

**Ministry of Children and Youth Services**  
**Growing up Great**  
**The Changing Landscape of the Child and**  
**Youth Sector**

September 30, 2014

# Ministry of Children and Youth Services

## Vision

- An Ontario where all children and youth have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

## Mission

- Working with government and community partners to develop and implement policies, programs and a service system that help 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.

# Principles

- Child-and youth-centred
- Responsive
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Outcomes-driven
- Accountable

# MCYS Regional Modernization

- On January 13, 2014, The Ministry of Children and Youth Services Delivery Division (SDD), the MCYS Youth Justice Services Division and the MCSS Community Developmental Services Division integrated into five new regions across Ontario.
- Both SDD and Youth Justice Services Division continue to work and have progressed towards ensuring a more consistent and responsive service system that will result in an improved client experience, regardless of where a client lives.

## Changing Landscape

- Better Pathways to Service
- Improved System Partnerships
- Stronger linkages with Ministries
- Evidenced Based Practice
- Outcomes for Children and Youth

# MCYS Strategic Plan

## Growing Together

1. Children and youth are resilient
2. Children and youth have the skills and opportunities needed to shape their own lives
3. Children and youth have a voice
4. Children and youth experience high-quality, responsive services

# Key Initiatives:

## Moving on Mental Health

- *Moving on Mental Health* was launched as part of Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. The plan is to transform the experiences of children, youth and families that need help for mental health issues.
- The system transformation model is based on a vision of strengthening the community-based child and youth mental health system of services for the benefit of families, children and youth who need accessible, responsive and evidence-based services.

# Key Initiatives: Moving on Mental Health

- The ministry has identified 34 geographical service areas to ensure that children, youth and families across the province can access the same core services, and have clear pathways to care.
- Families may choose to access child and youth mental health services from whichever service area is most convenient.
- Key element of the transformation plan is the identification of lead agencies.

# Key Initiatives: Child Protection

- Ontario is committed to improving the lives of our vulnerable children and youth in need of protection and there has been a transformation in child Welfare System in the Province with an increased focus on Family Based Care.
- Adoptions are now more flexible so that more children can be adopted while still keeping ties to their birth family and community after adoption.

# Key Initiatives: Child Protection

- There is an increased use of customary care arrangements so that Aboriginal children and youth can keep important cultural and family ties and making it easier for relatives and members of a child's community, including grandparents, to care for children and youth who need protection.
- In February, 2014 MCYS announced the implementation of the Youth-in-Transition Worker (YITW) Program. The Ministry is currently funding 50 Youth-in-Transition Workers (YITWs), located in 41 community agencies across Ontario.

# Key Initiatives: Special Needs Strategy

MCYS, Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), Education (EDU) and Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) *three* key initiatives under a Special Need Strategy:

1. A new voluntary standard developmental screen to identify potential risks to children's development as early as possible to connect families to the services they need.
2. Establishing child and family centred coordinated service planning processes for children with multiple and/or complex special needs.
3. Implementing the integrated delivery of children's rehabilitation services.

# Key Initiatives: Autism

- To provide more direct services for children and youth with autism, the Ministry re-invested \$5 million from the School Support Program to the Autism Intervention Program.
- This investment has created additional Intensive Behavioural Intervention spaces, so more children and youth can get the intensive therapy they need.
- Province-wide consultations have been held with parents, educators, clinicians and diagnosticians providing advice and input to the ministry on clinical practice guidelines and benchmarks.

## Key Initiatives: Student Nutrition Program

- The Ministry's vision is to provide children and youth access to healthy, nutritious food so that they have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.
- *2014 Ontario Budget* announced an increased investment over three years to expand and enhance Ontario's Student Nutrition Program.
- Investment will also enable the development of new program model(s) for on-reserve schools, led by First Nations communities.

# Child and Family Services Act Review

- MCYS is responsible for conducting a review of the Child and Family Services Act, which occurs every 5 years.
- The review will focus on input from youth, their families and child welfare stakeholders on issues of child welfare and children protection.
- Critical to a successful in the review is an inclusive, collaborative approach with an opportunity for feedback from key stakeholders and communities.

# Moving forward together

- We are transforming the mental health system for children, youth and their families through this coordinated approach – aiming at better access to services, strengthening cross-sectoral linkages, and to ensure coordinated services are available for children, youth and families in need of service.
- We are working diligently to have a single, seamless program for rehabilitation services for children and youth with special needs or next steps to further improve the supports and services available for children and youth with autism spectrum disorder and the overall family experience with autism services.
- We continue to work at improving the lives of our vulnerable children and youth that are in child protection through means of working towards the healthy development of all children and youth through research, education and program development.
- We continue to modernize our service system to meet the ongoing needs of the children, youth and families we serve in the East Region.