

January 29, 2010

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The Town of Collingwood
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Attn: Mayor and Members of Council

Dear Mayor and Members of Council

RE: Support from the Town of Collingwood to help make CAS agencies be more accountable and transparent in the interest of the community

It has been reported by the news media that the Simcoe County Children's Aid Society has requested that the Town of Collingwood provide \$10,000 in funding to its agency.

Without going into any personal details, let me only say that I am one of the many parents from across Ontario whose children have been tragically affected by the unforgivable actions of the Children's Aid Society and its workers, some whom have been caught committing criminal acts while working in their capacity as CAS workers. After my family's experience, I am collaborating with other parents to advocate for change to CAS agencies in Ontario in order to prevent other families from being adversely affected by the CAS as was my family. Through our efforts we hope to make the child protection system in Ontario the best in the world.

A number of children and parents have alleged that they have been abused and their rights violated by the Simcoe CAS with some of their testimony being recorded on videotape. The Simcoe CAS has been the subject of complaints in which it was alleged their workers caused unnecessary harm to children and families.

Please read the attached letter which I sent to the Rotary Club in response to their donation to the Children's Aid Society in that area. My letter to the Rotary Club gives a good background description of the problems which CAS agencies are causing to children and families across Ontario. The links which I have included in that letter reveal a chilling trail of destruction being inflicted upon children and their families by CAS workers in the Province of Ontario. I urge all members of the Town of Collingwood Council to review the information easily found at these links. Much of this destruction is going on as a result of the lack of transparency and accountability within CAS agencies.


At this time, I would ask that the Town of Collingwood refuse to provide any money to the Simcoe Children's Aid Society until such time as the Society has agreed to implement most, if not all of the recommendations contained within the working paper from the Family Justice Review Committee called, "***Promoting Transparency, Accountability, Fairness and Professionalism within Ontario's Child Protection System***" which I have attached to this letter. There is no reason why the Simcoe CAS should refuse to implement these recommendations if it is truly willing to be accountable to children, families and the taxpayers of Ontario. I am in full support of CAS getting the funding it needs but only if its agency agrees to implement transparent and accountable practices for all its operations.

Citizens in most communities in Ontario would not feel it right for any Children's Aid Society Foundation to ask for money for its agency in one hand while the child protection branch of the same agency is harming children and wasting significant tax dollars.

I would be most pleased to make a personal presentation to The Committee of the Whole and to answer any questions that Members of Council may have on the important subject of CAS accountability and transparency.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly



Attila Vinczer
Family Advocate

Attachments:

- 1) "***Promoting accountability, transparency, fairness and Professionalism within Ontario's Child Protection System***" (25 pages – working paper by the Family Justice Review Committee)
- 2) Letter to the Rotary Club of Belleville (7 pages) including 2 pages of information regarding abuse of children and families by CAS agencies