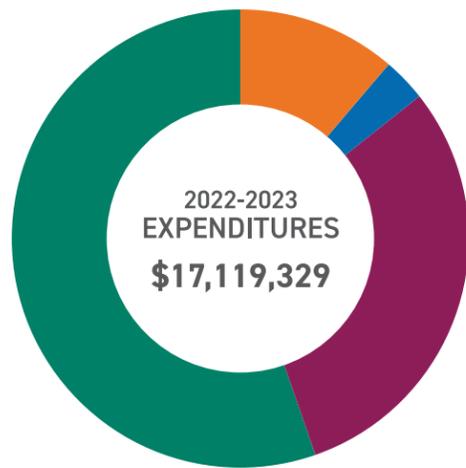


# 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT



## REVENUE

Province of Ontario Child Welfare	\$16,422,507
Province of Ontario Other	\$191,174
Other Revenue	\$505,648
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,119,329</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Human Resources	\$9,472,527
Children and Youth In Care and Protection Programs	\$5,193,539
Travel	\$526,362
Infrastructure	\$1,926,901
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,119,329</b>

<b>1,541</b>	REFERRALS
<b>777</b>	INVESTIGATION CASES
<b>220</b>	COMMUNITY LINKS
<b>201</b>	ONGOING PROTECTION CASES
<b>86</b>	CHILDREN IN CARE
<b>42</b>	CHILDREN IN KINSHIP SERVICE

*To advocate for and protect children's rights;  
to support and strengthen families;  
and to be leaders for positive change in our community.*

**SAFE CHILDREN.  
CONFIDENT YOUTH.  
RESILIENT ADULTS.**



Huron-Perth  
Children's Aid Society

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# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



 **Huron-Perth**  
Children's Aid Society

SAFE CHILDREN.

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# EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

**IN JUNE**, the Board of Directors welcomed a new Executive Director, Kristian Wilson. Kristian spent the last twenty years with the Children's Aid Society of London & Middlesex and brings a vast knowledge of child welfare and experience in community collaboration to our agency. Kristian has lived in rural towns and communities like ours throughout his life and is grateful to be continuing the tradition of excellent service and support to our communities.

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society launched its' new Strategic Plan in 2022, with the pillars of Equity, Empowerment and Engagement. We have begun extensive training in Equity approaches to improve our anti-oppressive, equity-led, inclusive and trauma focused service to our communities.

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society continues to work within a Signs of Safety framework, which emphasizes supporting and building safety for children and youth within family networks. We have engaged numerous family and community members to build networks around children, youth, and families in our communities.

As we move into a post COVID-19 era the Society has continued to see an increase in mental health issues in our communities. Service volumes decreased during the pandemic and are now gradually returning to pre-pandemic levels as families seek support from service organizations in our jurisdiction.



The Child Welfare Sector has begun a redesign that focuses on prevention, early intervention, safety, permanence and stability, wellbeing and ensuring children and youth's voices are heard. There is an increased focus on decreasing disparities for overrepresented groups such as Black, racialized, Indigenous and LGBT2SQ youth in the child welfare system. The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society is in a strong position to support and lead the community in these endeavours.

We would like to thank all our staff, volunteers and community partners who support the work we do together. By celebrating each other's diversity, and acknowledging everyone's individual contributions, we create a positive and collective impact on our communities. We make a difference together.

Board Chair – DEBBIE KINDLER  
Executive Director – KRISTIAN WILSON



**EQUITY**

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society acknowledges that racism and anti-Black racism exist within our organization and community, that we will not accept this, and actions will be taken to ensure it does not continue.

The agency also acknowledges the racist and oppressive role that child welfare has played in the past, the impact of the Residential school system, and the impact they have had on Indigenous communities. We acknowledge that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families have been particularly harmed by the actions of child welfare in the past, with legislation and practices that continue today.

The agency is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation process and journey to support and promote Indigenous well-being. We commit to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, especially related to child welfare. We commit to ongoing action to reform our practice and support improved outcomes for Indigenous communities. We dedicate ourselves to recognizing settler privilege and colonialism, disrupting these cycles, and respecting Indigenous rights to protect land, treaties, and communities.

To address racism, anti-Black racism, and the impacts of colonialism, and to make the organization a safe and inclusive environment, the agency has committed to:

- The creation of an Equity and Reconciliation Team intended to service equity deserving children, youth, and families with a goal to advocate for and to reduce harm caused by involvement with child welfare.

- Equity Training for all staff focused on De-Colonization, Anti-Black Racism, White Privilege and White Fragility.
- A renewed commitment to and updated Terms of Reference for the internal Equity and Reconciliation Committee.
- Connections with community partners who provide support to equity deserving communities (Huron PRIDE, Stratford PRIDE, Multicultural Association of Perth, Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support & Integration, United Way and YMCA).
- Timely responses to requests for information received from Indigenous Communities and Well-Being Agency's.



## EMPOWERMENT

Signs of Safety (SofS) is a strength based, safety-oriented approach that empowers families to be at the centre of planning. The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society has seen the impact SofS has made in the lives of our families and youth.

An example of this impact was realized recently. The agency had a longstanding involvement with a particular family, the children had spent a significant amount of time in the Society's care and adoption planning was in process.

"From the moment my file reopened, I knew it was going to be different. I felt heard and my children told me they felt heard. I felt that you wanted me to succeed, and this gave me hope. It made me work hard and put my energy in the right place – fighting for my kids and being a good mom instead of fighting against the agency".

Despite challenging barriers, the family

remained strong advocates and worked hard to have their children return home. Through the unwavering support of the agency, professional involvement and the family network, the children were returned to the care of their mother safely. The ultimate outcome!



## ENGAGEMENT

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society has reconfigured its' organizational design to provide a more integrated and collaborative service delivery for the children, youth, and families we serve. We have created specialized teams focused on Equity and Reconciliation and Community Engagement and Prevention. The Community Engagement and Prevention Services Team has educational liaisons, youth and family support and community connections staff supporting programs at Franklin Drive and the Bard of Avon in Stratford and expanding programs to St. Marys and Listowel. Our staff are also partnering with the University of Western Ontario to begin facilitating the Healthy Relationships Plus Enhanced Program in our communities.

The Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society has discontinued its' family visiting program to allow for a less intrusive, more normalized plan for children and their families. Families are now spending time together in the community, supported by their family networks.

SAFE CHILDREN.

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