



## Highlights from the Board of Directors

Hello everyone,

I am honoured to now be serving as the President of the Board of Directors for the Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society. It is my intent to send out a message to all staff following our monthly board meetings that highlight what was discussed. We met on October 10<sup>th</sup>, our first full Board meeting following the Annual General Meeting:

- We welcomed new Board members - Deb Pretty, Mariah Amor and Steph Brown.
- Lynn Rosales, Carm Rogers and Dawn Flegel shared their experiences of the Provincial Gathering that was held at Rama First Nation. The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies apologized for the role that child welfare has played and continues to play in the lives of Indigenous children, youth, families & communities. It was a very emotional meeting with strong impact. The eight commitments that were made by all Children's Aid Societies were shared and reinforced. The request has been made to return in one year to report on the progress made with the commitments.
- The Board was presented with a revised budget based on the Ministry's funding allocation this year and the preliminary analysis of actual expenses during the first 6 months of the year. A motion was passed approving a revised balanced budget. There is no negative impact on services and no impact on staffing levels based on the funding allocation.
- The Board decided that the agency's bylaws will be reviewed this year.
- An orientation is provided at the beginning of every Board meeting. Board members were asked to provide input on what kinds of topics for the orientations.
- The Board passed a motion approving all the revised year-end financial statements.
- There was an in camera session where three items were discussed – 2 related to specific family situations and 1 related to a settlement that was reached in a lawsuit.

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Michelle Shelswell,  
President of the Sarnia CAS Board of Directors