

ONE VISION ONE VOICE

CHANGING THE ONTARIO CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
TO BETTER SERVE AFRICAN CANADIANS



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies
The voice of child welfare in Ontario

UNE VISION UNE VOIX :

CHANGER LE SYSTÈME DU BIEN-ÊTRE DE L'ENFANCE DE
L'ONTARIO AFIN DE MIEUX SERVIR LES AFRO-CANADIENS



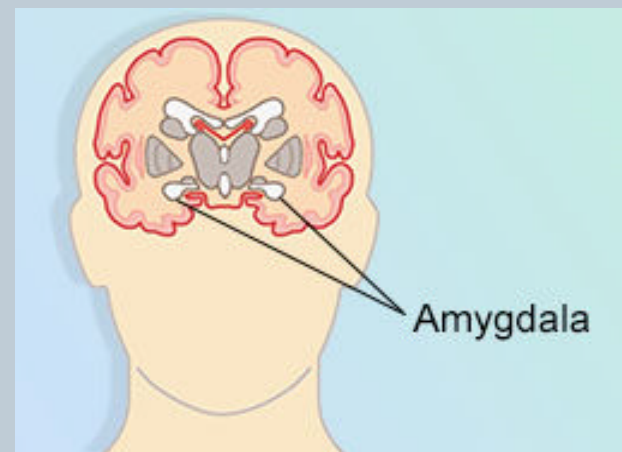
L'Association ontarienne des
sociétés de l' l'
le bien-être des enfants de l'Ontario



The Amygdala Hijack

At a resting state, our brains can process over 700,000 bits of information at once

When we experience an Amygdala Hijack our brain's ability to process information decreases drastically (sometimes to 2 bits of information at once)



Located in the temporal lobe of the brain, the amygdala helps trigger the fight-or-flight response.

The Amygdala Hijack (cont'd)

An Amygdala Hijack can last 20 minutes

How to avoid an Amygdala Hijack?
Stop, Breathe, Go to your Happy Place

One Vision One Voice

What: Research, including community conversations, exploring the issues.

Why: Reduce the racial disproportionality in child welfare and improve outcomes for African Canadians who come into contact with the system.

Who: Steering Committee of individuals from the African Canadian community. Reference Group made up of CAS representatives.



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ONE VISION ONE VOICE: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians

We lost money at the gates, in the bar and other overheads. We paid the managers the amount the associations could afford.
...asking about the \$20,000 in the CSA received from Waterloo, Ontario, a handreader himself said, "It was stipulated by the Waterloo Council that the money not be used for prizes."

1976 Contrast Newspaper

Increase in wards Black foster homes needed

BY CLAUDIO LEWIS

The number of black children becoming wards of the Children's Aid Society is on the steady increase, says Brian McPherson, a social worker with the agency.

He told Contrast during an interview, that the bulk of these are new, immigrant children, who, in a number of cases, find it difficult to adjust to the Canadian society, and to revere ties with their parents.

McPherson, a West Indian, says that the major problems occur when many of these children join their parents, from whom they have lived apart for many years.

"Some parents leave their children in the islands and come here to better their social and economic position, the children join them after many years, then the parents find out that they cannot be controlled. Some of these children eventually get into trouble with the law and the Children Aid Society has to step in."

"We don't like to take children from their parents, at the Children's Aid Society we believe that is the best place for a child in his own home with his parents. But where it can be proved that the parents can no longer control, provide or care for that child then under the Child Welfare Act, the Children's Aid Society must step in and ensure that the child's needs are catered for."

"Many of these problems," he said, "can be prevented, if only the immigration department will inform the Children's Aid Society of some of the immigrant children who will be joining their parents, after they have been apart for a long time."

"We can work with these people and reduce these problems. That is what the agency is here for," he concluded.

WHAT'S INSIDE

W. I. clobber England
SEE PAGE 13

South African Diary
SEE PAGE 5

Club Trinidad visit
SEE PAGE 9



Photo by Claudio Lewis

A pair of Queens wins. Miss Black Ontario, Diane Fenton, left, sits with Miss Montreal Carnival '76 Judy Joseph, during the fifth annual Spear Magazine Ball.

Look for it in CONTRAST

Registering this week in our columns Jaxa Kande, which will feature artists, just as well as others who are doing their thing in Toronto's hot spots.

We kick off this column with a splash on Jerry Samuels, a Nova Scotia boy who has gained an international reputation over the past decade, and has now decided to return home to enrich the entertainment scene.

Beginning also next week will be a series on the successful and not so successful black Maritimers who came out of the East Coast a decade ago and have become a force in Toronto. They are doctors, engineers, contractors, big and small businessmen. These folks are together and they are all crisscrossing 'so if you touch one of them, brother, you are likely to have a whole army of cousins coming at you.

We call them affectionately, repeat affectionately, the Maritime Mafia. Look for them starting next week, in Contrast.

Frankie Perkins shot

Popular Frankie Perkins, aged about 38, was shot on Tuesday night behind the Paramount Hotel on Spadina Ave.

Around 1 p.m. he was taken to the Toronto Western Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. There were apparently no

Jamaican wife still missing after two weeks

Mrs. Daisy Taylor, age 61, of 11 Hilda Cres. in Brampton left home on July 20th in search of work, and has not been seen since.

According to her husband, Naaman Taylor, age 56, his wife has never spent one night away from home in their 14 years of marriage. They are the parents of 4 children, ages 9 to 19 years and they came from Jamaica in 1968 to settle in Toronto. He is employed as a carman at the CNR.

Mrs. Daisy Taylor has been an outpatient at Pwll Memorial Hospital and Lakeshore Hospital, and is presently under medication. Attempts to contact her doctor were not successful but her husband says that her illness was not of a very serious nature, so as to cause her to disappear without notifying her family.

The Brampton Police were notified and they are continuing their investigation into the mysterious disappearance.



Daisy Taylor

Attempt to establish a black foster parent project

by Claudio Lewis

A black organization in Toronto is making a serious attempt to establish a black foster parent project to battle the shortage of black foster homes which now exists in Metro.

According to Ed Clarke, Chairman of the Black Resources Information Centre, the centre has already met with the Children's Aid Society and various churches in Toronto and discussed the shortages of the black foster homes.

As a result of those meetings, he said, BRIC established the "Black Foster Home" project, where an up to date registry of black families who are willing to act as foster parents will be maintained.

The move to establish the project resulted from the revelations in the Contrast that the Children's Aid Society were desperately in need of black foster homes, he said.

Social worker, Brian McPherson told Contrast recently that the Children's Aid Society were desperately in need of Black Foster Homes because there was an increase of black children, who were becoming wards of the agency.



Ed Clarke

Immigration decrease linked to rules

There has been a 25 per cent decrease in the number of immigrants entering Canada for the first quarter of this year from the same three months of 1975 the Immigration Department said recently.

Britain and the United States headed the list of countries as sources of immigrants. The movement from Europe to Canada has been declining recently and the figures show a drop to 35 per cent from 42.2 per cent in 1975. There has been an increase to 26.9 per cent from 24.3 per cent from Asia

He explained that while white foster homes were generally successful with black children, he felt that it would be advantageous for a black child to be in a foster home where he or she could readily identify with their foster parents.

In announcing the establishment of BRIC Foster Home Project, Ed Clarke,

Augustine elected Grenada Association's president

...placement service in the Children's Aid Society. The homes of all volunteers for the project will be visited by trained persons from the project to establish whether they meet standards set by the Children's Aid Society," he said.

Editor's Note: persons interested in becoming black foster parents are asked to call BRIC at 368-0539 or write to Black Foster Parents Project, c.o. Black Resources Information Centre, 167 Church Street, Toronto.



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The Consultations

16 consultation sessions with over 800 participants:

Toronto (East, West,
Downtown, LGBTQ, youth)

Peel Region

York Region

Durham Region

London

Hamilton

Windsor (general and
youth sessions)

Ottawa (general and youth
sessions)

Sudbury

Thunder Bay



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ONE VISION ONE VOICE: Changing the Child Welfare System for African Canadians

Why We're Here: Equity

Equity is the Goal and Outcome

Equity addresses **Disproportionality**
and Disparity which is the purpose for
doing this work

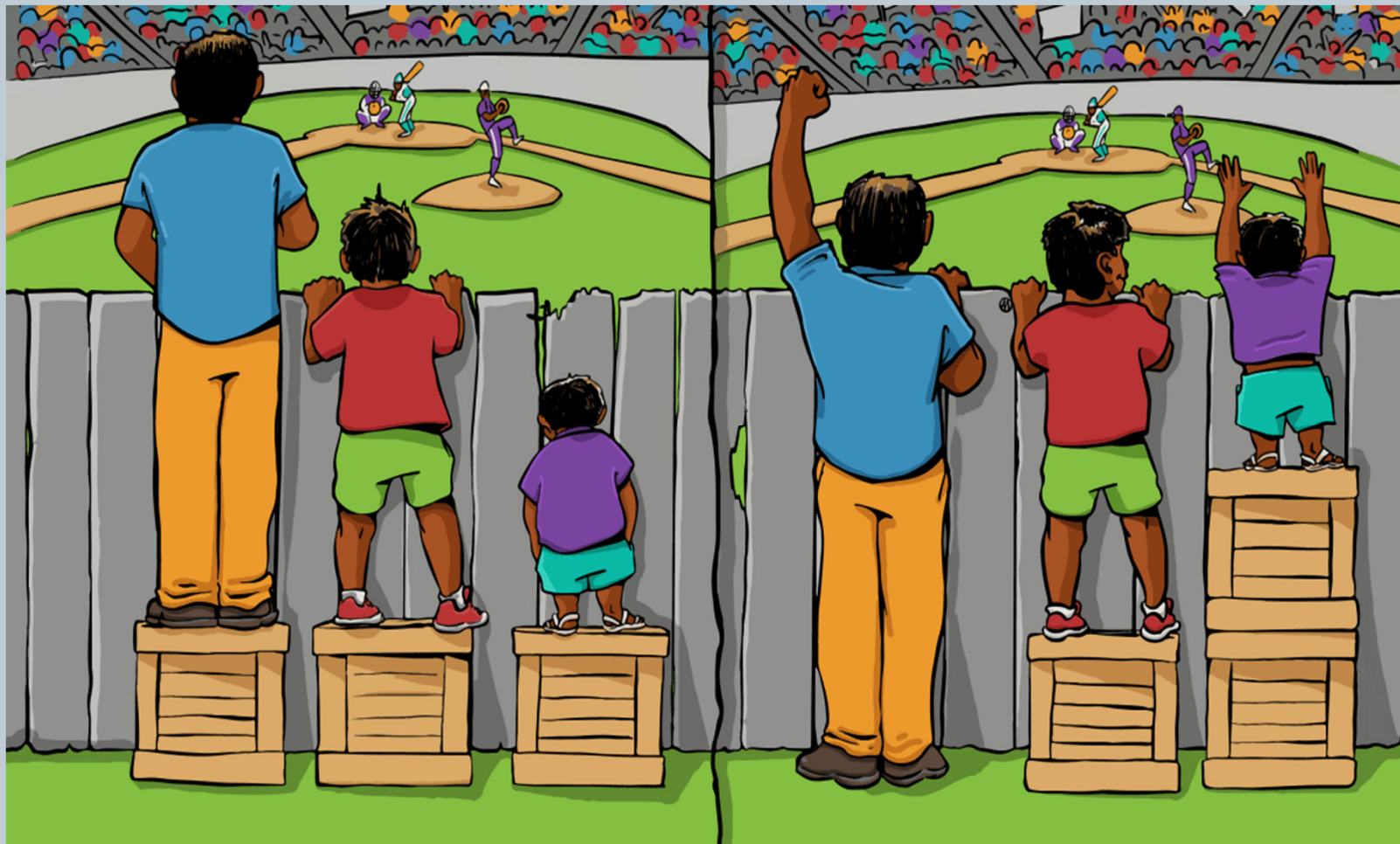


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Boys on Boxes: A New Look at a Familiar Picture



les

le bien-être des enfants de l'Ontario

Why we're tall, why we're short...

The Legacies:

Colonialism

Slavery

Patriarchy

Religious Crusades

Capitalism

Next Steps for Caregivers:

1. Read the OVOV documents
2. Integrate the Race Equity Practices
3. Support Race Equity work
4. Assess your gaps and address your needs



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One Vision One Voice Phase II

Implementation Phase

Focus on:

- Capacity building for the field
- Data and outcomes
- Relationship development with African Canadian community (services)
- Development of accountability mechanisms for the field
- Sustained improvements
- All Black provincial staff gathering
- All Black provincial youth in care gathering
- Care giver gatherings
- African Canadian families served gatherings