

# Child Protection Services

Child Protection Services Overview

Presentation to Caucus

March 2016



# Protecting Children is Everyone's Responsibility

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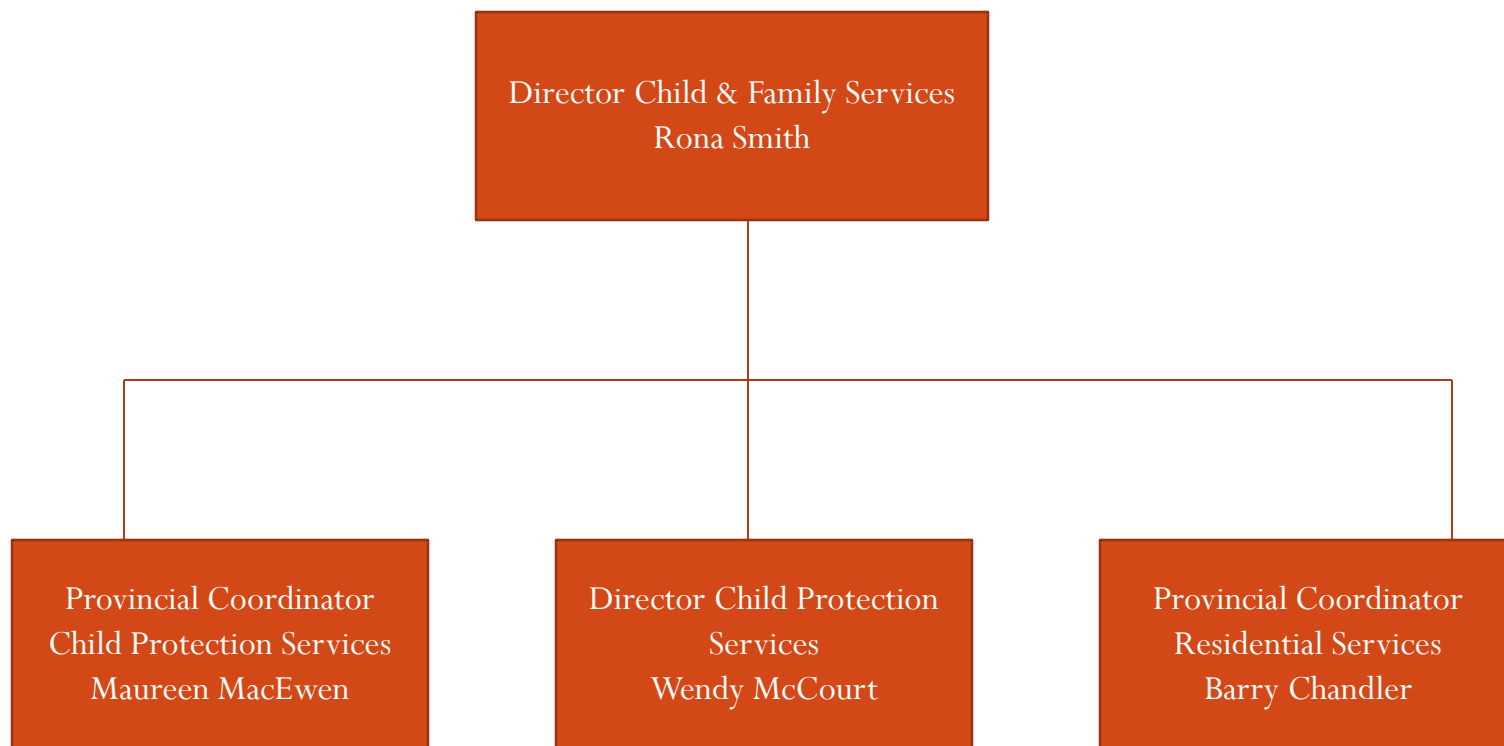
# Together we can . . . . .

- Strengthen our civic responsibility to protect children
- Engage families and communities to protect children
- Become more informed about child abuse and neglect and what we can do to help
- Promote social policies on healthy child development
- Participate in making our communities safe for everyone
- Move forward with respect for each other



# Child Protection Services

Who we are.....



# Child Protection Services

- Child Protection Services are delivered from :
  - O'Leary Access Center
  - Summerside Concorde Building
  - Sherwood Business Center
  - Montague Access Center
  - Souris Access Center
- There are 12 Child Protection Teams across the province to include:
  - Provincial Screening Unit - Child Protection reports assessed
  - Investigation teams – Child Protection reports investigated
  - Focused Intervention Teams – Child Protection services to parents and children assessed to be in need of protection from parental harm
  - Resource Teams – Foster Parents and Adoption assessments and support to approved Foster Parents
  - Permanent Ward Team – support services to children in the permanent care of the Director of Child Protection to include Extended Service

# Child Protection Services – Group Homes

## **Residential Services**

There are 5 group homes that provide 24/7 care for children deemed in need of protection from parental harm and requiring out of home care for the child to be safe. All children living in our group homes are in the legal custody and guardianship of the Director of Child Protection.

- **Red Road Homes (Tracadie)**

Cedar Group Home – 6 beds for children ages 6 – 12 years old

Maple Group Home - 6 beds for children ages 12 -18 years old

Oak Group Home – 9 beds for children ages 12 – 18 years old

- **Beech Group Home (Charlottetown)**

6 beds for children ages 12 – 18 years old

- **Tyne Valley Group Home (Tyne Valley)**

9 beds for children in care ages 12 – 18 years old

# Child Protection Services

- Responsible to help protect children from parental abuse and neglect.
- Child abuse happens when a parent physically, mentally, emotionally or sexually harms a child. It is considered parental harm if a child is exposed to domestic violence, regardless of whether the child was present at the time of the incident.
- Child neglect happens when a parent does not meet the basic needs of the child. This includes housing, clothing, health care, affection, education and supervision. It is also neglect if a parent abandons a child.
- Most child protection reports received on Prince Edward Island concern:
  - Neglect
  - Lack of supervision
  - Domestic violence
  - Physical abuse

## 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

- Best interests of the child paramount
- Parent as first protector of the child – least intrusive
- Mandatory reporting to include After Hours Emergency Child Protection Service 24/7 x 365
- Evidence based risk of harm or substantial risk of harm to child by parent
- Defines child as a person under the age of 18 years
- Defines legal mandate of the Director of Child Protection
- Defines criteria to find a child in need of protection





## Mandatory Reporting



Section 10(1): Notwithstanding any other act, every person who has knowledge, or has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is in need of protection shall

- (a) without delay, report or cause to be reported the circumstances to the Director, or to a peace officer who shall report the information to the Director and
  - (b) provide the Director such additional information as is known or available to the person
- (2) Subsection (1) applies notwithstanding the confidential nature of the information on which the report is based, but nothing in this section abrogates any solicitor-client privilege.



## Mandatory Reporting



- (3) No person shall reveal or be compelled to reveal the identity of a person who has made a report to the Director.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), a person who makes a report or provides information pursuant to subsection (1) or who does anything to assist in an investigation carried out by the Director is not liable to any civil action in respect of providing such information or assistance.
- (5) Subsection (3) and (4) do not apply where a person knowingly makes a report or provides information which is false or misleading.

# How to Make a Child Protection Report

- **During regular business hours,  
Intake Assessment Unit**  
**368-6657**  
**Toll free 1-877- 341-3101**
- **After hours, holidays and weekends**  
**368-6868**  
**Toll free 1-800-341-6868**



# Criteria to Find a Child In Need of Protection (CPA sec 9)

**Child has been harmed by a parent or is at substantial risk of harm by a parent due to:**

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual Exploitation
- Exposure to Domestic Violence
- Inadequate Supervision
- Child Pornography
- Failure to receive specific medical, psychological, or psychiatric treatment
- Abandonment
- Parent unable or refusing to resume custody
- Past Parenting
- Parent refuses treatment for a child under 12 who has killed or seriously injured, poses a serious danger to people or has caused significant loss or damage to property



# What Happens Upon Receipt of a Child Protection Report



- Report is assessed by a Child Protection Social Worker
- Child Protection Social Worker will ask for particulars regarding the family to include family members, place of residence, etc.
- Child Protection Social Worker will ask for explanation of facts as known to reporter to include, what was seen, heard, etc, to cause concern, what the risk is determined to be and reason for calling now
- Child Protection Social Worker will ask for reporter's contact information in case further clarification is required - this information remains confidential

# Assessment of Child Protection Reports

All Child Protection reports are assessed to determine if a child protection investigation is required (*CPA, sec. 11*).

The assessment outcome will be:

- No further action required (report source may be advised if not being investigated)
- Investigation is required
- Referral to community resources
- Apprehension of the child is necessary
- Court application required (sec 29)

Response time when assessed for investigation:

- Immediate
- 24 hours
- 7 days



# Safety Assessment

Factors to consider in determining response time:

- History of protection concerns, previous domestic violence reports, criminal activity
- Age of child
- Alleged offender's contact with child
- Time frame of incident
- Vulnerability of child
- Availability of evidence e.g. bruising
- Child disclosure of harm by parent
- Request by other professionals for assistance for investigation re police doctors, etc.
- Current location of child and where was child during incident
- Reliability of the referral source





# Investigation of Child Protection Reports

For Child Protection reports assessed to require investigation, the Director of Child Protection has the authority to, regardless of consent of any person, conduct an investigation into the circumstances and condition of a child which may include analysis of:

- Medical
- Health
- Social
- Residential
- Educational
- Emotional
- Economic
- or other factors affecting the life of t



# Investigation of Child Protection Reports

Investigation may include:

- Visit the residence of the child or places child frequents
- Transport the child
- Interview and examine the child
- Interview the parent of the child
- Interview people who care for or observe the child
- Interview people who provide health, social, educational, or other services to the child or to the parent
- Require information from medical, health, social, educational, and other records concerning the child and parent
- Require examination of child
- Request assessment of the parent
- Require information on past parenting
- Consult other people and gather other evidence as necessary

## What happens next....

- When an investigation finds a child in need of protection from parental harm, the Child Protection Social Worker works with the parent to make sure the child is safe while the parent gets help. This can happen with the child either staying in the home or the child moving to live somewhere else.
- Most times the child stays at home with the parent while the Child Protection Social Worker helps the parent get help.
- Sometimes the parent makes a plan for the child to live somewhere else to be safe. This is called a least intrusive plan. The parent is still the legal parent and is 100% responsible for all the financial needs of the child e.g. food, clothing, etc.
- Sometimes the child must come into the legal custody and guardianship of the Director of Child Protection to be safe. This means the child moves to live in either a foster home or a group home. This can happen voluntarily with the parent or the court will be asked to make a decision when the parent does not agree.

## Ongoing Child Protection Service. . . .

- When an investigation closes and a child has been found to be in need of protection from parental harm, Child Protection Services provides a service called Focused Intervention. This service continues to work with the parent on the protection issues impacting the child's safety in the home.
- The Child Protection Social Worker works with the parent to address the parent's behaviours that have caused the child to be in need of protection. Once the parent gets the help needed and the parent is able to safely care for the child, the Child Protection service is closed.
- Sometimes a parent is unable or unwilling to work with Child Protection Services to keep the child safe. When this happens, the Director of Child Protection makes an application to the Court for direction.

# Protecting Children

## Parents

- Parenting is hard work. Know your limits. Everyone gets stressed now and then – and everyone needs a break sometimes. Arrange for someone you trust to care for your child and go for a walk.
- Parenting is hard work. It is ok to ask for help.
- Parenting is hard work. Learn about positive parenting and healthy ways to discipline children. Visit the PEI Triple P website  
<http://www.triplep-parenting.net/>



# Protecting Children

## Family and Friends

- Parenting is hard work. Offer to babysit or be there to support a parent who needs help.
- Offer to take a stressed parent out for coffee or a walk to talk about what is going on.
- Learn about supports in our community and share the information with a parent who is struggling. Tell the parent it is ok to ask for help and there are people who can help
- Learn about positive parenting and healthy ways to discipline children. Visit the PEI Triple P website

<http://www.triplep-parenting.net/>



# Protecting Children

## Everyone

- Parenting is hard work and everyone is responsible to protect children from parental harm
- Report to Child Protection Services when you have information to suspect a child may be in need of protection from parental harm
- Learn about positive parenting and healthy ways to discipline children. Visit the PEI Triple P website  
<http://www.triplep-parenting.net/>
- Remember to **NEVER**:
  - Shake a baby or young child
  - Discipline a child when you are angry
  - Leave a young child alone, even for a short time





"the small under the protection of the great,"



**Thank you!**

