



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

📞 416-621-4340

✉️ office@oacyc.org

🌐 oacyc.org

Ontario Social Services Workers Association (OSSWA)

Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC)

JOINT STATEMENT

In Solidarity with Social Service Workers and Child and Youth Workers, and Community Workers

Sector-Wide Strike Action

Date: June 5, 2026

To the Workers on Strike

We, Coura Niang, President of the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC), and Matthew Carrol, President of the Ontario Social Service Workers Association (OSSWA), write to stand beside you as leaders of professional Associations whose mandate is rooted in the advancement of your practice, the protection of the public, and the empowerment of workers and communities to advocate for the care they provide and the clients they serve.

What is unfolding across Ontario right now is not simply a labour dispute. It is a visible and undeniable consequence of years of systemic underfunding of community, health and social services, a sector that catches people when every other system has failed them. The Financial Accountability Office has identified a \$1.5 billion shortfall in the Ministry of Community and Social Services budget for 2025/2026. That gap is not abstract. It shows up in your caseloads, your burnout, your inability to retain skilled colleagues, and ultimately in the gaps in care experienced by the children, families, and community members who depend on you.

The unconstitutional wage caps imposed through Bill 124 compounded an already fragile situation, suppressing compensation for workers whose roles demand specialized knowledge, relational skill, and profound emotional commitment. The professionals represented by our Associations, Registered Social Service workers and Child and Youth Care Practitioners, were among those most affected. Wages that do not reflect the value and complexity of this work are not just a personal

injustice. They are a public safety concern. Workforce instability means disrupted relationships, lost institutional knowledge, and reduced capacity to serve our communities experiencing increased vulnerability. That is a practice issue, and it is our issue too.

Our Associations engage with government, employers, and sector partners through relational and advocacy channels, and we will continue to do so. We believe in building bridges and working toward sustainable, systemic solutions through dialogue. But advocacy through relationships does not mean silence in moments like this. It means naming what is true: that the professionals on these picket lines are fighting for the future of services that Ontario communities cannot afford to lose.

To the workers on strike: your action is an act of professional courage. You are not walking away from the people you serve. You are fighting for the conditions that make it possible to serve them well. You are demonstrating, publicly and collectively, that quality care requires investment, that retention requires fair compensation, and that the sector you have dedicated your careers to deserves to be treated as the essential infrastructure it is.

We see the weight you are carrying. We recognize the stakes. And we are with you, in the boardroom, at the policy table, and in solidarity today.

**#WorthFightingFor #SocialServiceStrike #FairWagesNow #CommunityCareCrisis
#ChildAndYouthCare #SocialWork #OntarioWorkers #OSSWA #OACYC**

Coura Niang, President

Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC)

Matthew Carrol, President

Ontario Social Services Workers Association (OSSWA)