



July 18, 2019

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton provides services to children, youth and families in the Hamilton community. Governed by civil legislation and guided by our Catholic values, we are committed to protect the safety and well-being of all children and youth, to strengthen families of all types, and to nurture lifelong relationships that sustain wholeness and vitality for all persons regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

Our agency services are inspired by the rich tradition of Catholic moral and social teaching, which upholds the sacredness of the person, family life, and the common good. We serve in a spirit of solidarity with our church and community partners in seeking justice and peace in our society. We focus especially in our mission on the needs and rights of the children that we serve. We honour the differences that make each person unique and are committed to equity, inclusion and empowerment for all our staff and service recipients, helping them to participate fully in decisions that impact their lives.

Consistent with our values and commitment to social justice, our agency strongly denounces the hate, violence and extremist ideology that was displayed in recent weeks towards the LGBTQ2S+ community. Our agency recognizes and honours the needs of all LGBTQ2S+ children, youth and the families in which they live. We deplore the suffering they have experienced through injustice, marginalization and systemic barriers to services. We are committed to the safety and well-being of the entire community for all. Acts of hate and violence against any group has a direct impact on the children and families we serve as well as our staff and community partners.

We call on all community leaders, including ourselves, to share responsibility for creating a climate of justice, peace and respect for every member of our society and to ensure that Hamilton is a safe community for all persons.

Sincerely,

Rocco Gizzarelli, MSW, RSW  
Executive Director

Larry Di Ianni  
Board Chair