



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MINISTER COTEAU MAKES COMMITMENT TO NEW CHILD WELFARE PAC

**TORONTO** – The Child Welfare Political Action Committee Canada (Child Welfare PAC) formally launched its advocacy activities at Queen's Park on October 24, 2017 to urge politicians to redesign the child protection system so that youth succeed after care.

The Minister of Children and Youth Services, Honorable Michael Coteau, made an enthusiastic public commitment at Queen's Park to work with the Child Welfare PAC to achieve goals in evidence-based policy making, improving outcomes, enhancing privacy rights, and mental health supports. He said, "You haven't come to Queen's Park for nothing. We will work together to look for ways to strengthen the child protection sector."

[Click here for Minister's speech](#)

The Child Welfare PAC's priorities for better protection of Canadian children include:

1. **Research.** System accountability through evidence-based policies that check their impact.
2. **Outcomes Focus.** Child protection is permanent for many youth. Plan for their adult futures.
3. **Privacy.** The privacy rights of juvenile offenders are better protected than kids from child protection. Seal files after "aging-out".
4. **Mental health.** The rate of post-traumatic stress for youth after care is almost double that of war veteran populations. Develop a trauma based strategy.

### Quotes:

"We are pleased to have support from all parties. Child protection is a non-partisan issue. The futures of the most vulnerable youth in Ontario are at stake." – Jane Kovarikova, Founder and President of the Child Welfare PAC and former youth-in-care.

"Ontario does not systematically track what happens to young people after they leave care. If you do not study youth outcomes after care, then you cannot know if your policies or reforms have worked. System improvement begins with better data." – 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. The Child Welfare PAC consists of resilient individuals with lived experience in child protection systems across Canada. They have 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.

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