



**May 4, 2020**

## **The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk is #HeretoHelp Children, Youth and Families during the pandemic**

At The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk we recognize the ongoing strain on community members resulting from COVID-19 and the ongoing prevention measures. We want families and children to know that we are here to help. Reaching out for support can be difficult, but no matter your situation or the challenges you're facing, there are people and services in our community that you can turn to at any time to help keep you and your family safe and supported.

COVID-19 can lead to an increase in risk factors surrounding mental health, intimate partner violence, and maltreatment of children and youth. We encourage all community members to reach out if their family needs help or if they know a young person or family in need of support. If you have a concern about the safety or well-being of a child or youth under the age of 18, please contact your local Children's Aid Society or Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agency.

The ways in which social service providers deliver their supports look different because of the state of emergency in Ontario and the preventative measures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. However, social service providers have been deemed essential by the government and continue to provide support to their communities across Ontario.

At CASHN, agency staff are working diligently to provide important community services to children youth and families in a manner that is the most helpful. All staff are working remotely and are available by telephone, email and online platforms. "I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of our staff as well as the commitment of our kin and foster caregivers who are working with us to keep children and youth safe. By working together, we can continue to support those in our community who are most vulnerable", states Shannon Chevrier, Executive Director.

We encourage you to reach out if you need help or if you know about a young person or family who needs support. We can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 519-587-5437 or 1-888-CAS-KIDS. You can also visit our website [www.cashn.on.ca](http://www.cashn.on.ca) or the Ontario website [www.oacas.org/heretohelpON](http://www.oacas.org/heretohelpON) for more information or to locate a CAS in your area.

Shannon Chevrier, Executive Director  
The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk