

OARTY Supports Call for Fundamental Changes to Child Welfare System

TORONTO, May 18, 2012

The Ontario Association of Residences Treating Youth (OARTY) has advocated for systemic changes to the child welfare system in the province for many years. OARTY believes that enhanced accountability within the child welfare sector will pave the way for more efficient and effective care. We are pleased to see the recommendations contained within the recent report [My REAL Life Book](#) which was released on May 14th at the Ontario Legislature by the Youth Leaving Care Hearings Team and the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.

"OARTY and its member agencies support the recommendations of the Youth Leaving Care Hearings Report, and are especially pleased with the recommendation to commit to collecting and publishing information on how children and youth in care are doing. OARTY committed to collecting data on the children and youth in the care of OARTY member agencies fifteen years ago and has shared this information with the Child Advocate and the Province", said Rebecca Harris, Executive Director of OARTY. "We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the youth team, the Advocate, and all those who participated in and otherwise supported the hearings, for their hard work and dedication to improving the system."

OARTY fully supports the recommendation that the Province of Ontario should recognize that the current system needs profound and systemic change to better prepare young people in care for successful lives. *"Fundamental change is needed to ensure that young people in care are ready for the transition to adulthood. We look forward to working with the Province and young people in and from care to develop an action plan for change,"* said Sean Connor, President of OARTY.

OARTY is pleased to see the recommendation to raise the age for protection of children to 18 and supports for youth to the age of 25. This is a good first step to ensuring that the children and youth in care have access to the support and services they need to succeed.

About the Ontario Association of Residences Treating Youth

The Ontario Association of Residence Treating Youth (OARTY) is a provincial association representing over 70 member agencies which since 1971 has been providing high quality treatment and residential care services to over 3,000 children, youth and young adults daily.

For more information on OARTY please see our website: www.oarty.net or contact:
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For more information on the Our Voice, Our Turn project and the Youth Leaving Care Hearings report, please visit their website:
www.provincialadvocate.on.ca/main/en/hearings/pages/home.html.