

What is the child welfare system in Canada?

Canada's child welfare system includes children's aid societies created by provincial and territorial governments, sometimes working in partnership with private organizations. These societies and organizations – called child welfare agencies – provide services that help protect infants, children and youth who are experiencing abuse or are at risk of experiencing abuse. They also provide help to families who want some extra support and assistance. **The primary goal of Children's Aid Societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agencies is to keep children at home and in their communities.**

What is Children's Aid Foundation of Canada and how do they help children, youth and families?

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada is Canada's leading charity dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth in the child welfare system.

The Foundation is an ally to and an advocate for children and youth involved in or at risk of entering the child welfare system. The Foundation raises and grants funds to deliver a wide range of programs and services in partnership with our national network of child- and youth-serving agencies. The Foundation also amplifies voices of allies, partners and the young people whom we serve while offering a space for young people with lived experience to have their voices heard. Additionally, the Foundation provides access to opportunities that can help young people build successful futures for themselves.

Glossary of Terms

ADOPTION

Adoption is the legal process that gives children and youth a permanent, loving relationship with a new family when their birth families are unable to care for them.

ALLY

An ally is an individual who stands up for a person or group that is targeted and discriminated against.

BIRTH PARENT

A birth parent, mom or dad (sometimes called the 'first parent' or 'original parent') is the child's biological mother or father.

CHILD WELFARE

A set of government services and organizations designed to protect and safeguard children and encourage family stability.

CUSTOM CARE PLACEMENT

First Nation, Métis, and Inuit families can be tied together by things such as blood relation or their clan. This means they share collective responsibility for raising children. This is known as customary care.

EXTENDED FAMILY

People who are related to a child by blood, through family or through adoption and, in the case of a child who is an Indigenous person, includes any member of the child's Band or Native community.

FOSTER CARE AND FOSTER HOME

Foster care is a temporary support to children who can't stay in their own family home. When living in foster care, the place where the child is living becomes their foster home.

FOSTER PARENT(S)

Foster parents are individuals or couples from all walks of life who have a genuine interest in caring for children or youth.

GROUP HOME

A group home is an alternative to a foster home. Many children can live in one group home together.

KINSHIP CARE OR KIN CARE

Kinship care, or kin care, is the care and nurturing of a child in need of support by a family member, extended family member, or someone who already knew the child before they entered care.

ORPHANAGE

An orphanage houses children who are orphaned, abandoned, or whose parents are unable to care for them. In Canada, instead of using the term 'orphanage', we now use the term 'group home' (see above). In other countries like Ethiopia, 'orphanage' is the correct term.

POW WOW

A celebration that showcases Indigenous music, dances, regalia, food and crafts.

PROUD SUPPORTERS:



MEDIA PARTNERS:

