

# About Us



*Working together with our community to ensure the safety and well-being of children, youth, and families in Peel.*

## Strengthening families

We believe that children and youth belong at home with their families and will do everything we can to keep families together. We work with approximately 8,000 families each year, who may be facing challenges such as poverty, unemployment, ill health, domestic violence, mental health issues, or caring for a child who has serious physical, emotional or developmental difficulties. Peel Children's Aid Society (Peel CAS) works with the family to determine the kind of supports they need, and links them with the appropriate community services.

Our agency provides assessment and support programs to help create safe and loving homes for children. We work with families to offer guidance and techniques to improve parenting skills and communication. We are proud to partner with many culturally diverse community organizations to ensure the families we support have access to counselling and treatment programs specific to their needs.

Through culturally competent services, with the support of our Peel community, we help parents and caregivers build healthy families and provide a safe environment for children and youth.

## Providing care

Sometimes it is necessary to bring children into our care to ensure their safety and best interests. For children and teens who are unable to stay in their own home, or have no parent or guardian available, we place them in a temporary, safe and caring environment with kin, family friends or foster caregivers. Many of the children who come to foster families have experienced some form of abuse or neglect and need a loving, stable environment to help them recover from their experience. We provide ongoing support to children in care and their temporary caregivers, while we work with their families to create a safe home for the child to return to.

Peel Children's Aid Society also facilitates public adoptions for children whose birth family is unable to care for the child.



**99%** of our work is done with children, youth and families in their own homes.



In 2022-23, Peel CAS provided services in **45** different languages, through interpretation.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Truth and Reconciliation

At Peel CAS, we strive to be responsive to the unique needs of families in our region's diverse, multi-cultural community. Recognizing that Black and Indigenous children are over-represented in the child welfare system, we have developed a variety of culturally competent service models, including Akoma (for Black families), Saath (for South Asian families), Ma'an (for Arab families), and SEEA (for Southeast and East Asian families). We also collaborate with local Indigenous organizations and elders to provide services to Indigenous children, youth and families. All of our

wraparound service models are delivered in partnership with organizations that are rooted in their cultural communities.

Our goal is to be intentional and accountable in implementing anti-racism strategies and honouring our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Peel CAS is a positive, safe space where all 2SLGBTQ+ community members, friends and allies are welcomed and supported.

## A community responsibility

Keeping children safe is a community responsibility. If you are concerned about the safety or well-being of a child or youth under the age of 18, please call us. We understand that you may be hesitant to call with questions or to report your concerns about a child or family. If you are not sure whether to call, we recommend that you do. A trained Advice and Assessment worker will listen to your concerns and provide advice. We are available by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the Peel community.

Your call lets us know about a child, youth or family that might need support and will give you peace of mind that you did your part to help. All calls are confidential, and you are not required to give your name unless you are a professional who works with children, such as a teacher or a doctor.



## Learn more about Peel CAS and connect with us



PeelCAS.org



@PeelChildrensAid



905-363-6131



@PeelCAS