



Message from the Board President and Executive Director

The fiscal year 2010/11 was a year of re-building and re-investing in service to support better outcomes for children, youth and families. Our funding stabilized and demand for service declined in the early part of the year, affording the opportunity to re-evaluate and enhance our service delivery model.

Our newly named Children and Youth Services Department re-organized to support positive outcomes for children and youth. We added resources to assist with clinical decisions, permanency, giving our youth a voice and strengthening our foster care system.

The Community Protection Department enhanced their clinical decision-making capacity with the implementation of a clinical consultation team. This team provides leadership in case conferencing and directing clinical support to children in their parent's home. Other additional staffing included a seasonal holiday event coordinator, an IT analyst and a management secretary. The Our Kids Network increased secretarial support and, through the successful application of a Trillium grant, hired a communications manager. In total, we added close to the equivalent of 15 full-time staff—with the majority employed to enhance direct service delivery. After downsizing last fiscal year, it felt good to re-invest in staffing that will move forward positive outcomes for children, youth and families.

We have been working with communications consultants to develop a Halton "I Am Your Children's Aid Campaign" and to write real stories for our website. Thanks to everyone who participated in the interviews and focus groups. You should look forward to seeing a revitalized version of our website in the near future.

With over 72% of our children in care over the age of 13, supporting our youth to achieve their educational goals is paramount, as education is a key to their future success. Partnerships with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Education have eased the transition from secondary to post secondary educational opportunities. Access to funding has improved and, with the continued support of the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton, more of our young adults are taking advantage of post secondary opportunities. Last year, the Foundation awarded \$140,000 to 32 deserving young adults. Supporting our youth emerging into adulthood remains a priority, as 27% of our youth are aged 18 and over.

There are many challenges ahead as we continue to advocate for extended service for the youth of our region. We know the government and, in particular the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, has listened to some of our concerns about our

youth, and we anxiously await details about future policy changes that will assist with permanency for all children and help our youth beyond 16 years.

A special thanks to those who help meet our vision:

- Staff (134) for working with 4,715 children and youth.
- Volunteers (127) for working 13,624 hours.
- Foster families (75) for opening their doors and hearts to 195 children and youth in care.
- The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton's volunteer Board for raising \$74,000 to send youth onto post secondary education and grow into independence, and support children and youth in after school programming, seasonal celebrations and summer camp.

As a community, we are collectively responsible to ensure that the children and youth in the Halton region grow and realize their potential within safe and nurturing environments. The investments made in the Agency are a clear reflection of how serious the Halton community takes this responsibility. The investments are, in fact, a direct investment in the families of Halton. We look forward to building on this momentum by continuing, in the months ahead, to further enhancing our partnerships with Halton families and our community partners.

Sincerely,

Scott Waterhouse, President / Nancy MacGillivray, Executive Director



Helping Children, Youth and Families Thrive