



# More Government Spin on CAS

## Ontario not really serious about fixing problems with CAS

By Erika Klein

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Excuse me while I gag on the Premier and Minister's response to the spending abuses and service scandals with Ontario's Children's Aid Societies.

Last week, a number of good citizens spent hours emailing as many people as we could to support Bill 88 which is intended to give Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin the authority to investigate complaints he receives about the CAS.

I personally emailed every Minister of Provincial Parliament but it looks like my efforts were to no avail.

It is clear that the culture of entitlement still pervades even in the aftermath of the scandal involving the abuse of tax dollars by CAS agencies.

Premier McGuinty proposes a "new accountability office to ensure that CAS agencies live up to their responsibilities under the law to protect and care for children at risk"

We are told it will have enforcement powers and authority to take corrective action when they fail to do the job.

In fact this really doesn't explain much to the public.

What would these enforcement powers that the Premier talks about embody?

What constitutes corrective action?

The only changes this scathing auditor's report generated was by gosh jolly, oh my, another government bureaucracy funded yet again by more tax dollars!

Why did the government do this when there is already a Provincial Ombudsman's Office ready and eager to do the job.

As far as the CAS spin, they've been quoted as saying they need to have competitive compensation and salary packages to offer those choosing a career in child welfare.

In the name of abused children - they receive a standard of living that pales in comparison to the life of a foster child.

The media hasn't done a good job with their spin either.

Instead of focusing on the children that are already inside CAS care (30 thousand kids to date), they furthered the CAS racket unknowingly.

More media attention went to featuring unanswered calls regarding children at risk in society by their families.

Absolutely nothing was dedicated to families who lost children via harassment and false allegations by CAS workers themselves.

At the end of the day, the crucial issues got lost and this has become yesterday's news.

Why?

Because children in care cannot speak out.

Because mothers and fathers are forbidden by law to discuss their cases and in some cases jailed if they try to bring attention to abuse of their families by CAS workers.

In the spirit of real bureaucracy, the Ministry and the Premier of Ontario would rather do damage control than to clean up Ontario's broken child welfare protection system and adopt a new, more accountable and more effective framework for child welfare.

And why should they?

Because business is booming for CAS with tax dollars flowing in at unprecedented rates.