

For Immediate Release

January 11, 2019

Recent media coverage about cuts to funding at Huron House Boys' Home ([Boys Home future in jeopardy](#), Blackburn News, Jan 10, 2019) highlights the fact that the Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society has chosen to no longer fund residential placements to Huron House. We feel it's important to provide an explanation for this decision, which we know is in the best interest of children, youth, and families.

Young people in Sarnia-Lambton and across the province have long told us how important it is to have families safely caring for them. When they live with families, they have better outcomes. We have made it our goal to have all children and youth grow up safely with families.

That's why nearly seven years ago, we began to focus much more on supporting young people living with families. By working in partnership with families and communities, we have greatly increased help to the different kinds of families — birth, kin, Formal Customary Care, foster, and adoptive. This was communicated to Huron House early and often over that period.

Because of this shift in focus, we have made significant positive progress for young people. We have gone from having approximately 40 youth in a variety of group homes in 2012 to only one remaining in group care today.

The residential care system in Ontario needs significant changes to improve outcomes for young people. Reports and research like the February 2016 report [Because Young People Matter](#) provide important information about the changes that are needed. This is not specific to Huron House — it is across Ontario.

We extend our appreciation to the many community partners who have been working together and listening to young people and families about how to improve social services, especially those focused on mental health, for children and youth.



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