

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



Children's Aid Society
La Société d'aide à l'enfance

NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND



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

2021 - 2025

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

MISSION

Working together to build communities where families are strong and all children and youth are safe and resilient.

VISION

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

VALUES

MUTUAL RESPECT

We understand that all circumstances are unique and experiences and worldviews are diverse. We acknowledge the natural power dynamics in relationships and commit to engaging all perspectives, actively listening, and collectively proceeding with decisions.

INCLUSIVENESS

We treat everyone fairly, with respect and with dignity while maintaining and encouraging an atmosphere of openness. We approach our work with an anti-oppressive framework.

INTEGRITY

We establish trust and instill confidence by doing our work with sincerity, honesty, equality and humility. When faced with difficult decisions, we rely on our values to guide our decisions.

COURAGE

Together we are ready for the uncomfortable and willing to be vulnerable and have healthy discussions that lead to better outcomes.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We demonstrate leadership and teamwork by striving to achieve shared goals, holding each other accountable, and ensuring transparency.

INNOVATION

We approach every challenge with creativity and resourcefulness. We are open to new approaches, and respond in a responsive, flexible manner.

AND WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN

2020-21 is a year that we can safely say is unparalleled in the history of the Children's Aid Society of the district of Nipissing and Parry Sound. As we transitioned from 2019-20 having been introduced to COVID-19, a worldwide pandemic, no one could have imagined the scope of what people would be facing more than one year later. We know that many individuals were and continue to be negatively impacted by this pandemic and tragically many lives were lost.

Although the world was able to isolate to minimize contact with others in the midst of this pandemic, this was never an option for those working in this organization. We mobilized immediately to ensure that the protection and safety of children and youth, their well being and that of their families, was never compromised. Employees at all levels went above and beyond, working tirelessly to provide consistent, seamless, and responsive programs and services, often being the only service providers responding in-person to the complex needs of our communities.

This report will further explain what we've been up to, but we'd like to highlight a few significant accomplishments.

We'd like to extend our congratulations to Nijjaansinaanik Child and Family Services who received its designation on April 1, 2021. We have learned a great deal over the last few years, working with you towards devolution. It is definitely a step in the right direction, long overdue, but there is still much to learn and much to do. As we uncover more about the travesty that is the residential school system, it is our ongoing individual and collective responsibility to not only listen, but to take the time to understand the history and the extreme trauma that Indigenous peoples have experienced over many generations.



***Gisèle Hébert, Executive Director
Darlene Vanderlee, Board Chair***

AND WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN CONT'

As a sector we continue to grow and redesign child welfare. Facilitating a robust internal and external engagement process, the Agency unveiled its new 5 year Strategic Plan, outlining the following priorities:

- **Actioning Truth and Reconciliation**
- **Cultivating the vision of modern service systems**
- **Prioritizing a healthy workplace culture**
- **Driving targeted and strategic communications**
- **Leading with excellence and innovation**

The Society is incredibly proud to announce the opening of Arbour House, a 60 to 90 day, 8 bed crisis and stabilization residence for youth 12-18 years of age. It is an accomplishment we are extremely proud of, one that we have advocated for and could only dream of for many years, until now. This residence, a much-needed resource, is viewed as a “prototype” by the government and holds a focus of serving youth from the North. We are one step closer to keeping our children close to home, where they belong! We would like to thank the ministry for their ongoing support and we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to MPP Vic Fedeli for his ongoing advocacy for those living in the north, and for his faith in the work of this organization.

Thank you to all of the outstanding employees of the Children's Aid Society of the district of Nipissing and Parry Sound. You have remained steadfast in your determination to meet the needs of children, youth and families, regardless of what obstacles lay before you. Your creativity in doing so is inspiring. We are also extremely grateful to the remarkable board members that govern this organization. They are involved and engaged and always committed to advancing the priorities of the organization to ensure consistent service excellence. As always we look forward to what awaits us.



Darlene Vanderlee

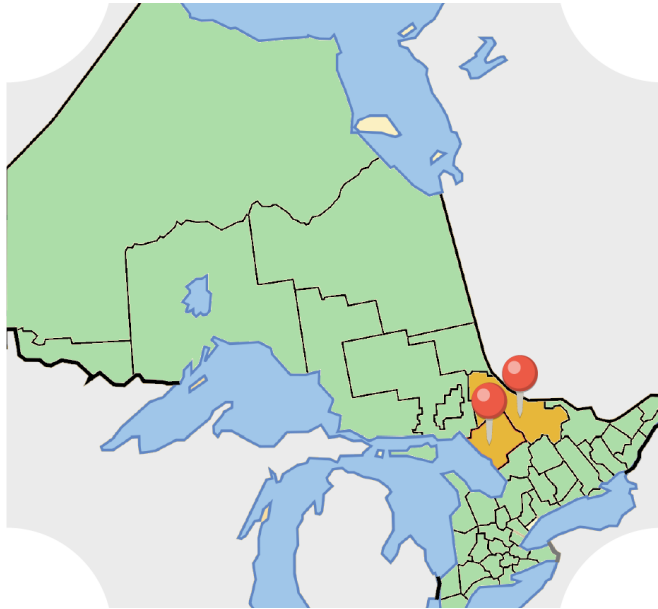
BOARD CHAIR



Gisèle Hébert

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AGENCY SNAPSHOT



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

Offices

433 McIntyre St. West
457 Main St. West
471 Main St. West
25 Church St., Parry Sound
140 Elmwood Ave.

With the development of our Elmwood location, **The Beauchamp Community Hub** offers a newly renovated space to house our youth hub, youth pantry and clothing Boutique as well as an infant and child development assessment room, outdoor equipment/gym for access visits and section 23 classroom. Thank you to the continued support of the Beauchamp family.

Homes

587 Gormanville St.
575 Gormanville St.
496 Kehoe St.
5 Bob Wood Dr.



149 Full Time Staff
6 Part Time Staff



SERVICE SNAPSHOT

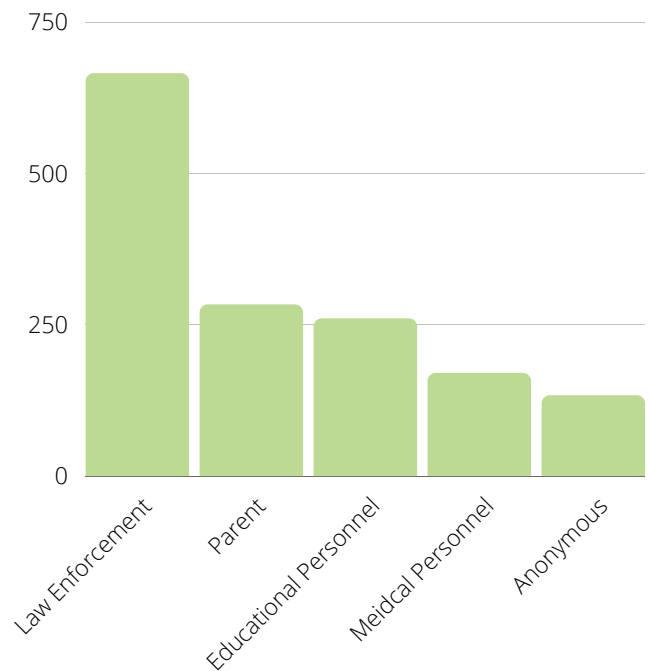
91 Children placed with Kin
42 Foster Homes
4 Adoptions Finalized
32 Children placed in customary care*

37 Volunteers
11 Volunteer Drivers

*monthly average



Top Referral Sources



Child Welfare

1444 Investigations Completed
395 Families served through Ongoing Protection
92 Brief Services
218 Community Links

Non Child Welfare

149 Families served through Infant and Child Development
74 Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) participants
30 high-risk youth served through Community Support Team (CST)
43 Mother Care Participants

What is Mothercare?

MotherCare Nipissing is a weekly drop-in program delivered through the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP). Created in 1994, CPNP provides funding to community groups to help improve the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their babies who face challenges that put their health at risk, such as poverty, teen pregnancy, social and geographic isolation, substance use, and family violence (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2021). **The program's specific goals include:**

- 1 To improve the health of women and their babies by increasing the number of babies born at a healthy weight and promoting and supporting breastfeeding;
- 2 To promote and create partnerships within communities to strengthen community capacity and increase support for vulnerable pregnant women and new mothers;
- 3 To ensure culturally sensitive prenatal support for Indigenous women and recent immigrants (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2021)



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Community collaboration is stronger than ever. We are collectively committed to providing innovative programs and services to children, youth and families.

**"THROUGH COMMUNITY
ENGAGED RESOURCE SHARING,
WE STRENGTHEN OUR FAMILIES."**



Our community partnerships:

- TriParty Agreement with North Bay Regional Health Centre and Hands thefamilyhelpnetwork.ca
- Community Counseling Centre Youth Addition Worker and Circle of Security
- Coordinated Service Planning (CSP)
- One Kids Place Volunteer Coordinator
- Near North District School Board Classrooms (North and Parry Sound)
- Gathering Place Community Garden
- Crown Ward Education Championship
- Child and Youth Advocacy Centre



Thank you to all employees who throughout COVID-19 have continued to provide direct service to children, youth and families. We're grateful to our PARNIPCAS family for going above and beyond during these unprecedented times.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Agency's **Itty Bitty Kindness Committee** is focused on promoting a culture of kindness in our community:

- \$2,025.00 raised by walking 30+ kms for Gathering Place Coldest Night of the Year
- 25 Staff participated in Earth Day Clean Up
- 1,210 pounds of non-perishables and \$640.00 donated to the North Bay Food Bank

The Joy Project, our community Christmas campaign matches sponsors to children in care by providing them with a personalized wish list. Thanks to our community, McDonald's and 101.9 FM The Rock for their continued support.

This year **140 children** and **175 families** were matched and over **\$25,000** was collected in monetary donations.

Dress Purple Day - October 27, 2020

This year, we partnered again with Wendy's in North Bay for our Dress Purple Campaign which brings awareness to Child Abuse. On October 27th, the community was asked to post using the hashtag **#IDressPurpleBecause** where Wendy's North Bay donated \$1 per hashtag for a total of \$1000 in support of our Kin Families.

Purple pumpkins were also delivered to Community Partners.

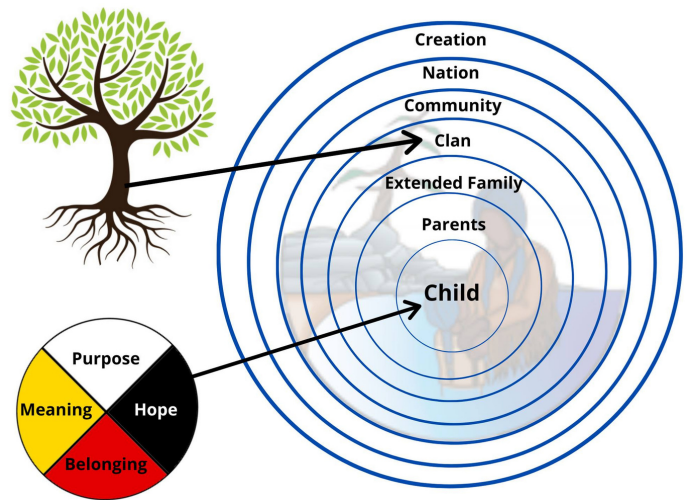


DEVOLUTION

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound, we would like to congratulate **Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services** on their designation on April 1, 2021.

Thank you to our staff for their efforts to help make devolution to Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services as seamless as possible.

We are honored to work alongside Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services and continue to be committed to truth and reconciliation.



161 files transferred from PARNIPCAS to NC&FS to date



Photograph taken by youth in care

WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES, A HOUSE OPENS

With the closure of the Near North Youth Centre in October 2020 the concept of **Arbour House** was brought to life. Set to open later this year, Arbour House is an eight-bed licensed children's residence located in North Bay, ON. Our program ensures children remain in the North by offering short-term crisis and stabilization placements which specialize in trauma informed programming for youth between the ages of 12 and 18.



"All Roads Lead Home"

Our Service Model represents a truly trauma informed approach with the goal of temporary placements (60-90 days). Planning focuses on reintegration to a family setting.

