



Archives of Ontario Private Acquisitions Strategy

# Analysis Report of the **Community Services** Sector in Ontario

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THE THRILL  
OF DISCOVERY

LE FRISSON  
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# 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to carry forward key recommendations from the Archives of Ontario Private Acquisitions Strategy by conducting examinations of Ontario's major sectors. This report highlights sub-sectors or areas within the community services sector which are likely to generate records of provincial significance.

Community services are at the heart of a healthy and productive society. Helping people to recover from hardship, regain control of their lives, overcome obstacles and barriers, and fully participate in society despite their disabilities, is essential to the daily functioning and well-being of Ontario citizens. Therefore, the need to document this sector is high.

The identification and appraisal of activities within the community services sector will drive and support private records acquisition policy for community services sector records in the *Archives of Ontario Private Acquisitions Strategy*.

## 2. Overview of the Community Services Sector in Ontario

The provision of community services in Ontario is a vital component in our society. Providing support to vulnerable Ontarians, including those in financial need and people with disabilities, was emphasized in Premier Kathleen Wynne's mandate letter to the Minister of Community and Social Services in 2014.<sup>1</sup> Providing "vital public services to our families" was also stressed in Wynne's mandate letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services.<sup>2</sup>

The importance of community services is reflected in the 2014 Budget which includes an \$810 million investment strategy for community and developmental services.<sup>3</sup> In addition, in April 2015, Premier Wynne appointed a Community Hubs Advisory Group. This group was created in response to part of the Government's four-part plan to "build Ontario up"<sup>4</sup> and provide "high-quality,

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<sup>1</sup> 2014 Mandate Letter: Community and Social Services

<https://www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-letter-community-and-social-services> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

<sup>2</sup> 2014 Mandate Letter: Children and Youth Services <https://www.ontario.ca/government/2014-mandate-letter-children-and-youth-services> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

<sup>3</sup> "New Resource to Improve Employment Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities in Ontario" <http://news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2015/05/new-resource-to-improve-employment-opportunities-for-people-with-developmental-disabilities-in-ontar.html> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

<sup>4</sup> Building Ontario Up: Speech from the Throne, 2014

<http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2014/07/building-ontario-up-speech-from-the-throne.html> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

accessible and efficient community services.”<sup>5</sup> Further, in 2013, the Ontario government created the first-ever Premier’s Council on Youth Opportunities to “engage with youth, young professionals and community partners to ensure that young people across the province have the tools they need to help them succeed.”<sup>6</sup>

Established in 1972, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) assumed the responsibilities of the former Department of Social and Family Services. In October 2003, most of the responsibilities for the child and family services function were moved to the new Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS).

Through its programs and services, the MCSS helps adults with a developmental disability live, work and participate in a range of community activities; enforces support orders issued by the courts so that families get the money to which they are entitled; and helps Ontarians recover from hardship and regain control of their lives. MCSS carries out its responsibilities through social assistance programs including Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program; community and developmental services; and the Family Responsibility Office.<sup>7</sup>

MCSS works with municipalities, First Nations and community agencies to carry out its core functions. Their clients include: adults who are deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing or deafblind; women experiencing violence and their children; people with disabilities, including developmental disabilities; people who need income supports and employment supports; Aboriginal people and communities; spouses and children entitled to support payments under a court order, or an agreement filed with the court; and adopted adults, birth parents, other birth family members and adoptive parents who are seeking a range of adoption information disclosure services.<sup>8</sup>

MCYS was created on the over-arching objectives of achieving better outcomes and better service experiences for children, youth and their families across Ontario, serving a population of over 2.8 million children and youth (0-18). The majority of MCYS funding is directed to community service agencies who deliver programs and services on behalf of government. The ministry also directly delivers services through child treatment centres and youth facilities. The ministry

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<sup>5</sup> “A community hub can be a school, a neighbourhood centre or another public space that offers co-ordinated services such as education, health care and social services.”

<http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/en/news/32298>. (Accessed 29 June 2015)

<sup>6</sup> News Release “First-Ever Premier’s Council on Youth Opportunities”

<http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2013/03/first-ever-premiers-council-on-youth-opportunities.html> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Community and Social Services, “About the ministry: Our programs and services”

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/about/index.aspx> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

<sup>8</sup> MCSS Results-Based Plan Briefing Book 2014-15

[http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcsc/publications/about/MCSS\\_rbp\\_2014\\_2015.pdf](http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/documents/en/mcsc/publications/about/MCSS_rbp_2014_2015.pdf) (Accessed 29 June 2015)

provides direction, allocates resources, co-ordinates services and delivers programs across a spectrum of child and youth issues.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the functions carried out by the MCSS and MCYS, it is important to note the important work carried out by the Ontario Women's Directorate, Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to serve the distinct needs of these communities.

Activities related to community services and children and youth services also exist in the private sector in the form of community services support organizations, children's aid societies, professional associations, advocacy organizations, individuals and practitioners, and developmental and rehabilitation centres. As community services continue to be a priority for the province of Ontario, it remains important to examine these areas of the private sector for records of lasting provincial significance.

### 3. Analysis of Archives of Ontario Holdings

In examining the holdings of the Archives of Ontario post-1980, a search of the Archives Descriptive Database was undertaken to determine what records have been acquired from the private sector that complement the functions of the government with respect to the provision of community services including the oversight of service providers. This revealed that the Archives' holdings contain only a small number of private records documenting some of the functions carried out by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and its agencies for the post-1980 period.

The Archives of Ontario has identified the Ministry of Community and Social Services' seven core functions as:

1. Providing employment supports function
2. Enforcing family support responsibilities function
3. Providing developmental services function
4. Supporting victims of domestic violence function
5. Enabling accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities function
6. Providing adult community services function
7. Providing income supports function

The Archives of Ontario has identified the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' five core functions as:

8. Regulation of adoptions
9. Child well-being, protection and rehabilitation
10. Child care and early years services
11. Youth justice services

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<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Children and Youth Services "About the Ministry"  
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/about/index.aspx> (Accessed 29 June 2015)

## 12. Integrated policy and services for children

The Archives' private records holdings are reflected in some of these functions however, the scope and depth of these records varies considerably. Further documentation of these functions in the private sector would fill gaps in the Archives' holdings.

The existing private sector holdings include:

- F 4571, Easter Seals Ontario funds
- F 2117, COSTI – IIAS (Italian Immigrant Aid Society) Immigrant Services funds
- F 4175, Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers funds
- F 4336, West End Creche Child and Family Clinic funds

## 4. Methodology for Analyzing the Community Services Sector

This section outlines the analysis methodology and rationale for how the sector was broken down and assessed.

### Sub-sector Identifications

Sub-sectors within the Community Services sector were selected based upon an analysis of major activities related to community services management. Sub-sectors were identified based upon the major categories of organizations, bodies and individuals known to be involved or have an interest in such activities within the private sector.

## 5. Analysis of Community Services Sub-sectors

This section examines the scope of Community Services Sector records with respect to:

1. Identifying and defining sub-sectors and categories within the Community Services Sector,
2. Making connections between private sector activities and government functions,
3. Identifying existing holdings in the Archives of Ontario related to the Community Services Sector (containing records dated 1980 and later),
4. Providing a rationale for the importance of acquiring documentation within a sub-sector, and
5. Identifying level of acquisition priority for each sub-sector based upon the rationale.

## **Community Services sub-sectors:**

For the purposes of analysis, the activities within the Community Services Sector have been divided into the following sub-sectors in Appendix A.

1. Community services support organizations
2. Professional associations
3. Advocacy organizations
4. Individuals and practitioners
5. Developmental and rehabilitation centres

## **Government Functional Linkages**

The functional linkages provided in Appendix A are based upon MCSS's and MCYS's core functions as follows:

Ministry of Community and Social Services:

1. Providing employment supports function
2. Enforcing family support responsibilities function
3. Providing developmental services function
4. Supporting victims of domestic violence function
5. Enabling accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities function
6. Providing adult community services function
7. Providing income supports function

Ministry of Children and Youth Services:

1. Regulation of adoptions
2. Child well-being, protection and rehabilitation
3. Child care and early years services
4. Youth justice services
5. Integrated policy and services for children

# Appendix A: Analysis of Community Services Sub-sectors

Sub-Sector	Sub-Sector description	Related Government Function and responsible Ontario ministry	Related Archives of Ontario private holdings (containing records 1980- and later)	Sub-Sector appraisal rationale	Acquisitions considerations	Priority: High (AO has little to no documentation), Medium (AO has some documentation), Low (AO has significant documentation)
Community services support organizations	This sub-sector includes organizations that provide support services for various communities in need throughout the province.	<p>Providing adult community services function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p> <p>Supporting victims of domestic violence function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p> <p>Providing employment supports function (Ministry of Community</p>	<p>F 4571 Easter Seals Ontario fonds</p> <p>F 2117 COSTI – IIAS Immigrant Services fonds</p> <p>F 4644 Russian Orthodox Immigrant Services of Canada fonds</p>	This sub-sector would document organizations which have a provincial focus on various aspects of the provision of community services.	The AO's holdings in this sub-sector are limited for the post-1980 period.	MEDIUM

Sub-Sector	Sub-Sector description	Related Government Function and responsible Ontario ministry	Related Archives of Ontario private holdings (containing records 1980- and later)	Sub-Sector appraisal rationale	Acquisitions considerations	Priority: <b>High</b> (AO has little to no documentation), <b>Medium</b> (AO has some documentation), <b>Low</b> (AO has significant documentation)
		and Social Services)				
Professional associations	This sub-sector includes associations of professionals working in the fields of providing or promoting community services.	<p>Providing adult community services function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p> <p>Enforcing family support responsibilities function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p>	F 4175 Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers fonds	This sub-sector would document associations which represent the interests of community service professionals and provide professional support to practitioners involved in community service work.	The AO has one fonds that documents this sub-sector for the post-1980 period.	HIGH

Sub-Sector	Sub-Sector description	Related Government Function and responsible Ontario ministry	Related Archives of Ontario private holdings (containing records 1980- and later)	Sub-Sector appraisal rationale	Acquisitions considerations	Priority: High (AO has little to no documentation), Medium (AO has some documentation), Low (AO has significant documentation)
Advocacy organizations	This sub-sector include organizations with a mandate to advocate, lobby and promote aspects of community services within the province.	<p>Regulation of adoptions (Ministry of Children and Youth Services)</p> <p>Supporting victims of domestic violence function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p> <p>Enforcing family support responsibilities function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p>	<p>F 837 Ontario Welfare Council fonds</p> <p>F 4571 Easter Seals Ontario fonds</p>	This sub-sector would document organizations which advocate and lobby for those directly involved in the provision and receipt of community services in Ontario.	The AO's holdings in this sub-sector are limited for the post-1980 period.	HIGH

Sub-Sector	Sub-Sector description	Related Government Function and responsible Ontario ministry	Related Archives of Ontario private holdings (containing records 1980- and later)	Sub-Sector appraisal rationale	Acquisitions considerations	Priority: High (AO has little to no documentation), Medium (AO has some documentation), Low (AO has significant documentation)
Individuals and practitioners	This sub-sector includes individual practitioners involved in work directly related to the community services field as well as those who have made significant contributions in the areas of research, development and other advancements in providing and promoting community services in Ontario.	None identified	F 4372 Salomon ("Sal") Chernia fonds	This sub-sector would document individuals who have made significant contributions in the area of community services in Ontario.	The AO has two fonds that documents this sub-sector for the post-1980 period.	HIGH

Sub-Sector	Sub-Sector description	Related Government Function and responsible Ontario ministry	Related Archives of Ontario private holdings (containing records 1980- and later)	Sub-Sector appraisal rationale	Acquisitions considerations	Priority: High (AO has little to no documentation), Medium (AO has some documentation), Low (AO has significant documentation)
Developmental and rehabilitation centres	This sub-sector includes treatment centres for adults and children with special needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities.	<p>Providing developmental services function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p> <p>Enabling accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities function (Ministry of Community and Social Services)</p> <p>Child well-being, protection and rehabilitation (Ministry of Children and Youth Services)</p>	F 4336 West End Creche Child and Family Clinic fonds	This sub-sector would document centres and organizations responsible for the treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities in Ontario.	The AO has one fonds that documents this sub-sector for the post-1980 period.	HIGH

