

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

La première ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



July 26, 2013

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His Worship R. (Bob) Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
Second Floor, 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

Thank you for your letter informing me of council's resolution regarding the funding of the Children's Aid Society of Hamilton and of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton. I appreciate your keeping me updated on council's activities.

I want to assure you of our government's continuing commitment to the safety of our province's children. I note that you have sent a copy of council's resolution to my colleague the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services. I have asked that either the minister or a member of her staff respond to you directly.

Mayor Bratina, thank you again for the information. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

c: The Honourable Teresa Piruzza



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

May 13, 2013

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Madam Premier:

Hamilton City Council at its meeting held on May 8, 2013, approved Item 12 of General Issues Committee Report 13-010, which reads as follows:

12. Provincial Funding Cuts – Children's Aid Society and Catholic Children's Aid Society (New Business)

That the City correspond with the Province expressing concern about the impact of funding cuts to the Children's Aid Society (CAS) and Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) on the children and citizens of Hamilton.

In order to demonstrate City Council's concerns, the following information is provided.

The Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CAS) and Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton (CCAS) priority has always focused on working with families to provide a safe and nurturing home and only admit children into care when safety cannot be achieved with parenting support and learning. The funding model adopted by the Government of Ontario is based on service volumes that include investigations, open protection cases, and children in care or permanent care. The City of Hamilton believes that the impact on children and families of this core focus on child protection will ultimately increase the risk and harm of children in our community. Prevention and early intervention can decrease risk for children and prevent the potential for increased harm from abuse and neglect. This budget reduction limits CAS' and CCAS' capacity to work with the community to support parents. Families will not receive assistance until the risk level for child safety is increased, resulting in more expensive and dramatic intervention, such as temporary custody with foster parents.

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Funding reductions of \$2 million to CAS and 2% reduction of funding to CCAS were announced on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. This new funding model means the CAS will see its 2013-2014 allocation reduced by \$2 million and by \$4.7 million over the next four years. In response to this reduction, CAS found as many efficiencies and administrative reductions as possible. However, due to the significance of the reduction, CAS laid off 20% of staff (70 staff) and ceased the delivery of a number of programs aimed at supporting families before they are in crisis. These include the Parent Support Worker, Family Management program, and the Medical and Dental clinic. All of these services were developed to provide support for families so that children could remain with their parents in a safe and healthy environment.

The mission of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services states that, "The Ministry is working with other ministries and community partners to develop and implement policies, programs and a service system that helps give children the best possible start in life, prepare youth to become productive adults and make it easier for families to access the services they need at all stages of a child's development."

The Council of the City of Hamilton is concerned that the impact of the funding reduction will not give children the best possible start in life or support families to access the services that they need. On behalf of City Council, I ask that you reconsider this decision and reinstate the funding to CAS and CCAS so that they can continue to invest in keeping children safe and healthy within their families.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Yours truly



R. Bratina
Mayor

c.c. The Honourable Teresa Piruzza
Minister of Children and Youth Services

The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Ted McMeekin, M.P.P., Ancaster/Dundas/Flamborough/Westdale
Andrea Horwath, M.P.P., Hamilton Centre
Tim Hudak, M.P.P., Niagara West-Glanbrook
Monique Taylor, M.P.P., Hamilton Mountain
Paul Miller, M.P.P., Hamilton East-Stoney Creek