



Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
Bureau de la vérificatrice générale de l'Ontario

Value-for-money audit of:

Child Protection Services Program—Ministry

2015 Annual Report, Section 3.03

Background

- Ministry administers Child Protection Services Program to help children and youth who have been or are at risk of being abused or neglected
- Ministry oversees and monitors services provided by Ontario's 47 Children's Aid Societies
- Ministry provided \$1.47 billion in funding to Societies in 2014/15



Audit Objective

Assess whether:

- the Ministry has effective policies and procedures for ensuring that children in need of protection receive the appropriate service in accordance with legislation, policy and program requirements; and
- funding provided to Societies is commensurate with the value of the services provided.



Overall Conclusions

- Ministry needs more information about quality of care provided to children to help it provide effective oversight of Societies
- Ministry needs to act on data showing young people who have received protection services face significant challenges when transitioning to independent living
- Ministry's new funding model still does not provide funding to Societies based on service needs



Specific Findings

- Ministry oversight is limited for children receiving protection services but still living with their families
- Ministry not ensuring that Societies implement recommendations arising from investigations into the deaths of children
- Licensing inspections of group and foster homes found recurring instances of non-compliance that could pose safety risks
- Ontario provides no child protection services to youth aged 16 or 17 who feel unsafe and are not already receiving services, although other provinces do



Recommendations

The Ministry should:

- collect and analyze performance data from each Society to identify issues requiring action;
- assess the impact of its funding model on service delivery, and make changes if service is being adversely affected;
- resolve all key problems with its new data network and ensure system is fully functional by 2020; and
- consider extending child protection services to all children and youths under the age of 18.



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