

emol 23.02.16
Standing Committee on
Health & Wellness
Min. Tina Mundy

Grandparents as Primary Caregivers

Presentation to Standing Committee for Health and Wellness
February 23, 2016



Family and
Human Services

Motion # 60

Grandparents as Primary Caregivers

Support for grandparents acting as primary care givers

Tina Mundy gives notice that tomorrow she will move, seconded by Robert Henderson, the following Motion:

WHEREAS it is becoming more common for grandparents to take on the role of primary caregiver for their grandchildren on Prince Edward Island for a variety of reasons;

AND WHEREAS raising a second generation brings many rewards;

AND WHEREAS compared to non-caregivers, grandparents raising grandchildren have significantly more mental and physical health problems;

AND WHEREAS grandparents face additional challenges as they may be on a fixed income, retired, or unable to return to work;

AND WHEREAS many grandparents are raising children through informal arrangements and are not in the social assistance system;

AND WHEREAS research suggests that economic relief for low-income caregiver grandparents may be successful at reducing the burdens they face;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for a variety of services and policies that can provide missing resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly urges the provincial government to review and explore supports given to grandparents who are their grandchild's primary care giver and to ensure that adequate assistance is in place;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this topic be directed to the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness for further exploration.

My interest

- Grandparents support group
- Personal experience
- Skip generation



“Skip-generation” families

- **Factors contributing to “skip-generation” families:**
 - Employment
 - Illness
 - Substance abuse
 - Financial/legal issues
 - Death
 - Divorce
 - Child protection
- **Demographics:**
 - Single female
 - Indigenous
 - Unemployed or retired



Role of Department of Family and Human Services

- **Financial Support**

Grandparents are able to apply for Social Assistance & Child Care Subsidy.

- **Child Protection Act**

Defines child rights to protection from parental harm and community responsibility to protect children

Child Protection Services

- **Investigation of Child Protection Reports**
Reports of abuse or neglect made by calling:
1-800-341-6868
- **Mandatory Reporting**
A requirement in the *Child Protection Act*
- **All reports are assessed and/or investigated by the Department**

Child Protection Services

Children Not In Care:

- Least Intrusive Arrangements
Parent makes safety plan for their child

Children In Care:

- **Foster Home**
65 foster homes in the province
13 kinship homes
- **Group Home**
Five group homes in the province – 24/7 care

Child Protection Statistics

Type of Service	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Child Protection Reports Received	3,461	3,326	3,766	3,368
Child Protection Investigations Opened	2,105	1,786	1,926	1,838
Children Who Received Child Protection Services in Their Own Homes	575	512	690	720
Children in Care	264	224	230	225
Focused Intervention Services to Parents	601	529	632	659
Extended Service	7	9	12	10

Child Protection Act Review

- The *Act* is currently being reviewed
- *Child Protection Act Review* Committee appointed by Minister Currie in November
- Chaired by Patsy MacLean
- Held three public sessions - two more to come... one tomorrow in Montague
- Private one-on-one sessions & written submissions
- Professional and partner sessions



Conclusion

- Shared responsibility to care for children and keep them safe from harm.
- Look forward to the results of your deliberations.