



Dr. Dirk Huyer,  
Chief Coroner for Ontario  
Office of the Chief Coroner  
26 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2G9

May 30, 2017

**Chief Coroner,**

**RE: Recent Deaths in Residential Care - Statement of The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care**

The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care represents Child and Youth Care Practitioners across Ontario. Our members are educated professionals, committed to a code of ethics and providing quality Child and Youth Care services to young people and their families.

Regulations in residential care facilities should be about safe environments that create the best possible circumstances to provide care to our province's children. However, some of the recent situations have left us questioning the safety of some of these environments for young people and for Child and Youth Care staff. We want to be clear, before we move forward to raise concerns about the system, that we recognize the many professionals, service providers, program operators, ministry staff members and many others who work very hard with integrity and ethics to care for the children and youth of Ontario.

These tragedies have made this discussion more urgent. Moving forward we need to open dialogue about how we are safeguarding children and youth in terms of: **placement matching, staffing ratios, regulated pre-service qualifications, supervision models, crisis management, regulations and investigations, professional development, models of residential care and funding.**

It is time to examine assumptions about the system and the young people who depend on it. We must discover and discuss what is truly happening and make a commitment to make changes for the safety of the most vulnerable and high risk young people in Ontario. This will take courage and solution focused minds. This will also require the financial investment to properly fund these programs. We can do better on all levels from Ministry, to service providers, and to front line CYC's. We cannot emphasize enough the need for safeguards for all children and youth in Ontario. They are **our** young people and we need to do better now.

***The Ontario Association for Child and Youth Care joins the Ontario Provincial Advocate's office and the OACAS in support of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation's (NAN),***



Ontario Association of  
**CHILD AND YOUTH CARE**  
Association Ontarienne des Techniques  
D'ÉDUCATION SPÉCIALISÉE

c/o The School of Child and Youth Care,  
Ryerson University,  
350 Victoria Street,  
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

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***urgent request that the Office of the Chief Coroner call a discretionary inquest into the deaths of the two young people in residential care settings. Furthermore, we also support that an inquest be called anytime a child dies or a staff person dies performing the duties of their job in a residential care setting in the Province of Ontario.***

Respectfully,

Christine Gaitens  
President of the Board  
Ontario Association of Child & Youth Care