



**Ontario Association of  
Residences Treating Youth**

*Centre of Excellence for Residential Care in Ontario*

May 22, 2009

Editor, Toronto Sun  
Via e-mail: [torsun.editor@sunmedia.ca](mailto:torsun.editor@sunmedia.ca)

**Re: The Group Home Mess (Tamara Cherry, May 21)**

Thousands of vulnerable children and youth in Ontario live in group homes and foster care facilities. These children are cared for by dedicated individuals who work 24/7 to meet the varied and demanding needs of the most damaged, difficult and challenging children and youth in this province. Food, transportation, care, treatment and support are provided which ensures that their physical and emotional needs are properly met.

The Ontario Association of Residences Treating Youth (OARTY) is deeply disappointed with the lack of awareness of the regulation of our sector. The residential care and treatment sector adheres to strict policies and regulations set and enforced by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. In addition, many residential care and treatment homes ascribe to 3<sup>rd</sup> party accreditation which results in the provision of exceptionally high standards of quality care. OARTY continues to work collaboratively with government to correct the misperceptions about this sector.

OARTY is a not-for-profit provincial association representing approximately 80 member agencies. The organization believes equitable funding, accountability and appropriate triage mechanisms are necessary within the child welfare system to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and youth in care.

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