



Highlights from the Board of Directors Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society Board President – Ryan Bell

Hello everyone,

The Board of Directors met on October 30th, 2018 and I am pleased to share with you the following highlights from the meeting:

- The Board received an orientation on governance, roles of Board members and an overview of the agency. Thank you to Board member, Mariah Amor for her assistance in putting the presentation together. Board members also participated in ice breaker activities designed to get to know each other.
- Sharon Elaine Coyle was elected to the Board of Directors as a representative from Walpole Island First Nation. Welcome to Sharon. We are very pleased to have her join the Board.
- The Board approved the consent agenda which contained minutes from the previous meeting, Executive Director report, Directors of Service report, Committee reports, and motions that were passed at the September 2018 Annual General Meeting.
- There was discussion about the follow up meeting from last year's apology given by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies on behalf of all non-Indigenous agencies for the harm caused by child welfare. The one year follow up was held in September 2018 at Rama First Nation. Board members Sharon Elaine Coyle and Lynn Rosales attended with Jen Thrasher, Dawn Flegel and other representatives from three First Nations locally. The gathering was a mixture of hope because there have been some changes made in child welfare over the past year and a positive shift in some relationships, and disappointment in the lack of progress being made across the province on the 8 Commitments, particularly the poor results in providing Indigenous training to child welfare staff.
- The Board reviewed and approved the revised 2018/2019 Budget. We received less revenue than we had anticipated from the provincial government. We intend to use the funds in the Balanced Budget Fund over the next two years in order to balance the budget and not compromise service to children, youth and families.
- The following additional motions were passed:
 - Approval of Work plans for the Quality & Outcomes Committee and the Corporate Services Committee.
 - Approval of the Quality Improvement Plan.
 - Acceptance of the confirmation of statutory remittances.
- An update was provided to the Board on hiring.

- An update was provided to the Board on the continued challenges with the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) and the provincial advocacy that is occurring to address the high number of outages.
 - The new Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies Strategic Plan was shared with the Board. There is alignment between the provincial strategic plan and our agency's strategic plan.
 - An in camera session was held regarding a specific situation related to children; a personnel matter and a statement of claim.
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