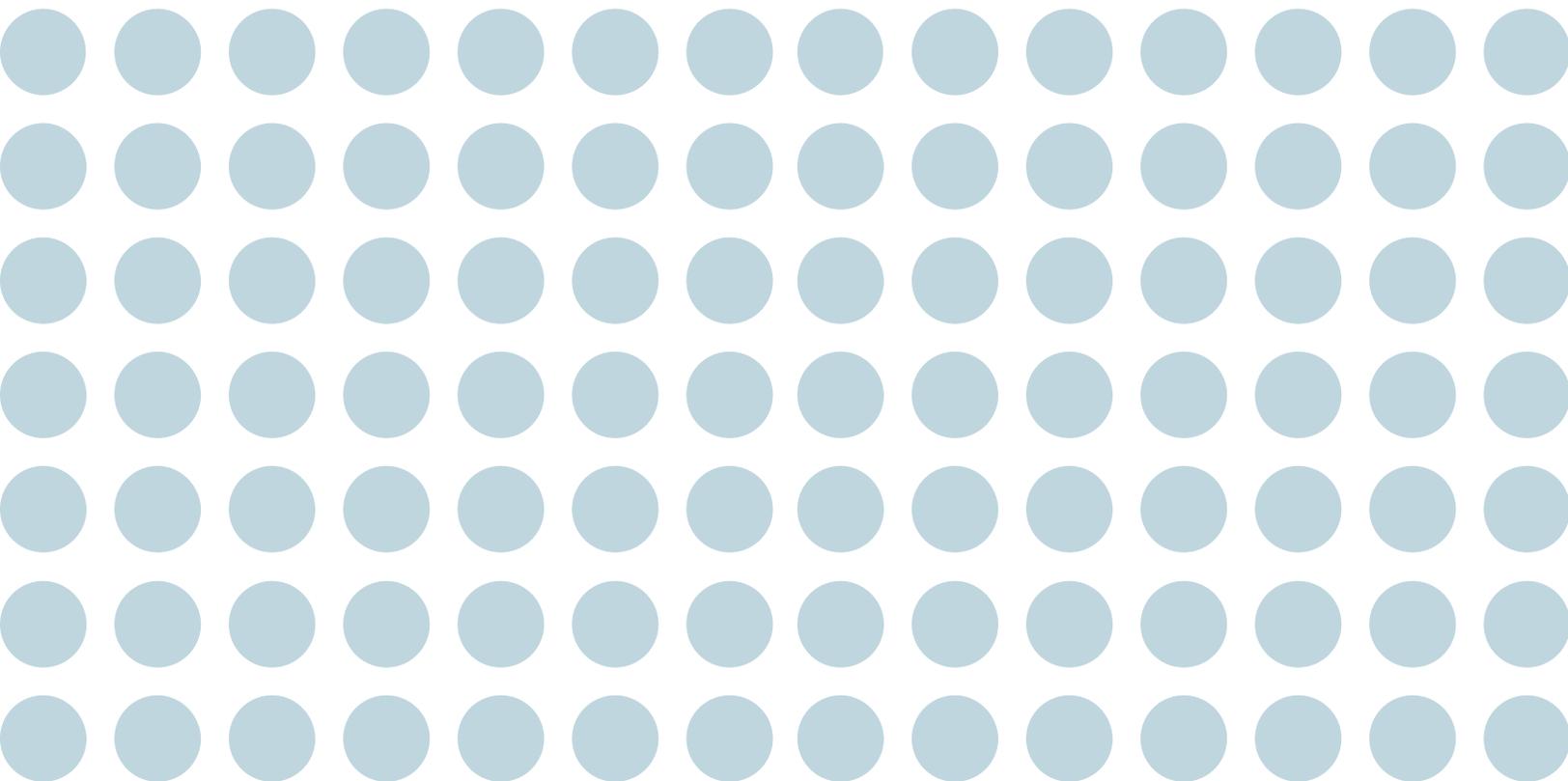


# ANNUAL REPORT

Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound



Children's Aid Society  
La Société d'aide à l'enfance  
NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND



# Our Vision

Families and Communities Keeping Children and Youth Safe,  
Nurtured and Strong

# Our Mission

To protect young children and youth and to promote and advocate  
for the welfare of children, youth and families in our community.

# Our Values

Respect  
Integrity  
Engagement  
Accountability  
Courage

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Children's Aid Society  
La Société d'aide à l'enfance  
NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND



Darlene Vanderlee, Board President &  
Gisèle Hébert, Executive Director

2019-2020 has been a year filled with exciting changes. The Government has remained steadfast in its commitment towards Modernization of the child welfare sector, in its intent to review the usage of custody beds and in its overall focus, that of ensuring Ontarians receive the services they need as seamlessly as possible. The past year has seen involved engagement by this government, with the sector, with key stakeholders and with Ontarians. Of particular interest is that Northern communities are being recognized by this government for what they are, communities that all face their own challenges, challenges such as geography and barriers to accessing services. There is acknowledgement that a different lens must be applied in the North as Modernization planning occurs. There is a feeling of optimism, that with the collaboration of community service providers, key stakeholders, and with input from those receiving services, we will together be able to create a more responsive service system that meets the needs of children, youth and families in the district of Nipissing and Parry Sound.

As you will see in the AGM report, we haven't idled with the announcement and work of modernization. Maintaining service excellence in all areas of service, whether it be in Early Interventions, Youth Justice or Child Protection is pivotal. The number of children in the care of the Society has decreased significantly as we focus on keeping children and youth at home and supporting their families. In the unfortunate event that this is not possible, placing children and youth with Kin or in Customary Care is now viewed at the onset of service, not as an option, but as an inherent right, and only when not possible, are other placement options considered. We have increased the number of children and youth in Kin and Customary Care homes, where we know they do best in the long term. We know now more than ever that kin and customary care families require support, financial and ongoing emotional support as they open their homes to their loved ones. Over the past year, we have endeavoured to convey our commitment to these families, with ongoing supports and with our partnership with Wendy's and the "Frosty's for Families" campaign, as well as with a partnership with the Health Unit and the YMCA, offering free memberships to all kin and customary care families.

The past year also included the full implementation of PART X of the CYFSA (Child, Youth and Family Services Act), which addressed amendments in the area of records disclosure and privacy issues. Renovations took place at the Elmwood site and the Youth Hub was launched offering a youth food pantry, programming and a "safe place to fall" for youth. Critical awareness and education about the impact of trauma on brain development continued to be spread in our communities through ongoing training of "Brain Behind the Behavior" by clinically trained employees. Another program, "Circle of Security" was implemented with families and their children. This intervention program focused on promoting secure attachments between children and their caregivers has resulted in very positive outcomes as evidenced by improved relationships between children and their caregivers.

We believe that one of the organization's greatest accomplishments over the past year has been the dedicated collaboration between Nijjaansinaanik Child and Family Services and our organization towards devolution. Over 20 employees from Nijjaansinaanik have been seconded to CASNPS as the transfer of matters involving Indigenous children, youth and families continues. We have worked collaboratively and thoughtfully with Joanne Koehler, Executive Director and her staff as this much needed transition occurs. We look forward to celebrating full designation of Nijjaansinaanik Child and Family Services in April 2021.

To make things a bit more interesting, COVID-19 an international pandemic was thrown into the mix. This could have been a crisis but with the Board of Directors at the helm and with employees at all levels of the organization working together, we did what we do best, we pivoted, and quickly mobilized to ensure that the protection and well being of children and youth was never compromised. We are blessed to work with such a dedicated Board of Directors who always work hard and who have been exceptionally supportive of our employees and of the organization. John Stopper and Joe Rogers, two long standing board members are leaving us this year, you will be missed more than you know, thank you for all you have done over many years. We are also very fortunate to work with such dedicated employees who often think outside of the box and go above and beyond to better the lives of children, youth and families, their stories never get old, in fact it is in them that we find inspiration. Lastly, what an incredible privilege to work with such an amazing management team. Status quo is never an option, improvements to service are always pondered, evidence-based programming and research is always sought out, discussed, analyzed, and recommended changes where and when needed always prevail.

As we move into 2020-2021, identify priorities and finalize a new Strategic Plan we look forward to the next adventures, feats and successes. We need no worry, children, youth and families are always at the heart of what guides the work of the Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound and we are confident that any and all paths taken will lead us back to that. Miigwetch, Thank You, Merci!

# ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Children's Aid Society (C.A.S.) of the District of Nipissing was formed in 1907. It was incorporated as a private corporation without share capital in 1941. CAS Nipissing functioned as a one-dimensional agency under the terms of the legislation of the day, up until the establishment of the Child and Family Services Act (C.F.S.A.) in 1984. The single purpose of the Society to that point was providing child welfare and delivering services related to that function. Under the broader mandate of the C.F.S.A., it enabled the Society to deliver other programs beyond the Child Welfare mandate. The Society has, over the past decade, been committed to establishing and delivering services which contribute to the well being of children and families. In the District of Parry Sound, there were two Children's Aid Societies from 1909 on, one in East and one in West Parry Sound. An Order in Council dated October 5, 1909 established the Society under the name of the Children's Aid Society of West Parry Sound. In East Parry Sound, the office was in Burk's Falls. At first, the Society's work was concentrated just in the towns and it was only in 1920 that any service was provided in areas such as Restoule, Golden Valley, Lorning and Arnstein. In 1931, the West Parry Sound Children's Aid Shelter was located on Miller Street and Mrs. Carr, the Matron, received 85 cents per child per day. On average there were 16 children in the Shelter and they baked their own bread, grew vegetables, and milked their own cow. By 1938 there were 144 children in care and a new secretary and assistant were hired. In the mid 1930's, the East and West Parry Sound Societies started to discuss amalgamation. In 1937, only twenty percent of the work of both Societies was in the town of Parry Sound and the surrounding municipalities, while eighty percent was in the East side. It was in this year that the two Societies amalgamated and the Society moved into its own offices in Parry Sound in November, 1994. The notion of an amalgamation of the Nipissing and Parry Sound Societies evolved as a result of an informal conversation between the Executive Directors of the two Societies in September of 1996. In January 1998 the Boards passed an identical motion agreeing to amalgamate the two Societies. On March 25, 1998 (Parry Sound CAS membership) and March 26, 1998 (Nipissing CAS membership) the amalgamation was endorsed and the Boards were charged with its implementation. In 1985 the Children's Aid Society in Nipissing established permanent quarters by building its present head office at 433 McIntyre Street West in North Bay. The Society and its Board of Directors now deliver services in Child Welfare, Child Development, Young Offenders, and Early Intervention areas. The Society, in 1995, established a new Mission Statement to reflect its broadened role in providing service to the community. The Society has an active Board of Directors, a strong professional staff, committed foster parents, and relies extensively on volunteers to achieve its mission.



Head Office  
433 McIntyre Street West



25 Church Street



457 Main Street West  
471 Main Street West



6 Airport Way



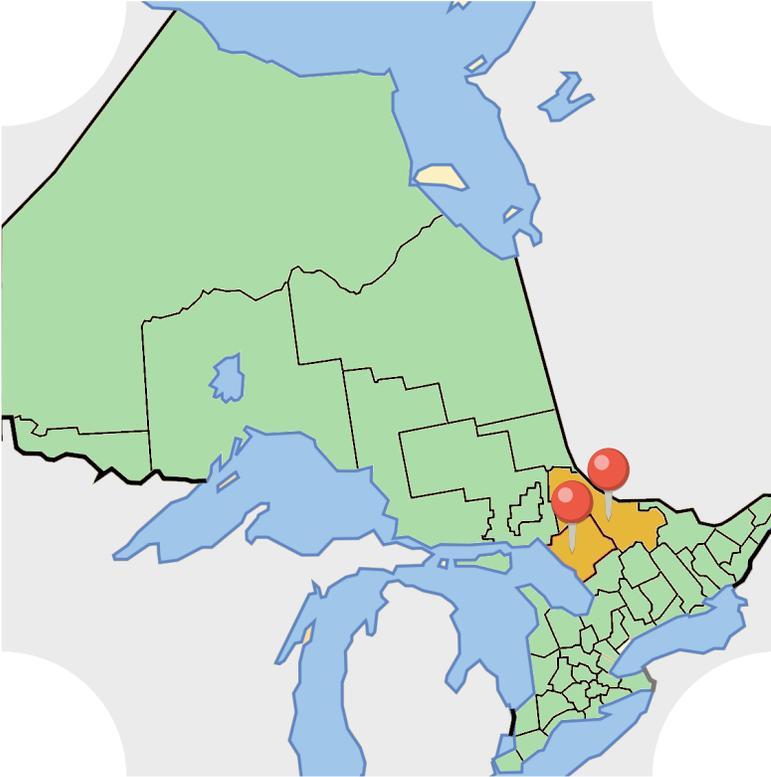
140 Elmwood Avenue



496 Kehoe Street



587 & 575 Gormanville Road



### SERVICE AREA

**Districts:** Nipissing & Parry Sound

**Geographic Area:** 26,388 Square Kilometres

**Population:** 125,974

**Population Density:**

4.9 Person Per Square Kilometer (Nipissing)

4.5 Person Per Square Kilometer (Parry Sound)

*\*Based on 2016 Consensus Data\**

### VOLUNTEER SERVICES



1,600+ Hours  
3,400+ Kilometers



### PARTNERSHIPS

Many new partnerships were developed including with the YMCA to provide 100 memberships to Kin Families.



46  
Foster Homes



56  
Kin Homes



9  
Customary Care Homes



10  
Adoptive Homes



Because of our generous community, 585 people living in the Nipissing and Parry Sound district were sponsored during the holiday season.





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# ANNUAL REPORT

## Year in Review Continued

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Children and Youth Served: 262  
Children Moved to Permanency: 105

### BEAUCHAMP YOUTH HUB



To help reduce stigma for kids in care and give opportunities to learn important life skills, CASNPS unveiled the new youth hub.

### YOUTH JUSTICE



NNYC Admissions :10  
Community Support Team: 38

### CHILD WELFARE

Investigations Completed: 1,255  
New Ongoing Cases: 185  
Brief Services: 1,090



9  
Adoptions  
Finalized

### NON-CHILD WELFARE

Mothercare: 82 Served  
Infant & Child Development: 90  
Community Action Program for Children: 60



### FROSTY'S FOR FAMILIES

In Partnership with Wendy's North Bay,  
\$6,329 was raised to support local kin families.

We appreciate all you do!





In 2019-2020, twenty staff were seconded to several service areas as part of the devolution process.



## DEVOLUTION

Children's Aid Societies are committed to ensuring that indigenous children, youth and families are served by indigenous child and family agencies.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services as they work towards their full designation in April 2021.

**32%** of cases have been transferred to the new indigenous agency as of March 2, 2020

17%  
Investigation

28%  
Ongoing

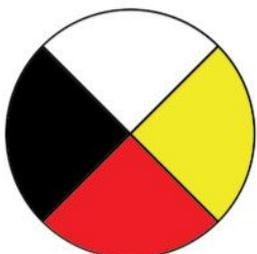
35%  
Other Child  
Welfare

9%  
Child Care

7%  
Continued Care  
(18+)

4%  
Customary  
Care

17%  
Resource



Customary care is an important care option for indigenous children who are not able to remain with their immediate family. It is a family-based care model reflective of the culture, values and traditions of the child's parents and community. It recognizes that members of the child's immediate and extended family and community share responsibility in the provision of care to a child, who is or may be in need of protection.

Since 2016, the Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound has increased Customary Care homes by 77%.