



The Children's Aid Society
of Haldimand & Norfolk

MEDIA RELEASE



November 30, 2020

TOWNSEND & BRANTFORD - The Children's Aid Society of Haldimand and Norfolk (CASHN), in partnership with Brant Family and Children's Services (Brant FACS) are pleased to advise our community partners and stakeholders that, as of November 30, 2020, work will commence on a feasibility study regarding the potential amalgamation between the two organizations.

The two societies agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2020 to explore the feasibility of unifying the agencies. However soon after, all efforts and focus of the agencies shifted necessarily to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and families during an unprecedented global pandemic, as well as taking all steps possible to keep staff safe and supported while they continued their very important work.

July 2020, Dr. Bernadette Gallagher, the Ministry Appointed Supervisor to Brant FACS, retired and the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) appointed Sally Johnson to the role for a one-year period. Discussions regarding a potential amalgamation resumed between Brant FACS and CASHN, as well as MCCSS, in late summer 2020. Through the fall, the Board and Senior Teams worked to procure external consulting expertise to facilitate amalgamation planning with the two societies. CASHN and Brant FACS have now retained the Osborne Group to work with the Board and Senior Management Teams to conduct a feasibility study, culminating in a Go/No Go decision estimated to be made in late winter/early spring 2021.

As part of the early work, Osborne Group will be engaged in a comparative analysis of agency data, systems and service models, and focused on the establishment of a governance capacity to guide the work forward.

We recognize the importance and value of community consultation and input from key stakeholders in this process. We look forward to providing further information relating to opportunities for the community to provide input early in 2021.

CASHN and Brant FACS are committed to keeping you informed about the process as appropriate for all communities served by the two children's aid societies, including Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River and Ojwadeni:deo.

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