

Safe and Caring Places for Children and Youth:

ONTARIO'S BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING A NEW
SYSTEM OF LICENSED RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

BUILDING A NEW CHILD- AND YOUTH-CENTRED SERVICE SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS:

- **SAFETY** All children and youth in care are safe and feel safe
- **YOUTH VOICE** Young people can express their views freely and safely
- **GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY** Improved data allows better decision-making
- **QUALITY OF CARE** Standards informed by young people
- **CONSISTENCY** Standards maintained province-wide
- **INCLUSIVITY** All communications are inclusive
- **STRENGTHENED WORKFORCE** Young people are cared for by qualified, well-trained and responsive staff
- **RESPECTING CULTURES AND IDENTITIES** The needs of **all** children and youth (racialized, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S) are met and supported

LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- A new provincial service system that puts services closer to home, especially for Indigenous children and youth
- Better data and information to improve monitoring of placements and continuity of care
- A workforce development action plan, including exploring the establishment of minimum education requirements, so children and youth receive the best possible care
- Strengthened oversight and accountability by modernizing the licensing, compliance and enforcement framework

Co-developing services and supports with Indigenous partners

Reform is a collective effort across child- and youth-serving sectors

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Increasing the number of unannounced inspections of licensed residences
- Enhancing scrutiny to confirm licensed residential settings are compliant with Fire Code regulations
- Enhancing the use of serious occurrence reporting data to improve oversight
- Establishing Intensive Site Review Teams to conduct comprehensive inspections, including interviews with staff and youth
- Supporting children and youth to understand and exercise their rights and have a say about their homes
- Implementing quality of care standards informed by young people to improve the daily experiences of children and youth
- Reviewing licensing requirements through a culturally appropriate lens to support the use of customary care
- Releasing a resource guide to improve supports for LGBTQ2S children and youth in the child welfare system
- Implementing *A Better Way Forward: Ontario's 3-Year Anti-Racism Strategic Plan* and the *Ontario Black Youth Action Plan* to improve the experiences of Black, Indigenous and racialized children and youth in care
- Working to designate four more Indigenous agencies as children's aid societies, in addition to the current ten, to provide culturally appropriate services
- Building smaller youth justice facilities to support community-based programming and diversion
- Working with Indigenous partners, young people and other stakeholders to immediately explore options to replace the term "residential"
- Establishing an expert group on workforce development

QUALITY PILLARS

1

SAFE AND HEALTHY PLACES
Children and youth are provided with the care they need in places that are welcoming and physically safe when they cannot live in their homes.

2

A SENSE OF BELONGING
Children and youth are supported to have their voices heard, a sense of stability and personal fulfillment, continuity of care and hope for the future.

3

PLACES AND SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Children and youth are cared for by qualified staff and have access to high-quality services that are closer to home.