



*Because every child  
deserves to be safe*

Our Vision –  
a world where  
children are  
protected, valued,  
and can thrive.

We work to prevent child abuse and violence through awareness and education. Under one roof, we collaborate with police, child protection, medical, and mental health agencies to provide an individualized and child-friendly response for every child who has experienced abuse.

**Commitment**

We are fierce about protecting children.

**Collaboration**

We work better as a team.

**Child-Centered**

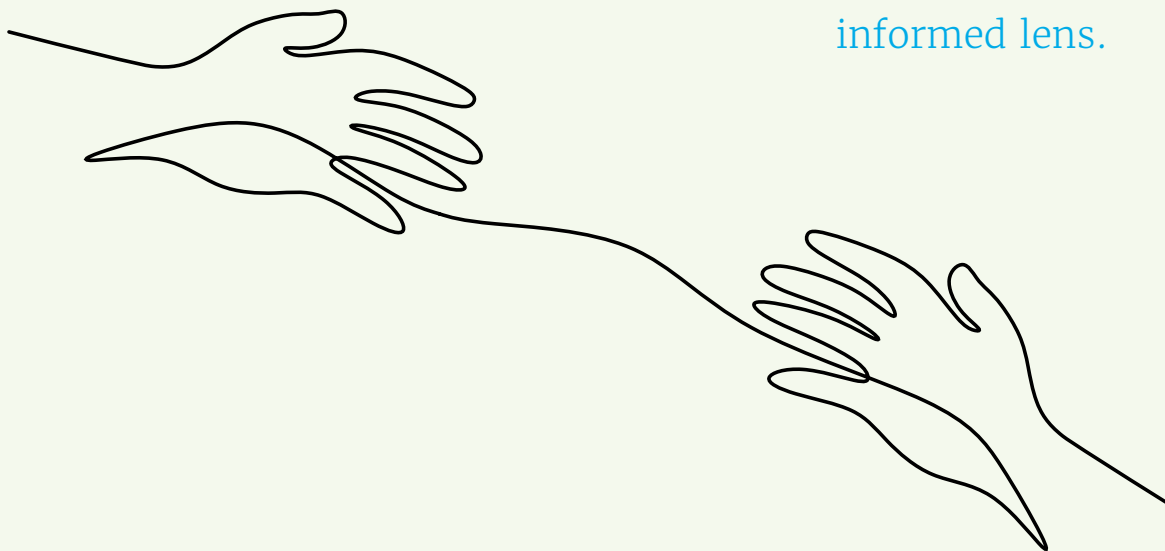
We work with children, youth and families through a trauma-informed lens.

**Respect**

We acknowledge and challenge systemic oppression and value the differences each individual brings.

**Quality**

We provide high quality service and are committed to continued improvement.



## Message from Leadership

# Letter from Kayla Yama, Interim President & CEO

In 2023, we marked an important milestone in our journey to support children and youth in Toronto, celebrating our 10 year anniversary as a Child & Youth Advocacy Centre. Our mission to provide developmentally attuned, trauma-informed multidisciplinary services, for children and their families following child abuse and trauma is a privilege and responsibility Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Boost CYAC) holds with the highest regard. We remain extremely proud to offer this service in Toronto.

2023 was a pivotal year for Boost CYAC. Barb McIntyre, Manager of the Child Victim Witness Support Program, and founder of the Boost Accredited Reliable K9 (BARK) Program, retired from Boost CYAC after 35 years of transformative service and commitment to child and youth witnesses. Additionally, 2023 saw the retirement of Detective Sergeant Greg Payne, a founding member of the CYAC. Our programs, including Prevention Education, Child & Youth Advocacy, and Assessment Directed Therapy experienced growth and expansion. Team Lead positions were created across the organization, offering increased professional growth opportunities to employees and support to our frontline teams. As our staff

team grew, we continued to re-establish our commitment to organizational training including organization-wide learning opportunities on Crisis Intervention, Racial Trauma, Truth and Reconciliation, and Unconscious Bias. In 2023, there were also increased opportunities for synergies to be developed across programs and disciplines including joint team meetings, and multidisciplinary training. Team engagement opportunities were actively pursued, and we look forward to working more closely together in the years to come.

Our services at Boost CYAC, both preceding and following our establishment as a CYAC, have continued to evolve, meeting the needs of the communities we serve. Moving forward, we will continue to seek opportunities to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence, innovation, and above all, to supporting the well-being of children and youth. Thank you for your support and being part of our Boost CYAC journey.

With deep respect,



Kayla Yama  
Interim President  
& CEO



**Kayla Yama**  
**Interim President & C.E.O**

# Letter from Regan Watts, Board Chair

Dear Boost CYAC Community,

As Chair of the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to reflect on the remarkable year we've had at Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Boost CYAC). The work we do here is undoubtedly challenging, but it is also profoundly impactful. Our staff, who are the backbone of this organization, continually go above and beyond in their dedication to our clients and the wider community. Their unwavering commitment ensures that we can provide the best possible support and care for those in need.

Our success would not be possible without the generosity and support of our funders and donors. I extend our deepest gratitude to the City of Toronto, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Department of Justice Canada, and our community of generous supporters who champion our cause. Your contributions are vital to our mission, and we are incredibly thankful for your continued support.

This year, we saw three landmark fundraising events: the Butterfly Ball®, our new children's event, Jump for Boost, and the (now annual)

New Year's Day Polar Bear Dip. These events not only raise crucial funds but also foster a sense of community and awareness around the important work we do.

We are also immensely grateful for our esteemed partners, including the Toronto Police Service (TPS), the Hospital for Sick Children, the Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CAST), the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS), Radius Child & Youth Services, and the Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP). Your collaboration and support are invaluable to our efforts and successes.

Lastly, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our clients. Your trust in Boost CYAC as we support you on your journey to healing is deeply appreciated. It is an honour to work with you, and we remain committed to walking alongside you every step of the way.

Thank you all for your unwavering support and dedication to Boost CYAC. Together, we continue to make a significant difference in the lives of many.

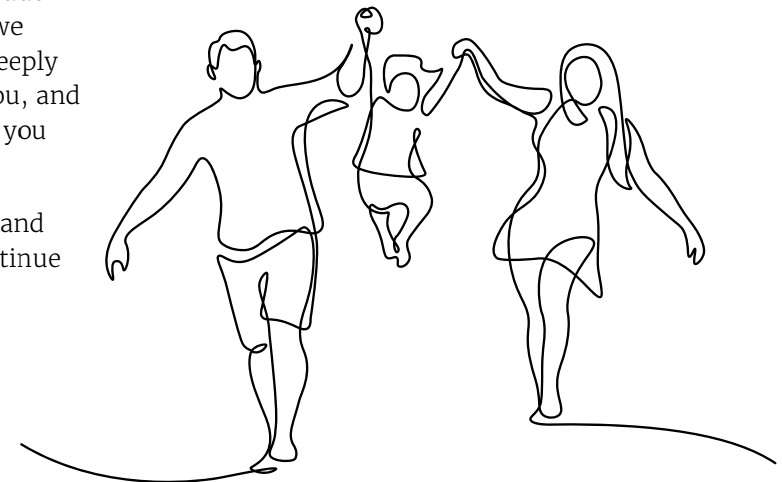
Warm regards,



Regan P. Watts  
Chair of the Board  
of Directors



**Regan P. Watts**  
**Chair, Boost CYAC Board**  
**of Directors**



# Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

The Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Boost CYAC) team includes professionals from law enforcement, child protection, health services, justice, and mental health services, and works collaboratively under one roof to help children, youth and families move forward after interpersonal abuse.

As a multi-disciplinary team, Boost CYAC supports complex cases of child maltreatment utilizing all resources available to provide a coordinated response. We engage multiple systems to provide education, training, and capacity building to prevent and respond to child abuse in Toronto.

## Toronto Police Service

Investigations conducted:

980

Interviews Conducted:

1,712

## SCAN

Medical exams conducted for physical and sexual abuse:

141

## CAST

Investigations conducted:

535

## CCAS

Investigations conducted:

199



# Child & Youth Advocacy Program

The Child & Youth Advocacy Program (CYAP) is a voluntary service offered to all families involved with Boost CYAC for a child abuse or human trafficking investigation. Child & Youth Advocates provide immediate and ongoing support, advocacy and referral services to children, youth, and their families.

During investigations, Advocates will greet the family and familiarize them with the centre; introduce the Investigative Team; remain available to family members to provide emotional support and to answer questions and/or concerns; and provide information on next steps and services available to the family through the CYAC and the community.

## Program Highlights:

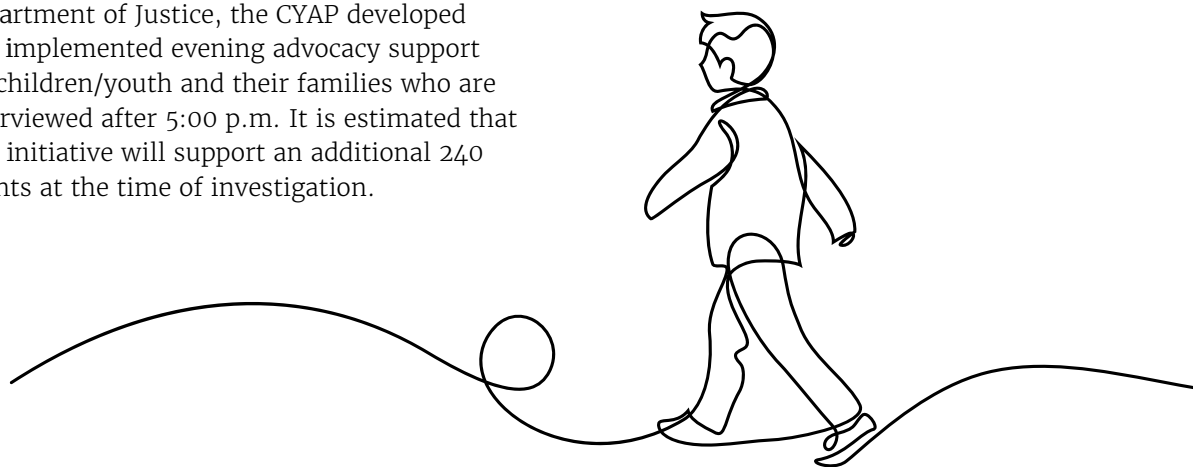
2023 marked a year of innovation for CYAP. Following an internal review of our service delivery model in 2022 and in consultation with our CYAC partners, the CYAP program embarked on developing and implementing additional services to not only complement the services already offered but to also close the gap on where services were needed for CYAP clients. 2023 saw the development and implementation of our Caregiver Single Session support and evening coverage for advocacy support.

The Caregiver Single Session support was developed for caregivers at the time of the investigation to increase short term coping for the caregiver and reduce adverse impacts of child abuse on the family system/parent child relationship.

Evening advocacy support was identified as a CYAC services gap. With support from the Department of Justice, the CYAP developed and implemented evening advocacy support for children/youth and their families who are interviewed after 5:00 p.m. It is estimated that this initiative will support an additional 240 clients at the time of investigation.

Clients supported by  
Advocates during police and  
child protection Investigations:

111



# Child Victim Witness Support Program

We believe that every child and youth witness has the right to be thoroughly prepared to testify at court.

By teaching children and youth their job as witnesses and educating them about the criminal justice system, we lessen their anxiety about attending court. The CVWSP supports child witnesses attending court in Toronto and those attending in the Central Region of Ontario, including Barrie, Peterborough, Midland, Orillia, Bradford, Collingwood, Lindsay, and Cobourg.

## Program Highlights:

The CVWSP strives to raise awareness of the impact testifying has on children and youth and the importance for the judicial system to use a trauma-informed and child-friendly approach when interacting with vulnerable witnesses.

With this objective in mind, in 2023, the CVWSP participated in several community engagements with justice partners. One highlight was our participation in a training opportunity with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General and Ontario Crown Attorney's Association where we presented on the impact of trauma on child and youth witnesses, the importance of utilizing a

child-friendly and trauma informed approach when interacting with child and youth witnesses and the importance of testimonial aids to support vulnerable witnesses.

We are proud to report that in 2023, no child or youth served by our Peterborough office was required to attend a courthouse to testify. Every single vulnerable witness testified from our child-friendly office.

To fully support our Barrie area clients, staff continued to collaborate with community partners. We engaged with Barrie Native Friendship Centre and Rama Social Services to support our Indigenous clients, and Catulpa, Mackenzie Health Justice Program to support clients with higher behavioural and mental health needs. Our continued work with the Regional Centre for Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect at Soldier's Memorial Hospital allows us to connect our client to the mental health supports they need.

In 2023, our Barrie office was busier than ever. With an influx in referrals to the program, the high-quality care and support for every single client never waived. *"Sherry, thank you so much for today, me and my girls can now start the healing process and start to find closure and a way to move on with life. Thank you so much for all your help and for being proud of us."* – Caregiver

# of Court preps provided:

249

# Crown meetings attended with clients:

196

# Clients we accompanied/supported at court:

183

# Clients supported through remote testimony:

58



# Trauma Services

## CYAC Brief Mental Health Services

Following a police and/or child protection investigation of child abuse, children, youth and their caregivers are offered short-term mental health services (up to 8 sessions).

This service focuses on building safety and stability by offering psychoeducation and developing coping strategies. In 2023, trauma specific brief mental health service was provided by clinicians from Boost CYAC, Radius Child & Youth Services (Radius) and the SCAN Clinic at SickKids Hospital.

### Program Highlights

In 2023, CYAC Clinicians were trained in the ground-breaking therapeutic modality, Child and Family Traumatic Stress Inventory (CFTSI); a brief intervention for the peri-traumatic period (up to 90 days after a trauma has occurred). This enables Boost CYAC clients' access to evidence-based service, following a trauma and/or a CYAC investigation.

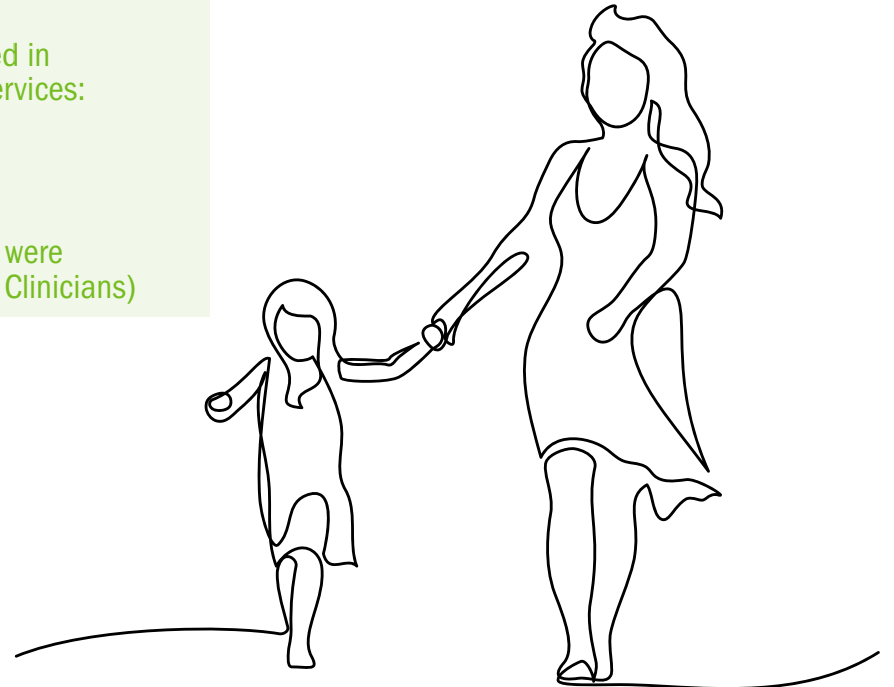
# of clients accessing  
CYAC Clinical Intake Services:

234

# of clients engaged in  
brief mental health services:

176

(61 of these clients were  
supported by Boost CYAC Clinicians)



## Trauma Therapy Program

Boost CYAC's team of Child & Family Therapists, offers trauma assessment and treatment services to some of the most vulnerable children and families in the city, following a traumatic event(s).

### Program Highlights:

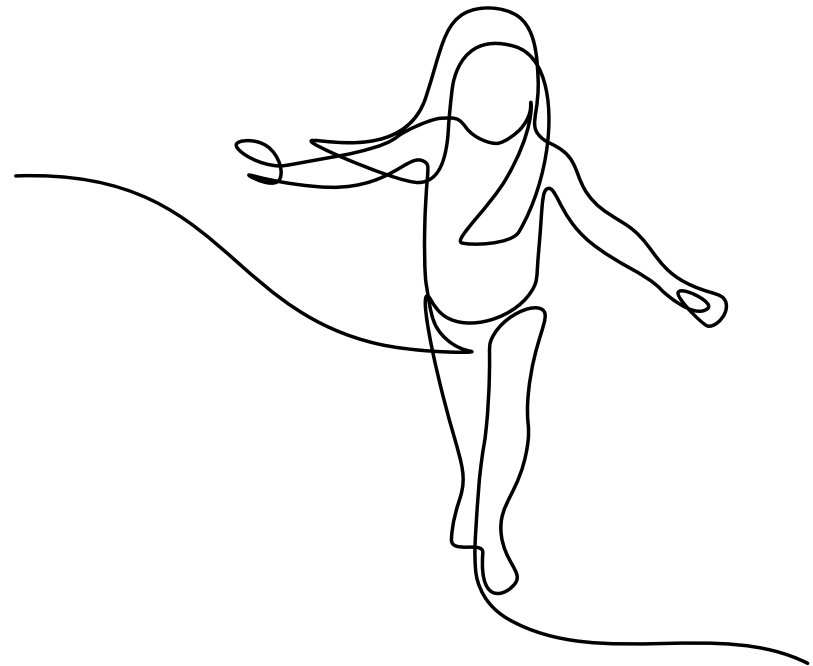
Our child & family therapists continue to affirm their commitment to recognizing and responding to Racial Trauma, utilizing consultative services with renowned trainer and psychotherapist Charmaine Lane.

In 2023, our Trauma Therapy Team expanded by two including a Child & Family Therapist, and Clinical Intake Worker, allowing our program to increase its capacity to support our community.

Lastly, our Trauma Services Program hosted three Social Work Students. We were privileged to engage with and promote continuous learning within the social work field.

# of clients Boost CYAC supported  
within Trauma Services:

111



# Anti-Human Trafficking Program

Through our critical partnership with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), in 2023 Boost CYAC reconfigured our Caregiver Support Program offering support to caregivers when their child is at-risk of or entrenched in sex trafficking.

Our Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator along with our Family Therapists offered therapeutic support services to children being trafficked and their families preventing and intervening to support children and families.

Youth and Caregivers supported  
by our AHT program:

63



# Prevention Education Program

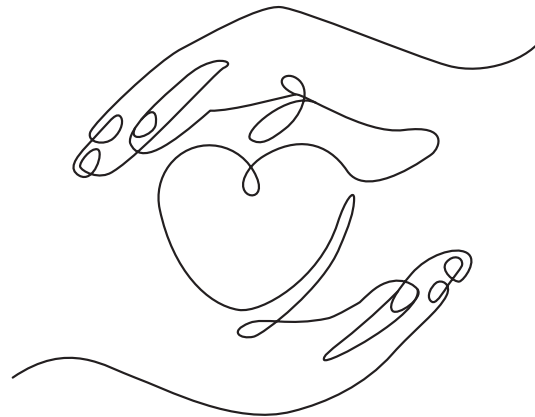
The Prevention Education Program (PEP) designs, develops, and delivers prevention education, training, and community crisis response programs for children, youth, and adults.



The prevention education stream creates, develops, and facilitates classroom-based programming called PEP Talk, for children and youth, including resources and support for educators. Our training service provides education, information, and public awareness on child safety for youth-serving organizations, professionals who work with children, caregivers, and the broader community. Finally, our Community Crisis Response service supports youth-serving organizations in crisis, particularly involving an investigation of a staff person, by providing consultation and intervention services to support to help reestablish safety within the organization.

## Program Highlights

Boost CYAC has been the fortunate recipient of Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grants throughout its history. In particular, OTF has been instrumental in the development and growth of our Making A Difference training program. Beginning with the creation of the original Making A Difference manual in 1995, and culminating in our most recent grant from the Resilient Communities Fund to develop self-directed, online courses, the Prevention Education Program has provided accessible and comprehensive trainings for professionals on their duty to report child abuse, and understanding child and youth trauma. The Ontario Trillium Foundation has been fundamental in the growth and success of Boost CYAC's training services and programs.



# Students engaged in PEP Talk:

1,118

# Workshops delivered:

64

# Professionals trained:

2,571

# Community Crisis Response sessions:

23

# of Professionals supported through Community Crisis Response:

229

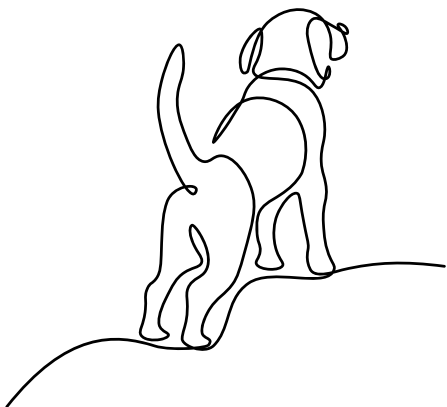
# of Students supported through the Community Crisis Response:

100

# BARK Program

Boost CYAC has three Accredited Facility Dogs in the BARK Program: Aria, Iggy, and Jersey.

They are all graduates of National Service Dogs (NSD), Canine Assisted Intervention Program. Each dog lives with a primary handler and comes to Boost CYAC daily to work. Our dogs are specially trained to support children and youth throughout a child abuse investigation, including the forensic interview, during counselling and court preparation sessions, and while attending court proceedings. They provide comfort and support during what can be stressful and difficult experiences for children and youth. In 2023, three additional staff members were trained by NSD to become secondary handlers. Sadly, we also said goodbye to our long-time Manager, champion and founder of the BARK Program, Barb McIntyre (pictured), who retired from Boost CYAC in May.



# of clients supported by Accredited Facility Dogs:

111

# of sessions Accredited Facility Dogs supported:

254



# CYAC National Initiatives

With funding from the Department of Justice Canada, each year, Boost CYAC facilitates several National initiatives that support the nearly 40 centres operating and/or in development across Canada.

## National CAC/CYAC Meeting

The 2023 National CAC/CYAC Meeting was held March 8 and 9, in Kelowna British Columbia. We were grateful for the opportunity to return to in-person attendance, following two years of meeting virtually.

That said, with virtual meeting opportunities now being the norm, we were excited to offer, for the first time, a hybrid model allowing participants both in-person and virtually.

The meeting opened with keynote speakers, Dr. Scott McLean, educator and social/justice service consultant, and Angela Pochakom, Project Manager for Being Trauma Aware at the Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre, who discussed establishing trauma-informed organizations from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The

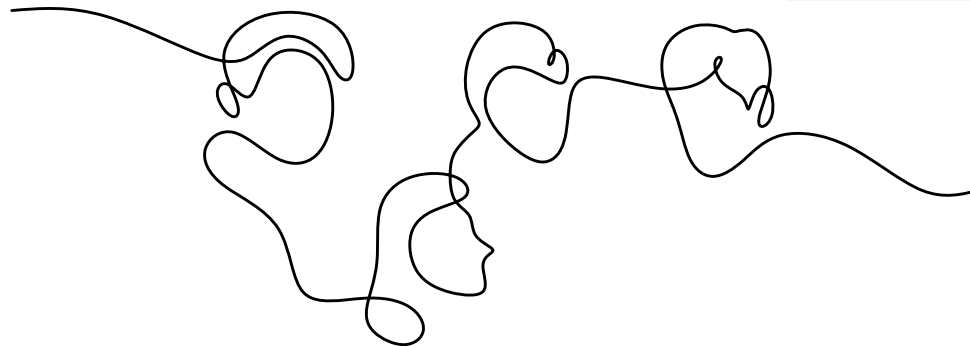
two-day meeting included sessions on cultural considerations while working with Indigenous families, a facilitated brainstorming session focussed on each of the National CAC/CYAC Guidelines, an overview of mindfulness, and how it can help bring more presence, peace, and balance, the role of caregivers to support children after a disclosure of abuse, findings from the 2022 National CAC/CYAC Operational Survey and a discussion of translating research into CAC/CYAC practice.

# National CAC/CYAC Meeting attendees:

80 in person,  
72 virtual

# of CACs represented at the National CAC/CYAC Meeting:

33



## Webinar Series

Through our Webinar Training Series, Boost CYAC helps to build capacity within Child & Youth Advocacy Centres across Canada by providing information, resources and lessons learned on different aspects of developing an effective CYAC.

The webinars are simultaneously translated to French, recorded, and made available on the National CAC/CYAC website; <https://cac-cae.ca/>.

### Webinar Topics:

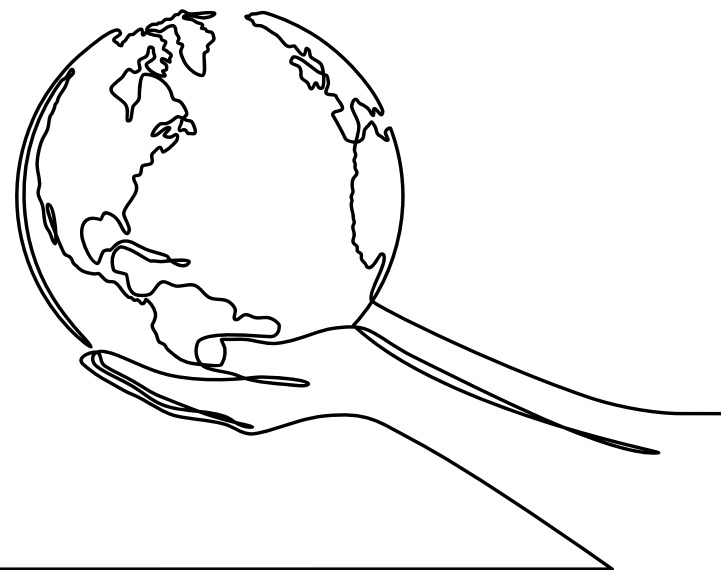
- Legal supports for victims of Human Trafficking
- Evidenced informed practices for working with survivors of Human Trafficking
- Applying equity, diversity, and inclusion principals to CAC/CYAC work
- Violence, Evidence, Guidance, and Action (VEGA) Project – an overview of family resources
- The role of the Complainants Counsel
- Forensic Interviews
- CYAC Accreditation
- Quality Control at CYACs
- Trauma-informed Multi-Disciplinary Work
- Working with High-Conflict Families

# Number of Webinars:

12

# of Webinars participants:

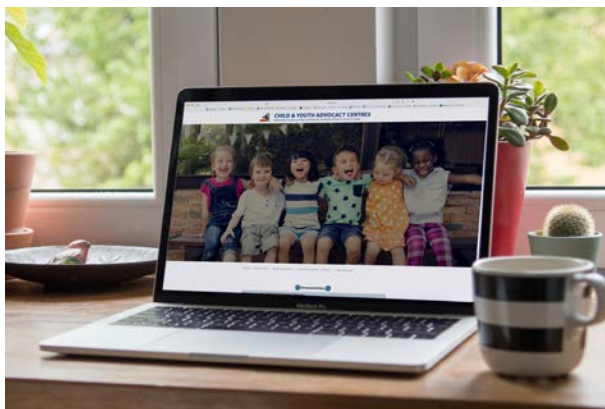
844



## National CAC/CYAC Website

To support knowledge sharing and capacity building across the Canadian CAC/CYAC sector, Boost CYAC maintains the National CAC/CYAC website.

In 2023, several new features were introduced on the website, including increased accessibility for *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* compliance, Google Analytics integration, enhanced real-time French translation for all website content, a new interactive map on the home screen for better navigation of current CYACs across the nation, and the migration of the site to a new learning management system. Additionally, all of the webinar-related documents are now accessible on the website in both English and French. Lastly, viewers can now access all recorded webinars directly from the site.



# Events

## Butterfly Ball

On May 25, 2023, the 24th Annual Butterfly Ball took place at the Four Seasons Hotel for another incredible year of philanthropy and fundraising in support of Boost CYAC. Claire MacNamara and Candice Sinclair co-chaired the incredible event. Guests heard directly from Detective Constable Ed Dizon about the work Boost CYAC does from the time of disclosure through investigation, while our Accredited Facility Dog, Iggy took the stage to raise awareness of the BARK program. This annual black-tie fundraiser raised more than \$800,000 to support Boost CYAC programs and services.





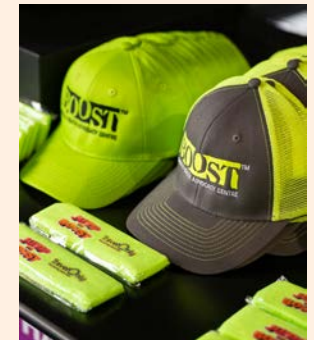
### Polar Bear Dip - Dare To Dip!

Every January 1, hundreds of Torontonians gather at Sunnyside Beach for a cold plunge in Lake Ontario to raise vital funds for Boost CYAC. 2023 was no exception, with more than 500 people rushing into chilly waters for a great cause. With more than \$92,000.00 raised it was a chilly but successful day!



### Jump for Boost!

The inaugural children's fundraising event was held at Sky Zone Leaside on November 22, 2023. Donors and their families came out to raise funds for Boost CYAC's court program while enjoying a morning of trampolines, DJ and dancing, face painting, yummy snacks, and lunch. Guests made custom toques with patches and enjoyed meeting with officers from Toronto Police Service. Presented by the Aune Foundation, who supported the event as the title sponsor, this first-ever fundraiser brought more than 400 people together and raised over \$40,000 in support of Boost CYAC!



# Our Sincerest Thanks to Our Donors and Funders

## Thanks to Your Generosity and Caring Hearts

Boost CYAC would not exist without the unwavering support we receive from our donors and funders. Thank you!

### Government Funders

City of Toronto  
Department of Justice Canada  
Ministry of the Attorney General (Ontario)  
Ministry of Children, Community and  
Social Services (Ontario)  
Ministry of Health (Ontario)  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Public Health Agency of Canada

### \$100,000 +

The Aune Foundation  
Shantelle & Yannick Bisson

### \$50,000 +

Paul Bailey  
Claire & Tyler MacNamara

### \$25,000 +

Thelma Bailey  
The Thor E. and Nicole Eaton Family  
Charitable Foundation  
KLAWS Foundation  
La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso  
Max Mara Inc  
Scotia Wealth Management  
Trish & Nick Del Sorbo



### **\$10,000 +**

The Audra Group  
Jonathan Aune  
Shelby Austin  
Bell Canada  
Brookfield Partners Foundation  
Connect Asset Management  
Peter Cordy  
Jonathan Dwyer  
Elise & John Esteireiro  
FACE atelier  
Lynn Factor & Sheldon Inwentash  
Forest Hill Orthodontics  
Franny's Fund  
Randy & Jenny Frisch Family Foundation  
GSP Foundation  
HGC Investment Management  
Moez & Marissa Kassam Foundation  
Nancy King  
Brett Lindros  
Melissa & Dylan MacNamara  
Allison McCrea Smith  
Andrew Mcgoey  
Vanessa & Mark Mulrone  
Premier Candle Corporation  
Rogers Communications Inc.  
Sage Investments Ltd.  
Mary Sinclair  
The Sixty Three Foundation  
Sofina Foundation  
TD Business Banking  
Woodbridge Investments Corporation

### **\$5,000 +**

Jason Birnboim  
Anne-Marie Canning  
The Chawkers Foundation  
DealMaker  
Jen Grant  
David Matheson  
Lina Mattei  
James Molloy  
Glenn Smith  
Taurus Craco Machinery  
Torys LLP  
Sophia Toliis  
Wildeboer Dellelce LLP

### **\$1,000 +**

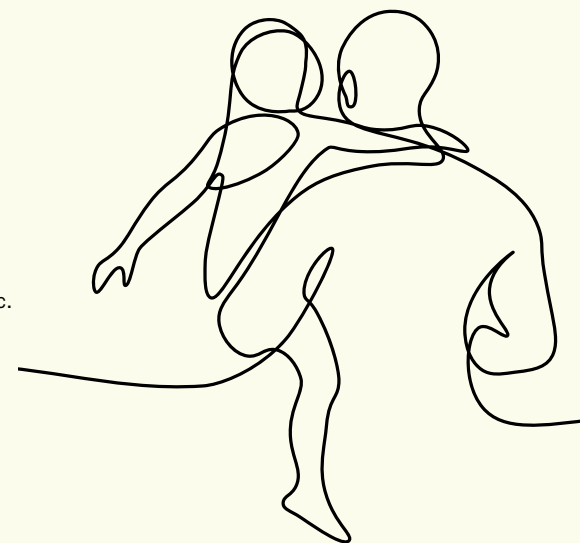
1965601 Ontario Inc.  
Blue Oak Building Corp  
Rann Cannon  
Paul Carroll  
Allan Chartrand  
Jaclyn Cobourn  
Katrine Constantakos  
Kevin Cooper  
Timothy Cooper  
Belise Deffett  
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Karen Kuruvilla  
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Dimitrios Liakopoulos  
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James Milonas  
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David Orbst  
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Dorothy Pike  
Shannon & Barry Pogson  
Eden Polansky  
Policaro Foundation  
John Sabine  
Jamie Sokalsky  
Raffi Tokmakjian  
TravelOnly  
Vancouver Foundation  
Vanessa Yeung

### **Special Thanks**

Justice Faith Betty  
Nia Faith Betty  
Boost Fundraising Advisory Board  
Butterfly Ball Committee  
Method Law  
Multi-Languages Corporation  
National Service Dogs  
Swerve Design Group Inc.  
Toronto Polar Bear Club  
United Way Greater Toronto  
Marta Urbanowitz, Artam Design  
VCA Mt. Pleasant-Davisville Animal Hospital

### **Disclaimer**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If an error has been made, please accept our sincerest apologies. If you would like more information about how to make a gift to Boost CYAC or to update your name for the purpose of recognition, please contact us at 416-515-1100; [info@boostforkids.org](mailto:info@boostforkids.org)



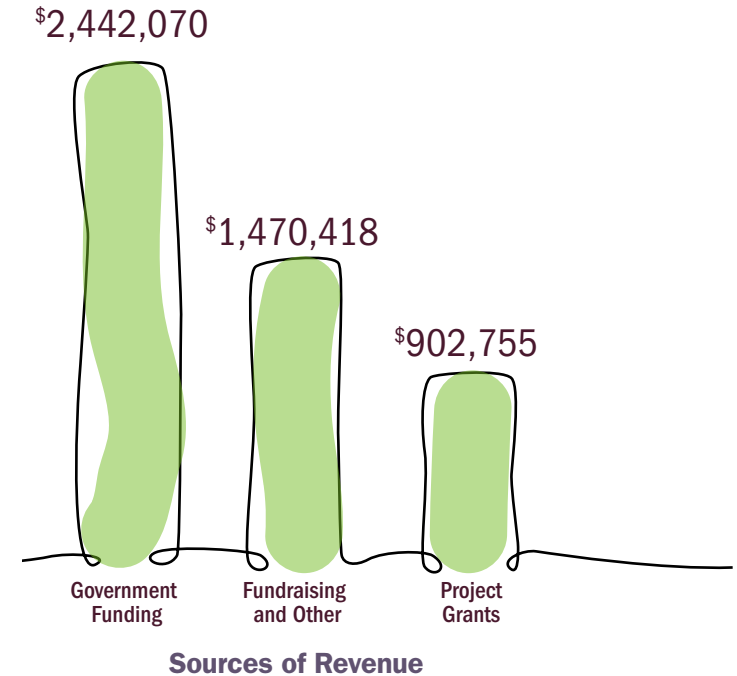
# Finances

Statement of Operations.  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Revenue	2023	2022
Government Funding	\$2,442,070	\$2,579,294
Fundraising and Other	\$1,470,418	\$1,193,045
Project Grants	\$902,755	\$713,339
Government Emergency Subsidies		\$460,787
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,815,243</b>	<b>\$4,946,465</b>

Expenses	2023	2022
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Assessment Directed Therapy Program	\$1,035,621	\$865,823
Child Victim Witness Support Program (Central Region)	\$327,175	\$294,870
Child Victim Witness Support Program (Toronto Region)	\$335,656	\$328,916
Prevention & Public Education Program	\$555,323	\$507,365
Responding to Children at Risk Program	\$1,382,257	\$1,433,171
Internet Child Exploitation Program	\$273,094	\$341,452
Administration & Development	\$677,562	\$444,326
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,909,126</b>	<b>\$4,215,923</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses for the Year</b>	<b>\$288,555</b>	<b>\$730,542</b>



CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE

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Charitable Registration: 119039568 RR0001

Boost CYAC is proud to be accredited for the 2020-2024 term by the Canadian Centre for Accreditation (CCA), an independent non-profit organization that offers accreditation specifically tailored to community-based health and social services across Canada.