

## Media Release

### For immediate release

May 24, 2023

## **Our Kids Network strengthens its online resources for people and organizations who work with Halton's children and youth**

### **Redesigned website supports critical knowledge access**

Halton Region, Ontario – Our Kids Network, a Halton-wide partnership of agencies and organizations serving children, youth, and families, has launched a redesigned website and new resource hub at [ourkidsnetwork.ca](https://ourkidsnetwork.ca).

OKN conducts and shares research and brings people and organizations together to exchange knowledge and work collaboratively to improve the wellbeing of our youngest community members. At the centre of OKN's work is its website, which offers the latest in research and data, Truth and Reconciliation materials, and news and learning opportunities for professionals such as researchers, educators, and service providers for children and youth.

OKN's Executive Director Elisabeth Wells explained the impact of the website content.

"Information leads to action. By providing a single online home for resources, training opportunities, and connections to other professionals doing similar or related work, we're supporting positive outcomes for children and families. Collective efforts to address the root causes of issues are most effective when we listen to various voices and use trusted data. Our experts have curated an impressive range of resources to support that."



**Resources are easy to access and use**

The [new resource hub](#) includes a “collections” section, where it takes just one click to find up-to-date content on topics such as youth engagement, development during the early years, and supporting Indigenous families. Users can also search by resource type, topic, and age group; for example, videos about relationship building for teens, or infographics highlighting data about children aged five or under.

Additional OKN website features of note:

- OKN's [Data Portal](#) houses a large inventory of neighbourhood-level data, covering categories such as demographics, health, and safety. Users can explore maps, spreadsheets, or charts, and download information for their own study and/or to help them design programs and services.
- OKN [blog](#) articles are written by professionals, community members, and youth on topics such as the Halton Youth Impact Survey results, youth mental health, and Truth and Reconciliation.
- As a hub for professional development, OKN's website lists collaborative learning opportunities, such as [webinars and workshops](#).
- A new accessibility feature has been added, aimed at creating an inclusive online experience that caters to the diverse needs of our users.

Wells noted that OKN always ensures that important information is free and accessible to everyone.

“Anyone in our community can easily navigate our site to get insight into how we work with our partners and the contributions our network makes to the wellbeing of Halton’s children and youth. Our commitment to sharing our knowledge and experiences with others is clear on every page of our new site.”

[Explore the new website!](#)

- end -