

**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

**Ministère des Services à
l'enfance et des Services
sociaux et communautaires**



Minister's Office

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Susan Beayni
susan.beayni@outlook.com

Dear Susan Beayni:

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns related to the transfer of responsibility from the Office of the Ontario Child Advocate to the Office of the Ombudsman.

To increase oversight responsibility for investigations related to Ontario's children, the government has expanded the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman through the *Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability Act, 2018*.

When proclaimed into force, this Act will provide the Office of the Ombudsman with powers to investigate complaints about services provided to children and young persons by children's aid societies and in licenced residential settings. These settings include children's residences, youth justice facilities, foster care agencies and secure treatment programs. This change to the Ombudsman's mandate is broader than the current investigative power of the Child Advocate, which is limited to investigating children's aid society services or services provided to children and youth by a residential licensee where a children's aid society is the placing agency.

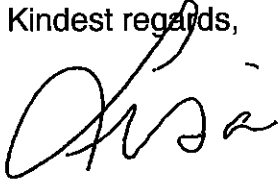
I recognize and appreciate the expertise of the Advocate's investigative team, which is why the same enabling legislation outlines that staff from the Office of the Child Advocate will transfer to the Office of the Ombudsman. Their experience, combined with the Ombudsman's expanded mandate, will help to ensure high-quality service and proper resources are allocated to child and youth investigations.

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services works to incorporate child and youth voice in all programs and services. This includes marginalized youth, racialized youth, and youth with involvement in the child welfare and youth justice systems. I have announced the creation of three new roundtables for those with lived experience with the child welfare system, including Indigenous children, and the youth justice system. These roundtables will offer dedicated time and space for those with lived experience to share their ideas for improvement directly with decision makers. I know that their contributions will be invaluable as necessary improvements to the current system are made.

.../cont'd

As long as I am the minister responsible for children and youth, the voices and needs of children and youth will have a steadfast champion. We remain resolutely committed to helping all of the children and youth in Ontario receive the supports and services they need to succeed and thrive.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa', written in a cursive style.

Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Immigration and Poverty Reduction