



# Child Welfare Orientation

# What is a Children's Aid Society?



- CAS
- Also known as Family & Children's Services or Child & Family Services
- Established under the authority of the Child & Family Services Act (CFSA)
- Mandated to provide child protection services
- Non-profit
- Funded by Ministry of Children & Youth Services

# What is a CAS?

- For children birth to 16 and their families
- To help and support children and their families
- To intervene to protect children
- To provide care for children when necessary



# Overview of Child Protection

- 44 Children's Aid Societies and 6 Aboriginal organizations providing child protection service in Ontario
- Referrals can be made 24 hours per day 7 days per week 365 days per year
- In 2013 - 2014 Ontario CASs received more than 198,000 calls about child protection concerns from citizens, neighbours, health professionals, teachers, police officers, families themselves and others
- 81,469 investigations were completed, with 23,341 children/youth receiving in care services

# Child's Status

- Service to most children is provided in the community
- Children are admitted to care because of maltreatment – abuse, neglect, abandonment
- If children are admitted to care,
  - Voluntary
    - Temporary Care Agreement (TCA)
    - Customary Care Agreement
  - Through court
    - Temporary Care & Custody (pending disposition)
    - Society Wardship (temporary wardship)
    - Crown Wardship (permanent wardship – till 18)

# Types of Placements

- Children/youth in care must be in a licenced placement
- Foster Care - regular, kinship, specialized, treatment, mixed modality
- Customary Care
- Group Care

# Role of the Children's Service Worker



- Carries out the role as legal guardian, on behalf of the Society, for children/youth in Society care
- Assesses, develops and implements interventions to meet the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual needs of each child/youth in the Society's care
- Establishes/develops a trusting relationship in order to support and facilitate the child's growth and development while in care

# Role of the Children's Service Worker



- Provides counselling to the child/youth and initiates support linkages for the child/youth with internal and community resources including schools, medical facilities, YCJA, children's mental health, immigration, etc.
- Coordinates service requirements and advocates on behalf of the child to ensure the receipt of appropriate and timely services.



# Toronto Children's Aid Societies



- 4 CASs provide service to children, youth and their families in Toronto

	CAST	CCAS	NCFS	JCFS
# Crown wards	352	259	100	20
# 6 to 12 years	107	92	48	9 (0 to 12)
# 13 to 17 years	227	245	52	11
Males	57.7%	58.3%	63.6%	
Females	42.3%	41.7%	36.4%	37.9%

# Where do our Crown Wards

**Simcoe  
44**

**York  
Region-  
59**

Lake Huron

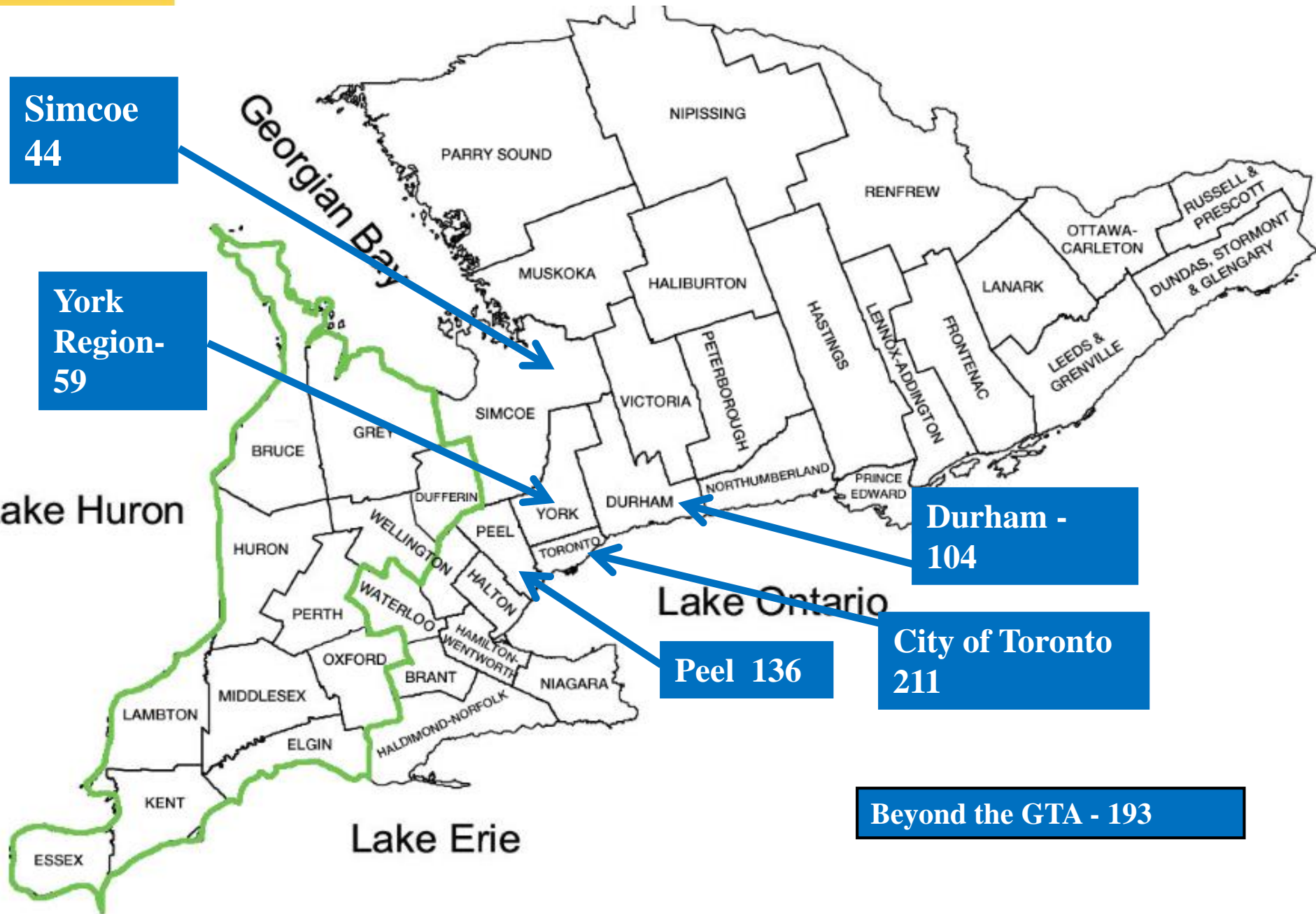
**Durham -  
104**

**Peel 136**

**City of Toronto  
211**

**Beyond the GTA - 193**

Lake Erie





# Profile of our Children/Youth

	CAST	CCAS	NC&FS	JF&CS
Children with identified special needs	281 (79.8% )	215 (83%)	77 (76.6%)	50%
ADHD	23.2%	24.1%	26.9%	20%
Learning Disability	14.0%	25.3%	14.6%	24%
Medical	20.6%	12.6%	15.3%	Less than 1%
Developmental	48.0%	35.8%	44.1%	30%