



Amalgamation Plan Submitted

On April 5th, the three Societies held a joint Press Conference at the Hastings Children's Aid Society to announce the approval of the Amalgamation Plan by their three Boards of Directors. The Plan was sent to the Commission on March 31, 2011. A key component of the Boards' agreement to endorse the Plan was the understanding that the Ministry would cover any historical debts incurred by the three Societies and would provide financial assistance in order to cover transition costs inherent with amalgamation. In late March, the three Societies were advised by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services that they would each be receiving a one-time grant, which was to be used for retirement of prior year debt. This funding will put the three Societies in a stable financial position as they proceed with the amalgamation process.

CAS Amalgamations Happening in Ontario

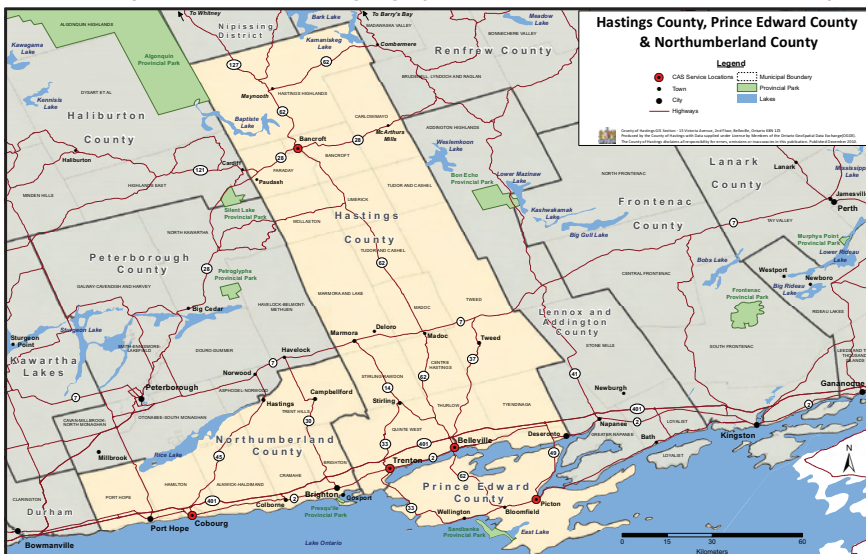
The amalgamation of the Children's Aid Societies of Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward Counties is only one of several happening in the province at the current time. The following Societies are also going through the process and are at various stages of amalgamation and planning:

- Kenora-Patricia/Rainy River
- Bruce/Grey
- Lennox-Addington/Frontenac
- Leeds-Grenville/Lanark
- Jeanne Sauvé/Timmons/Timiskaming

The Commission's target is for amalgamations to be completed by April 1, 2012.

The Communities We Serve

The new Society will serve a broad geographic area which is outlined on the map below.



Pictured above left to right: Board Chairs, Mark Quann, HCAS, Marilyn Curson, CASN and Steve Ward, PECAS, shake hands after announcing to the community on April 5th, their submission of an Amalgamation Plan.

Amalgamation Planning: What Happens Next?

Our current timeline based on a sixty day response from the Commission and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services:

March 31, 2011

The three Societies submitted a joint Amalgamation Plan to the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare.

April 2011 - May 2011

The Commission reviews the plan and makes recommendations for changes. The Plan is sent to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for approval.

June 2011

Approval of plan by Ministry

June/July 2011

Establishment of a new Corporation and creation of a Transition Board for amalgamated Societies

June 2011 - March 31, 2012

Transition planning and implementation

April 1, 2012

New Corporation begins operations



Agency/Branch Spotlight

In each Newsletter we will turn the spotlight on one agency or branch location in order to provide you with insights into the organization and the work they do. In this issue, we are highlighting the Children's Aid Society of the County of Prince Edward.

Established in 1906, The Children's Aid Society of the County of Prince Edward has a history of more than 100 years of service to families and children and is among the earliest Societies formed in Ontario.

In its centennial year in 2006, members of the Board of Directors, staff, foster families and volunteers celebrated the Society's "100 years of caring for families and children". The 100 year anniversary was also a time to pay tribute to the early community members whose vision for children led to the establishment of the Society.

Through the course of the Society's history, the work of Board members, staff and foster families has been influenced by change in social policy, public opinion and laws governing the work of Children's Aid Societies.

The Society operated from a series of rented office locations in the town of Picton before securing its own building, at 16 Mac Steven Drive, Picton in May of 2000. The office building was designed with full attention to providing a safe and comfortable atmosphere for its work with families and children.

Quick Facts about PECAS:

- **Total Staff - 30**
- **Number of Foster Homes - 37**
- **Children in Care - 84**
- **Geography Served - County of Prince Edward**

Community Consultation is Important

Our relationships with our community partners in Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward Counties are extremely important to us. During the amalgamation planning process consultations took place with several community groups.

In Northumberland, a community consultation was held on March 1st for community services and agencies to provide advice on the development of a new child welfare organization for the three counties of Hastings, Northumberland and Prince Edward. Rich information was provided about designing services and the importance of reflecting local history and achievements.

In Belleville, representatives from the Hastings Children's Aid Society and the Children's Aid Society of the County of Prince Edward met on March 22nd with members of the CORE Integration Team. This group includes representatives from various child centered service organizations located in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate dialog and consultation with these various stakeholders. The input received from the focus sessions conducted during the meeting was helpful in terms of ensuring that the needs and concerns of these partners were addressed in the Amalgamation Plan.

The three Societies will continue to meet with their community partners as they move through the transition process towards amalgamation.

Service Delivery in the New Organization

The following principles will be used to guide the development of the proposed service delivery model for the amalgamated Society:

- Follow the principles of the Transformation Agenda
- Evidence-based and outcome focused
- Strength-based and solution focused
- Value for money/efficiency
- Maintaining or improving community collaboration and partnerships
- Universal access across the geographic area, respectful of community uniqueness

Our Vision

- Services available at sites in Belleville, Picton, Trenton, Cobourg, Bancroft and Campbellford and throughout the geographic areas served by the three Societies
- People will experience similar services regardless of their place of residence
- There will be flexibility and decentralization within the service delivery model to reflect the needs of the child and family within our community.

Our Amalgamation Vision

The three Societies have developed a vision that will guide us through the amalgamation process. We will develop a vision for the new Corporation as part of our future work.

Our vision for Amalgamation builds on the strengths and successes of our combined history to create a sustainable agency that is responsive to the needs of our children, youth and families and unique communities, and that establishes itself as a centre of leadership and excellence in child welfare services within Ontario.