



Colouring Outside the Lines

a communiqué from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services

March 19, 2004

After six weeks on the road talking to some of the people across Ontario who work with children, youth and families, one of the things that came out loud and clear was something that was said on the very first day.

Dr. Simon Davidson, Chief of Psychiatry at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, said "I'm a youth advocate. I'm appealing to you to consider changing the name of your ministry to reflect young people so they feel part of it."

At subsequent roundtables we raised the issue with other stakeholders. All agreed the ministry name should be more inclusive of teenagers who wouldn't appreciate being referred to as children. We agreed too and when the Minister raised the issue with Premier McGuinty, he also agreed.

So on March 10, 2004, the government officially changed the ministry's name to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The name change recognizes that this ministry provides services from the pre-natal stage into adulthood.

The new name is part of the evolution of the ministry. It reflects our commitment to help children, youth and families throughout the various stages of a child's development.

Along with the new name, the ministry now officially has jurisdiction over probation and custody services for youth 12 to 17 years of age and children's health programs including Healthy Babies Healthy Children, children's treatment centres and early childhood development initiatives.

We're building this ministry together. Thank you for your interest and commitment. By helping our children and youth succeed today we can ensure Ontario succeeds tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marie Bountrogianni
Minister

Sandra Lang
Deputy Minister

