



YORK REGION  
CHILDREN'S  
AID SOCIETY

For Immediate Release

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## **York Region Children's Aid Society Announces New Executive Director**

York Region – The President of the York Region Children's Aid Society's Board of Directors, Barkat Kara, is proud to announce the appointment of a new Executive Director, Patrick Lake. The appointment takes effect September 4, 2007.

Mr. Lake is a recognized leader in the child welfare sector, with 31 years experience, including 19 years as the Executive Director, at the Children's Aid Society for the District of Timiskaming.

"After conducting a province-wide search, the Board of Directors has chosen an excellent leader who will help guide the agency's efforts as we navigate the changing landscape of child welfare," says Mr. Kara.

"Mr. Lake will bring a broad range of experience in child welfare to his new role as Executive Director of York Region Children's Aid Society. He also brings a proven track record of operational excellence and fiscal accountability."

"Patrick enjoys an excellent working relationship with his staff, his Board, government, and the broader community," says Don Anderson, board president of the Children's Aid Society for the District of Timiskaming, adding that "Patrick is widely known for his efforts to create and maintain an open environment, which allows for debate and disagreement, opening the door to consensus."

Throughout his career, Mr. Lake has held numerous volunteer and leadership positions at both the community and the provincial level. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Children's Mental Health Ontario.

York Region Children's Aid Society Executive Director, Martin McNamara, who has served since 1999, will continue in his role until the transition to new leadership is complete. Mr. McNamara announced his intention to retire in January 2006.

York Region Children's Aid Society is a non-profit organization mandated by the Child and Family Services Act to investigate allegations or evidence that children under the age of 16 may be in need of protection and to protect children where necessary.

Biographical sketch below.

For more information, please contact:

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**PATRICK LAKE**  
Biographical Sketch

With more than 31 years experience, including 19 years as Executive Director, Children's Aid Society for the District of Timiskaming, Patrick Lake is a recognized leader in the child welfare sector.

Mr. Lake attended the University of Windsor, obtaining a Bachelor of Social Work degree. On graduation, Mr. Lake worked as a front line social worker in child welfare. He completed his MSW in 1985.

Mr. Lake has held many leadership positions at both the community and provincial level. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Children's Mental Health Ontario, the provincial association representing the province's children's mental health agencies.

The Children's Aid Society for the District of Timiskaming has a budget of \$12 million and a staff of 160 in eight locations. The agency's services include child welfare, children's mental health, mobile crisis and family preservation services and youth justice.

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