



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Speak Up for Kids!

October is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Guelph and Wellington County – October is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Ontario and Family & Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County is reminding everyone that protecting children and supporting families is a community responsibility.

Every Ontarian has a moral and legal role to play in protecting children and supporting vulnerable families by being aware of the signs of abuse and knowing who to call to help a child at risk of harm.

Family & Children's Services has been providing services to children and families throughout Wellington County for over 120 years. "We'd like to take this opportunity during Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month to remind everyone in our community that there are children and youth in Guelph and Wellington County who need help," says Daniel Moore, Executive Director. "It is important to let us know of any concerns about a child's well-being."

He adds, "Our goal is to work with the family to assist them to care for their children; most people don't realize that 97% of the children and youth we work with safely remain in their own homes." Those who are unable to live safely at home are placed with extended family, with friends or in foster homes.

F&CS is also encouraging the community to participate in "Dress Purple Day" on October 16th by wearing purple, taking a selfie, and tweeting it using hashtag #tweettostopchildabuse to support child abuse prevention and awareness.

On October 15th F&CS is partnering with Michael House Pregnancy Care Centre to host an awareness event at the newly renovated Michael House facility on Bristol Street. The event will focus on the importance of community support, such as that provided by Michael House, in helping parents to succeed in raising healthy, happy children. "Child development and family safety have always been of primary importance in the work we do at Michael House. We are pleased to be able to host this launch at our new Supportive Housing facility," says Rosemarie Coombs, Executive Director.

Throughout October purple ribbons will be distributed to community organizations and they are available at all F&CS offices at 275 Eramosa Road and 20 Shelldale Crescent in Guelph and at 6484 Wellington Road 7 in Elora. Wearing a Purple Ribbon reminds us that everyone has a role to play in keeping our children safe and helping families get the services and support they need.

To report concerns about the safety of a child or youth call 519-824-2410 or 1-800-265-8300.

To learn more about the work of Family & Children's Services, child abuse and neglect, how to recognize it and what happens when you call your local children's aid society go to www.fcsgw.org.

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For more information, please contact:

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