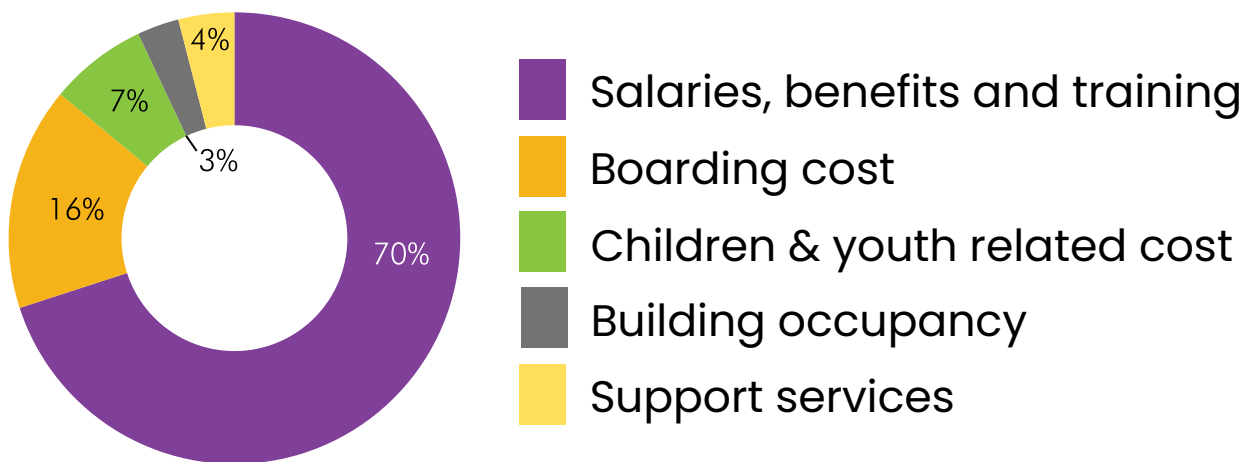
With the support of our donors, partners, caregivers, staff, and volunteers, we are building innovative services, strengthening community partnerships, advancing equity, and creating brighter futures for children and youth across Peel. Together, we are not only responding to crises, we are helping families thrive. As we move forward, we remain committed to deepening collaboration across systems, recognizing that lasting impact is achieved when governments, agencies, and communities work side-by-side in service of children, youth, and families.



Financials

For the period: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Revenue	84,838,683
Expenditures	83,768,852



For complete audited financials, visit PeelCAS.org





Contact Us

Peel Children's Aid Society

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Connect with us and join the conversation:

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Email us or sign-up on our website to join our mailing list.