

**Ministry of Children
and Youth Services**

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June 25, 2009

Children's Aid Society Board Chairs

Dear Board Chair:

Over the last number of years, children's aid societies and the ministry have accomplished a great deal for children and youth; fewer children are coming into care and more are achieving safe, stable, permanent homes. Now we need to turn our attention to achieving a stable financial future for CASs.

I am pleased to announce the *Commission to Promote Sustainable Children's Aid Societies*. This Commission will be mandated to work in partnership with CASs and the ministry to identify how we can contain costs, and find better ways to do business, while protecting and supporting children and youth who require services. It is an opportunity for us to work together differently and to develop creative solutions that promote the sustainability of CASs and better focus our resources on improving outcomes for children and youth.

The Commission is responsive to concerns I've heard from CASs about funding and their ability to meet the ministry's changing requirements for child welfare and to the ministry's concerns related to significant variations between CASs in the costs of services and the unsustainable rate of expenditure growth.

I would like to invite you and the Executive Director of your agency to a meeting on July 29, 2009 in Toronto. The purpose of the meeting is to enable the ministry to provide CASs with more detail on the Commission to Promote Sustainable Children's Aid Societies and to seek your input. Information about the time and location of the meeting will follow shortly. Please note that this information will also be posted on the ministry's website.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you on July 29th and to working with you and your agency, and the Commission, towards our shared goals of strengthening service delivery, promoting sustainability, and improving outcomes for children and youth receiving child protection services.

Sincerely,

Deb Matthews
Minister