



Protocol Partners

No single group or individual can address all the needs of one family, one child, one neighbourhood or one community. Dealing with the challenges facing the families and children in Halton requires new and innovative approaches and that can only be accomplished by working in partnership.

Eight organizations, known as the Protocol Partners, have signed a formal Our Kids Network Partnership Agreement, signifying the tremendous dedication and commitment that Halton has to working together for our children and youth.

The OKN Partnership Agreement provides a structure for participating organizations to cooperate in strengthening communities' ability to improve life for families and children. OKN is recognized as a national leader in creating innovative, strong collaborations and putting research into practice. In 2010, OKN received the 'Community Champion Award' for best practices and outstanding contributions to human services by the Ontario Municipal Social Service Association (OMSSA).

As the backbone structure for the partnership, OKN Protocol Partners:

- Guide our vision and strategy so we stay on target to meet our goals
- Keep an eye on the big picture in a way that helps committees, partners and partner agencies make decisions about planning and implementation
- Share our research results and help people understand and use the data effectively
- Build public will and advance policy through our network and strong relationships
- Contribute, structure and manage funding to ensure that OKN support of agencies and organizations serving children and youth remains stable



The Halton Children's Aid Society (Halton CAS) was established in 1914 as a not-for-profit charitable organization focusing on the well-being and protection of children. The Halton CAS is mandated under the *Child and Family Services Act* of Ontario and, as such, is required by law to protect children from physical, sexual and emotional abuse and harm. The Halton CAS is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and is one of 46 children's aid societies across Ontario.

The Society provides community-based Child Welfare services, a homeless program called Bridging the Gap (BTG) and oversight for the Our Kids Network. Over 81% of our protection staff work directly in community placements including schools, counseling agencies and the Halton Regional Police Services.

Halton CAS is the OKN secretariat, providing office space and full administrative services to ensure the smooth running of our backbone function.



ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development is Ontario's largest Children's Treatment Centre (CTC) serving over 16,000 children with disabilities and their families each year. Working from a family-centred philosophy, they focus on the strengths and resilience of their clients and their families. They have close connections throughout the community, and partner with school boards, other service providers, and hospitals in the delivery of care.



Halton Catholic District School Board is a provincial leader in student achievement. HCDSB provides exceptional educational experiences and services to over 33,000 students of all ages, across our 46 elementary schools, 9 secondary schools, and 3 continuing education facilities, serving the communities of Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. With a focus on achieving, believing, and belonging, they provide students and staff with the tools for realizing their fullest potential, while also instilling a life-long commitment to the community.



Halton District School Board serves more than 64,000 public school students in the municipalities of Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. They are committed to every student and in doing so they: create safe, healthy, inclusive and engaging environments; build and maintain partnerships; demonstrate cooperation, collaboration and compassion; and acknowledge and appreciate diversity.



Halton Multicultural Council is a community-based settlement agency that provides a variety of programs and services to immigrant and refugee communities. They are dedicated to enabling every individual, regardless of race or ethnic origin, to participate as full and active members of the community through fostering mutual respect and understanding of one another.



Halton Region Community and Children Services, and Health Services work closely with the OKN partners to support the positive development of children and youth. These municipal government services have been leading, participating in and providing foundational support to Our Kids Network since 1996.



Halton Regional Police Service is committed to a community-based policing philosophy and belief that strong community partnerships are the single most valuable crime prevention tool. All members of the HRPS endeavour to build links and work in partnership with the people they serve to achieve common goals.



ROCK Reach Out Centre for Kids is a recognized leader in providing innovative, family-centred mental health services. ROCK promotes positive child development through its programs and services that strengthen the ability of families and the community to raise and nurture children. ROCK has also been designated the Halton lead-coordinating agency for youth mental health.