

## Silencing Foster Kids Voices!

Ontario's foster children need your help to have their voices heard. Children's Aid Societies boast they are giving foster kids a voice with their "USE YOUR VOICE" campaign where people get up on a microphone and yell out phrases such as "STOP CHILD ABUSE" to see who screams the loudest.

This is a great publicity campaign, but what do the foster kids have to say about the services they are receiving? What concerns are they telling us? Are all 30,000 of them in Ontario happy with their services? Are any of them being abused while in foster care? Are any of them suffering by not being allowed to see their siblings? Are any of them being told not to talk to their families about problems or harm being done to them in foster care?

We can't answer these and other important questions because existing legislation makes it a chargeable offence for children and youth in foster care, their advocates, family members, supporters, and the media to make public any information which has the effect of identifying children and youth in foster care, their foster parents, or family members, effectively silencing them!

## **SUPPORT**

In order to make this ride a reality by July 2010, we require your help or the help of an individual or company you are aware of who may be supportive of the Ride for Accountability of Children's Aid Societies. If you think you can help, please contact us and help out.

**Offer Your Support Today!**

(613) 220-1039

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Send Cheques or Money Orders

Payable to:

**Foster Care Council of Canada**

**12-1160 Meadowlands Drive East**

**Ottawa, ON, K2E 6J2**

## **RACAS**

**RIDE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY  
OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES**

**OTTAWA to WINDSOR  
JULY 2010**



**[www.racas.wetpaint.com](http://www.racas.wetpaint.com)**

# R A C A S

There are 53 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario which have the mandate of protecting children and youth from abuse and neglect. Although they are often successful at meeting their mandate, many professionals and government officials are aware that Societies and their staff have engaged in illegal and unprofessional conduct which has resulted in deaths, suicides, or suffering of the children and family members they serve. (see website for details)

**Ombudsman Oversight:** Although Ontario's Ombudsmen have fought long and hard over the years to get oversight of Children's Aid Societies, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and several MPP's have actively, openly, and successfully blocked their efforts.

**Ministry & Public Oversight:** The Ministry of Children and Youth Services fails to thoroughly and publicly oversee Children's Aid Societies despite overwhelming evidence demonstrating the need to do so. The ministry also fails to be transparent and accountable to the public by not publishing child welfare related statistics, results of ministry reviews, investigations, license revocations, directives, guidelines, and other public-interest information.

Hello, my name is John Dunn and I am a former foster child. I lived in foster care for sixteen years, some of which were with my older brother Ron Dunn who will also join me while I ride through Toronto!



During that time my brother and I had lived in approximately 13 different foster homes -- not an uncommon experience among foster children. Having experienced a childhood in foster care and having dealt with Children's Aid Societies as an advocate in adulthood, I have decided to embark upon this ride to promote awareness of the need for increased transparency and accountability of Children's Aid Societies to the public, government officials, and the media to benefit foster kids and their families.

## LEARN MORE

To learn more about the actual issues which have inspired RACAS please visit the RACAS website below.

<http://www.racas.wetpaint.com>

## SOME ISSUES

- Over \$2 Million a year in tax-payers money sent to a high-priced lobby group made up of CAS executive directors and lobbyists (OACAS)
- Children being alienated from their brothers, sisters, parents, family, and friends while families fight with CAS for years just to get or maintain visits
- Children's rights to private communication, visits with family, advocates, MPP's, and the Ombudsman blocked by CAS and foster parents
- CAS putting false and misleading information put into court documents
- CAS using tax-payers money to retain external law firms to assist them in contravening offence provisions of the *Corporations Act*
- Ministry withholding from the public, child welfare statistics, group home license removals, directives, policies, guidelines to CAS, crown ward review outcomes, and more
- Child-restraint training certificates issued to group home staff without reviewing course transcripts
- Ministry denies responsibility when CAS fails to abide by or contravenes governing legislation and regulations
- Ministry blocking Ombudsman efforts to directly oversee Children's Aid Societies
- Ministry failing to consult general public when drafting important regulations