

# Bill 210

## What You Should Know

You may be aware that Bill 210 was passed on March 27, 2006 and will become effective in the fall of 2006. This Bill will help to improve stability for children and youth in care. We would like to inform you of some of the new amendments.

Several amendments are made throughout the Act to ensure that, where specified actions, decisions or plans are made in relation to a child who is an Indian or native person, the child's band or native community receives notice of the proposed action, decision or plan or is consulted or allowed to participate in the proposed action, decision or plan. Takes into account cultural, emotional and spiritual differences among children.

*Section 56 is amended to ensure that a plan for a child's care prepared by a society includes a description of arrangements that are being made to recognize and preserve the child's heritage, traditions and culture.*

*The court may include in the custody order an order restraining any person from molesting, annoying or harassing the child or the person having custody of the child.*

*New section 63.1 imposes an obligation on societies to assist Crown wards develop an enduring relationship within a family by way of adoption, custody order or, if the child is an Indian or native person, through a plan for customary care as defined in Part X.*

*Currently, section 68 requires societies to develop complaint review procedures which are approved by the Director and which include a review of the complaint by the society's board of directors and a further review by the Director. The new section 68.1 provides that, for other specified matters, the complaint may be made directly to the Board or transferred to the Board before the completion of the society's complaint review procedure.*

Section 80 of the Act is amended so that a restraining order may be made not only to prohibit

mines is in the best interests of the child.

For more information on this legislation please visit <http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/bills/index.htm>

According to Children and Youth Services Minister Mary Anne Chambers: "This legislation will clearly place the interests of children first".

When fully Implemented, child protection reform will:

Increase the accountability of children's aid societies through a stronger, more timely complaints process.

Allow more children to be adopted while keeping important ties to their birth family and community through open adoption agreements. **Crown Wards with access orders will be able to be adopted.**

Provide more options for children who can't be adopted so they can grow up in caring, permanent homes. For Aboriginal children and youth, customary care arrangements that allow them to keep important cultural and family ties will be emphasized.

Bring consistency to the adoption application process, making it simpler and easier for prospective parents.

Create a province-wide registry to help match available children with prospective parents.

Where needed, provide support to parents after an adoption is complete.

Help resolve child protection cases outside of the courtroom more quickly through collaborative solutions such as mediation.

Provide children's aid societies with the tools to support and strengthen families facing challenges, so they can take better care of their children.

Make children's aid societies more sustainable and accountable through a new funding framework.

You can read more information at the Ministry of Children and Youth Services website at [www.children.gov.on.ca](http://www.children.gov.on.ca)