

The following template letter is intended to be used by individuals and community-based organizations and service providers – including children's aid societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agencies (child welfare agencies) – to advocate for children and youth in and from care to their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP).

We encourage you to personalize the message by explaining why Children and Youth in Care Day matters to you. Find your local MPP <u>here</u>.

## **Template Letter**

MPP [NAME]

[NAME OF RIDING]

[CONSTITUENCY OFFICE ADDRESS]

Dear MPP [NAME],

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I live in [NAME OF RIDING]

Children and Youth in Care Day takes place every year on May 14. Inspired by the My Real Life Book report and proclaimed into law through the Children and Youth in Care Day Act, 2014, it is an opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions of current and former youth in care to communities across Ontario. It is also a time to



acknowledge the strength and resilience shown by these young people in the face of adversity.

This year, children's aid societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agencies, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), and Children's Aid Foundation of Canada (CAFC) are continuing the #ForgetMeNot campaign by focusing on the #LittleWins of young people with lived experience interacting with Ontario's child welfare system.

Celebrating the little wins in the lives of children and youth in and from care is more than just a moment of joy – it's a powerful reminder that every step forward, no matter how small, counts. The little wins look different for each young person – completing a homework assignment or project, making a new friend, learning how to cook a new meal, getting a driver's license, renting an apartment for the first time, going back to school to complete a program. They should all be celebrated.

Supportive adults and strong relationships can help ensure children and youth in and from care know they belong and are part of a community – one that will celebrate the little wins with them. I encourage you to participate in the <a href="#ForgetMeNot campaign">#ForgetMeNot campaign</a> this year and to learn more about how you can support children and youth in and from care by reading the <a href="OACAS 2025 Pre-Budget">OACAS 2025 Pre-Budget</a> Submission.

I urge you to lend your voice and speak up at Queen's Park to ensure children and youth in and from care are not forgotten.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]
[ADDRESS/POSTAL CODE]
[CONTACT INFO]