



For Immediate Release:
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FOSTER CARE SYSTEM FAILING CANADIAN CHILDREN MUST BE REDESIGNED

TORONTO – The Child Welfare Political Action Committee Canada (Child Welfare PAC) formally launched its advocacy activities at Queen's Park today to compel politicians to redesign the child protection system so that youth succeed after care.

Joined by Irwin Elman, the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, and Wendy Miller, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Child Welfare PAC called on the Government of Ontario to break the cycle of tragic youth outcomes that have not improved in at least 40 years. These outcomes include:

- Unemployment, underemployment and poverty
- Homelessness and housing insecurity
- Criminal justice system involvement
- Loneliness, poor physical and mental health
- Early parenthood and low academic achievement

The Child Welfare PAC consists of resilient individuals with lived experience in child protection systems across Canada who beat the odds. Alongside mayors, lawyers, journalists, therapists, business leaders and academics, all with lived experience within child protection systems, the Child Welfare PAC called on the Government of Ontario to redesign the child protection system so that it is evidence-based and outcomes focused to ensure every child has a bright future.

Quotes:

"Last year, I conducted research on how youth fare after a life in the system and I was left sickened by the dark futures facing them in their adult lives." – Jane Kovarikova, Founder and President of the Child Welfare PAC, PhD candidate at Western University and former youth-in-care.

"None of us were exceptions when we left the system and had to fight our way out of the many cruel outcomes youth experience after care. But it does not have to be that way. That is why our group assembled. The system can and must do better." – Jane Kovarikova

"Ontario does not systematically track what happens to young people after they leave care, nor study the long-term impact of growing up in the system. If you do not study youth outcomes after care, then you cannot know if your policies or reforms are working." Jane Kovarikova

About Child Welfare PAC:

The Child Welfare PAC is an incorporated not-for-profit that advocates for a progressive child welfare system by providing real-life expertise, informed research, and effective advocacy so that all youth can realize their success.

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