



The Child Welfare Immigration Centre of Excellence:

Applying an Anti-Racism Lens to Child Welfare: Protecting Vulnerable Newcomer Children through the National Outreach Project



Land Acknowledgements

The Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel operates, gathers and is located within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We also acknowledge the Traditional Territory of Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat peoples. Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be stewards of this land and their presence continues to live here. We thank the many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Metis people for sharing this land with us and are grateful for the opportunity to work on this land.

We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq People, covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship," which recognized Mi'kmaq and Maliseet title and established ongoing nation-to-nation relationships.

We also recognize the contributions of African Nova Scotians, including Black Loyalists who sided with Britain in the American War of Independence, Maroons who resisted British and Spanish forces in Jamaica, and Black Refugees who fought for Britain in the War of 1812.



CWICE

Child Welfare Immigration
Centre of Excellence

About **CWICE**

Bridging Child Welfare and Immigration



Case Consultation

Offering expert advice on complex child protection and immigration cases.



Training

Providing specialized knowledge to child welfare professionals.



Policy Advocacy

Influencing policies to better support children with immigration challenges.



Collaboration

Partnering with local, provincial, and federal organizations to resolve immigration issues.

Established in 2018 and hosted by Peel Children's Aid Society, CWICE addresses the intersection of child welfare with unresolved immigration, settlement, or border-related issues.

Developments in Governance

- **OACAS & OVOV Equity-centred Eligibility Spectrum Update (2024):**
 - Recognizes systemic racism and integrates identity-based considerations.
 - Supports Indigenous data sovereignty by enhancing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities' role in equitable decision-making.
- **Anti-Racism Act (2017) and Implementation of Bill C-92 & CYFSA amendments (in effect 2020)**
 - CYFSA diversity requirement: Services must address systemic racism and barriers to inclusion.
 - Recognizes Indigenous self-governance in child and family services and embeds cultural continuity and legislative accountability in service delivery.



Why Anti-Racism Matters in Child Welfare



- Racism exists across institutions, including child welfare, impacting children, youth, and families.
- Anti-racism promotes fairness, safety, and inclusive decision-making.
- Ongoing learning and dialogue address harms experienced by Black, Indigenous, newcomer, and racialized communities.
- Accountability and community partnership build trust and improve outcomes.
- Embedding an anti-racism lens in policies and practice creates a more equitable child welfare system.



CWICE

Child Welfare Immigration
Centre of Excellence

Children from newcomer households are more than **TWICE** as likely to be the subject of *child maltreatment-related investigations* compared to children from non-newcomer households in Ontario.



CWICE

Child Welfare Immigration
Centre of Excellence

Source: Houston E., Ganness A., Black T., Fallon B. (2021) - [Examining Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations of Children from Newcomer and non-Newcomer Households in Ontario, Canada](#) | [International Journal of Child and Adolescent Resilience](#)



CWICE National Outreach Project



Why Are We Doing This?

Improve Outcomes

Better support for children and families at the intersection of immigration and child welfare across Canada.

Integration Into Practice

Support Implementation in Practice and Policies through Consultation and Knowledge Sharing.

Collaborative Learning



Why Participate?

Enhance Capacity

Utilize CWICE's knowledge and expertise to improve outcomes through training and evaluation.

Foster Data Capabilities

Develop a robust data collection culture to meet the challenges posed by the intersection of Immigration and child welfare.

Train Today & Shape Tomorrow



What can we expect from the project?

Increased Service Quality

Improved service delivery strategies that can facilitate the integration of GAR families.

Cross-Provincial Collaboration

Shared knowledge and best practices.

Strengthened Local Capacity

Empowered child welfare professionals.

A Commitment to Action

Practical Strategies



- Build relationships with settlement partners to strengthen support networks
- Apply cultural humility and curiosity in every interaction with children, youth, and families
- Reflect on bias and privilege in decision-making to ensure fairness and inclusivity
- Advocate for anti-racism in organizational policy and practice

Policy and Leadership

- Leaders model anti-racism and cultural responsiveness in daily practice
- Include newcomer voices in policy and program design
- Strengthen data collection on race, ethnicity, and migration status
- Review and update policies to remove systemic barriers
- Foster accountability through transparent decision-making and shared power



Moving Forward – Collective Action

- Equity for newcomer children requires ongoing partnership across sectors.
- National collaboration strengthens local practice and knowledge-sharing.
- All practitioners and leaders have a role in dismantling systemic barriers.
- Sustained community engagement ensures culturally responsive and effective services.



How to Reach Us

- **Email:**

- cwice@peelcas.org
- mail@peelcas.org

- **Websites:**

- www.cwice.ca (CWICE)
- www.peelcas.org (Peel CAS)

Thank

You