



# London Family Court Clinic

## ANNUAL REPORT

---

2019 *Partnering with  
our community*

# Executive Director's 2019 Report

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our partners during the past fiscal year. Our partners have included those we serve and those involved in funding and providing the various services (such as our staff, clinicians, volunteers, students, clients, board members, and our funders). We have come to learn over the past 45 years that "Partnerships" make London Family Court Clinic viable, responsive, flexible, sustainable, and nimble. In essence, we are who we are because of our partnerships. London Family Court Clinic **P.A.R.T.N.E.R.S.H.I.P.S.** include:

**People & Partners**

**Arranging & Assessing**

**Respectful & Relevant**

**Treatment & Training that is**

**Neutrally and**

**Expertly**

**Researched & Requiring the**

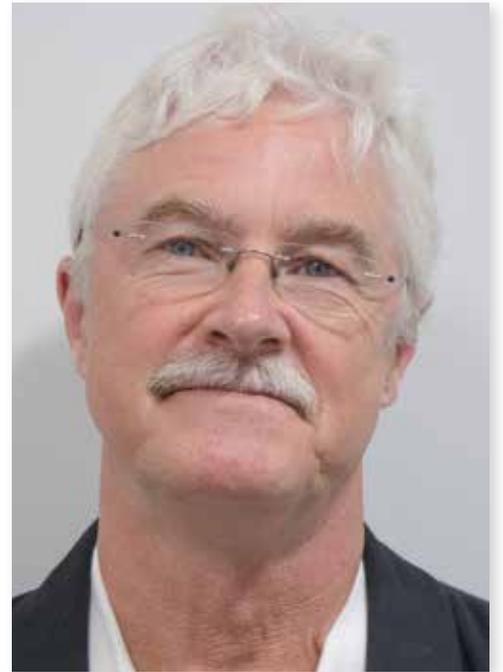
**Sharing of**

**Hope & Healing**

**Insight**

**Proactive Prevention as well as**

**Skills & Safety**



Dr. Dan T. Ashbourne,  
Executive Director, LFCC

To conclude, "**LFCC grows and evolves through our Partnerships**" and we thank all those who have contributed this past year in this ongoing evolution.

Dr. Dan T. Ashbourne, Ph.D., C. Psych., AccFM,  
Clinical Psychologist, Accredited Family Mediator,  
Executive Director, London Family Court Clinic

# Board of Directors' 2019 Report

Committed and resilient. Two words that come immediately to mind when I think about the staff at London Family Court Clinic and the volunteer members of the LFCC Board of Directors. Their commitment to our strategic direction remains unwavered. Their resiliency to keep going after those extremely tough moments is more than admirable.

To say we have had a tough year is a bit of an understatement. Tougher than any I have witnessed to-date. Yet here we are, ready to embark on another year. Ready to continue to work on our strategic direction, ready to move from Agency to Social Enterprise, ready to continue to work with those we serve – READY with all the passion, commitment and resiliency it takes to get it done! And to get it done well!

Our strategic direction has not changed from last year. We remain committed to growing our fee-for-service, to ramping up our fund development capabilities, to finding improved ways of doing all the things that we do, and, most importantly, we remain committed to those we serve and the communities in which we serve.

We are still operating in a deficit. Not easy. I applaud our Board of Directors for making some pretty tough decisions. I applaud our Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director for providing us with all the information we require to make those tough decisions. And there are many more tough decisions to be made. They need to be made. We must get back to a balanced budget and we must make headway on our strategic direction. The two are at odds, but it must happen if we are to survive. It must happen to continue to provide the best service we can to those we serve. It just simply must happen.

While I have been a member of the Board of Directors for quite some time now, this will be my first year as Board President. I am honored. The LFCC people and board members are truly a remarkable bunch. Committed and resilient.

Darlys Corbitt,  
President,  
London Family Court Clinic Board of Directors



Darlys Corbitt,  
President, LFCC Board of Directors

London Family Court Clinic  
Board of Directors

Darlys Corbitt | President

Brenda Kerton | Past President

Afeez Ajibowu

Lorie Arias

Sara Folias

Tuhin Jajal

Ketan Ramji

Amir Saeidi

Mary Ann Tucker

## Frank Brennan Award

The Frank Brennan Award, introduced in 1984, recognizes a colleague who exemplifies the qualities for which Frank is remembered: compassion, integrity, respectful treatment of clients, effective communication, dedication to advocacy, and support to colleagues. Frank volunteered with the London Family Court Clinic for five years after retiring from his job as a probation officer.

This year's recipient of the Frank Brennan Award is Rodger Parent. Rodger received a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1987 and began his career in Child Welfare in 1989. During his 32-year career, Rodger spent 10 years as a Child Welfare Investigator, started a Crown Ward unit with the Chatham Children's Aid Society, was a co-founder for the Chatham Transition House, working tirelessly to provide a safe place for youth living on the street. Further to these contributions, Rodger was also the Coordinator for the Youth-in-Care network for five children's aid societies across Southern Ontario and was the first worker London's Long-term Care unit with the London Middlesex Children's Aid

Society. Over the past 32 years Rodger has facilitated many groups for adolescents and has been both a liaison and fierce advocate for youth. Most recently, Rodger became the first Criminal Court Liaison for the London and Middlesex Children's Aid Society, until his retirement this past summer.

Rodger was welcomed to the Youth Therapeutic Court Team in 2012. As part of Rodger's court liaison role, he worked with the Youth Therapeutic Court Team, as well as his colleagues at CAS to ensure that crossover youth – those having involvement with both the justice and child welfare systems – were appropriately served. Rodger spent countless hours during his 7-year tenure on the YTC team collaborating, corresponding, and creatively planning to ensure that the youth he worked with were given the highest possible levels of support. Rodger's work and dedication have been integral to the court process, and this is evident by the care and support youth have received. We are truly grateful for Rodger's dedication, commitment and contributions.

## Wayne Willis Award

Wayne Willis, London Family Court Clinic's first employee, helped establish our original standards of practice. Each year, front line staff members nominate a youth with whom they've worked to receive this award. Recipients are recognized for taking significant steps to change the direction of their lives. We thank the London Community Foundation and the Judge Maurice Genest funds for making this award possible. This year's recipient of the Wayne Willis award winner is Kienna.

*At LFCC's 2019 Annual General Meeting, Kienna read from her life story. Here is an excerpt from Kienna in her own words:*

Throughout life I've been dealt a hand of cards on a consistent basis that I wasn't sure how to deal with and

frequently made some bad decisions.

The last eight months have been some of the scariest times of my life. I went through change, began to start feeling feelings and went to rehab again. Since going to rehab I have gotten a job, found it easier to trust others and now understand that not everybody leaves. I moved into a program called 3-Q in August, have gotten 8 months clean and sober and now have faith that my life will turn out the way I have always wanted it to. Some of my goals include getting my G.E.D, applying to Fanshawe College for the Child and Youth Counsellor program and helping other people to develop trust, feel their feelings and believe in themselves.

Sincerely, Kienna

# Training

LFCC has offered a number of trainings across the province in 2018/2019. Training provided by LFCC staff increases the capacity of organizations across the country to provide excellent service. Here are a few highlights from this year:

The Windsor Essex Health Unit and the City of Windsor (Housing and Children's Services) hired LFCC to offer a series of trainings on Trauma Informed Care for Children and Families. A total of 150 child and youth care workers employed by the City of Windsor received this training at their annual appreciation breakfast.

A series of eight training sessions were delivered to the Delaware Health Centre on a variety of topics from youth suicide prevention to motivational interviewing. The Delaware Health Centre provides a range of health and mental health services to the indigenous clients of Delaware Nation.

LFCC also offered community trainings to local service providers on a fee for service basis. Our 2019 Suicide Postvention training hosted within the City of London's Social Services meeting space sold out within days of the call. A second session was offered, and also sold out. A total of 60 London and Middlesex County service providers now have foundational knowledge on postvention coordination and psychological first aid.

Finally, LFCC continues to train youth justice staff on behalf of the Ministry of Child and Youth Services. LFCC staff delivered a total of 19 days of training on Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention between March 2019 and May 2019. Youth Suicide Prevention trainings took place in Hamilton, Kingston, London, Brampton, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Burlington, Cobourg and Kenora. Approximately 200 youth justice service providers across the province benefited from our Youth Suicide Prevention Training.

# Youth Therapeutic Court

Over the past year, we have continued to provide services and supports to youth in London and Middlesex who have been charged with an offence under the Youth Criminal Justice Act and have a diagnosed or suspected mental illness, traumatic brain injury or developmental disability. It has been busy during the 2018/19 fiscal year: 98 youth were referred to Youth Therapeutic Court (YTC), representing a 21% increase compared to the previous year.

In terms of the Mental Health Diversion Support Worker Pilot Project, the collaborative effort between LFCC's YTC program and community partners has

continued to be a successful endeavour as 50 youth were given the opportunity to participate in the Mental Health Diversion Program, while 31 youth successfully completed their involvement.

In May 2019 YTC had the opportunity to begin including the services and supports of National Service Dog Merel and National Service Dog Yzer for youth while at court and during the assessment process. The addition of the facility dogs to YTC has been very well received and supported by the courts but especially by the youth receiving services.

# Multidisciplinary Clinical Supports Program

The Multidisciplinary Clinical Supports Program (MCSP) is a team comprised of registered psychotherapists, social workers, psychologists, a nurse, and psychiatrist. Multidisciplinary team members provide one-on-one, intensive mental health services to young residents (and their families) of 11 facilities in Middlesex County, including therapeutic residential care and youth justice (custody) settings, as well as youth on probation and mental health diversion.

Our MCSP clinicians work with various community partners, such as Anago Resources, Craigwood Youth Services, and WAYS mental health support. We have developed strong partnerships with these organizations by providing clinical services within their residential programs. This includes working in a clinical capacity with the youth at the facilities as well as working in collaboration with the residential staff team to assist in providing the best possible care to the youth we serve. MCSP clinicians attend on-site staff meetings on a regular basis in order to contribute and share input from a clinical perspective.

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, MCSP clinicians worked with over 235 youth in a counselling capacity. Our MCSP nurse provided 63 youth with nursing services; our MCSP psychiatrist provided 62 psychiatric consultations and our MCSP psychologist worked with 11 youth in either a counselling or assessment capacity. Another great addition to the MCSP team this past year was NSD Yzer, an accredited facility dog provided by National Service Dogs. NSD Yzer provides emotional support to youth engaging in counselling.



# Centralized Case Management

In the fall of 2017 LFCC adopted a Centralized Case Management approach, which uses a single point of contact management model to best serve our client population. This approach has now been in use for over a year. LFCC currently has five dedicated Centralized Case Managers to facilitate all incoming communication. Callers have commented that they appreciate having an immediate and single point of contact when inquiring about service navigation. When clients begin participating in services offered through LFCC, they continue their journey with a Centralized Case Manager, to provide assessment, support, and continuity.

In the past year, the Centralized Case Management team have fielded a variety of calls, including inquiries for various assessments such as Parenting Capacity, Custody & Access, Mental Health, Cognitive, Psychological, Counselling, FASD, Risk, Trauma, Voice of the Child, Parenting Coordination, and Mediation, all services that are provided by LFCC as part of our Fee for Service Program. Numerous inquiries have also been received regarding how to access a lawyer, court attendance, and family matters in general. During the past fiscal year, Centralized Case Management responded to over 300 inquiries, with many eventually accessing LFCC services.



Centralized Case Managers at LFCC support families through their entire journey to provide continuity.

## Youth Justice

Over the past year Youth Justice has completed 75 Section 34 assessment reports on 59 clients under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. These reports assist the Youth Court to understand the relevant factors in a young person's life that have contributed to his/her legal involvement, and developing a strategy to hold the young person accountable and prevent continued conflicts with the law. One of our cases this year involved assessing a First Nations youth facing a serious criminal charge. We worked closely with involved community professionals (e.g. N'Amerind, First Nations

Band Representative, CAS, and Youth Court) and were able to present culturally relevant recommendations that would be most responsive to this young person's needs and circumstances. The assessment report was referred to in great depth and detail during Court proceedings and positively, the Crown and Defense were able to collaborate and agree upon an alternative sentence. Our facility dog, Yzer, provided support to the youth throughout the assessment process and court proceedings, and she has also provided support to several other Section 34 assessment clients.

# Child Witness Program

The Child Witness Program continues to provide support to young victims and witnesses (4-17) of crime that are faced with the challenging task of testifying in criminal court. The Child Witness Program is built around the philosophy that every young witness deserves the opportunity to be thoroughly prepared for their court experience. By teaching children and youth about some of the processes within the criminal justice system, their role as a witness, and supporting them in court, anxiety is often reduced, and their court experience enhanced.

Children and youth witnesses continue to face an adult-focused justice system. While progress has been made and changes to the Criminal Code of Canada reflect a greater understanding of the needs of young witnesses, significant progress is still needed.

The London Family Court Clinic receives no additional funds to cover the cost of the facility dog program. As such, it is run entirely because of the generous donations from the community. The London Family Court Clinic is grateful to National Service Dogs for gifting both Merel and Yzer to the London Family Court Clinic, as without their support, this program would simply not be possible. The London Family Court Clinic also owes a great deal of gratitude to The Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London, The Agape Foundation of London, the Jack and Barbara Hay Foundation and others who keep the program going.

This year, CWP had 427 new referrals to the program, and completed 93 individual court preparations. Eighty-seven youth attended a preliminary hearing or trial with CWP staff, and 38 youth were assisted in providing victim impact statements in court.



# FASD Services

Parents and caregivers of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) continue to be supported by London Family Court Clinic through our parent support group and FASD Connect.

London Family Court Clinic has partnered with Ways and Merrymount to bring the FASD support group to London and area. The support group runs bi-weekly and is facilitated by an eclectic team of mental health professionals. Parents and caregivers have the opportunity to feel validated and supported while their children enjoy their own sensory-friendly play group under the same roof.

FASD Connect is a parent-parent peer mentoring

program funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation. Parents and caregivers of children with suspected or diagnosed FASD are matched in a mutually beneficial mentor-mentee dyad with the primary goal of reducing social isolation. In the summer of 2019 FASD Connect has taken off with the help of many community partners.

For more information about our FASD programs please call 519-878-FASD or email [fasd@lfcc.on.ca](mailto:fasd@lfcc.on.ca)

In addition, London Family Court Clinic offers FASD diagnostic assessments for a fee. For more information about the diagnostic assessment please call 519-870-5922.

# Alternative Dispute Resolution

ADR-LINK is a brokerage program that connects families involved in child protection matters of the children's aid societies (CAS) to ADR practitioners in the Southwest Region of Ontario.

CAS or the Indigenous community with families' consent, makes a referral to ADR-LINK which matches the case with a qualified professional.

ADR-LINK maintains a roster of qualified ADR practitioners who are accepting cases within its catchment area.

Practitioners are accredited or certified by The Ontario Association for Family Mediation, The George Hull

Centre or qualified ODR Practitioners.

ADR provides:

- Effective methods to resolve a dispute between family and child protection authorities;
- Alternative to traditional court process;
- A neutral facilitator that conducts ADR process;
- Voluntary involvement with participatory consent
- A process that focuses on facilitating the parties to find a solution upon which they can agree

ADR continues to provide services supported financially through Ministry of Child Community and Social Services.

# A Trauma-Informed Intervention Project

The Skills and Supports for Better Futures (“the Project”) was developed to address the impact of trauma on young people’s lives, in the hopes of supporting healthier choices and futures for them.

Over the past year our Skills and Supports for Better Futures project has had over 50 young people participate in the Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) skills group at our Clinic. The goal of this group is to reduce young people’s unhealthy coping strategies and support them in the use of better self-regulation skills so that they can be more engaged in positive activities, such as school and employment. In the course of promoting this project, we have developed strong and respectful relationships with a number of organizations. To date, the youth participants have come from a variety of referring agencies in our community including: London Middlesex Children Aid’s Society, Probation Services, Parkwood Hospital, St. Leonard’s Society, InterCommunity Health Services, local custody/detention sites, and a variety of group homes. There have also been some parents who have directly referred their children. Youth who participate in this project have also benefited from one-to-one skills coaching, as well as service coordination supports to ensure they can attend group on a weekly basis and are able to access other needed services. These services are designed to specifically address risk factors typically associated with living in poverty.

Youth living in poverty appear in youth court at a rate that is 10 times that of youth in the general population.

Court-involved young people also have a higher prevalence of mental health issues when compared to the general youth population and, in particular, are often impacted by childhood trauma. Such trauma is associated with an increased likelihood of involvement in the justice and child welfare systems. The negative impact of trauma on the lives of youth manifests in increased difficulties in relationships, frequent life crises, poor self-regulation skills and poor school engagement

As part of this project, we have also been able to facilitate community training to support a collaborative trauma-informed response for high-risk youth. In December, 2018 we had several clinicians from LFCC and community-based organizations participate in a two-day training on DBT treatment for individuals. As well, in March we held a full-day Poverty Reduction Symposium which introduced the project to a variety of community stakeholders, in addition to speakers from Western University as well as LFCC spoke about the importance of Trauma Informed Care for youth.

Evaluation data on the benefit of these interventions continues to be collected and we look forward to sharing the findings of this project at completion.

Beginning in the spring of 2018, the Project has been funded for 3 years and is supported by the Local Poverty Reduction Fund of the Government of Ontario and administered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

# Staff and Operations

London Family Court Clinic is incredibly fortunate to have the staff, volunteers, students, residents and interns we have. We have diverse education and experience within our team which enables us to deliver programs and services with a broad range of competencies, compassion and professionalism.

Employment programs have also played a role in helping us to bridge the gap in staffing requirements. For example, Oneida Employment Services approved a subsidy that provided the personnel which has enabled Indigenous youth across all program areas to receive the culturally-relevant support they need, effectively altering their life trajectory. The role of the Indigenous Support Worker, Kim, will become increasingly more significant as she contributes to the building of knowledge and development of competencies among not only our staff, but the many organizations with which we collaborate on a daily basis.

A second subsidy by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) provided a summer student who helped us to extend the administration functions of our agency.



Serving our clients often means traveling to meet them in their communities. Last year, LFCC staff drove 97,434 kilometres, using 10,425 litres of fuel. This translates to 17.62 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> emitted.

LFCC staff and placements further their education and training through in-house or external professional development opportunities. As such, staff and students engaged in over 100 workshops, webinars and courses to improve the services provided through LFCC.

At LFCC, we continue to explore ways in which we can enhance our employees' work experience. We regularly step outside the "job description" to get the job done and work in areas that challenge, educate and reward us beyond the paycheck. The flexibility of staff and placement students is key to successful service delivery.

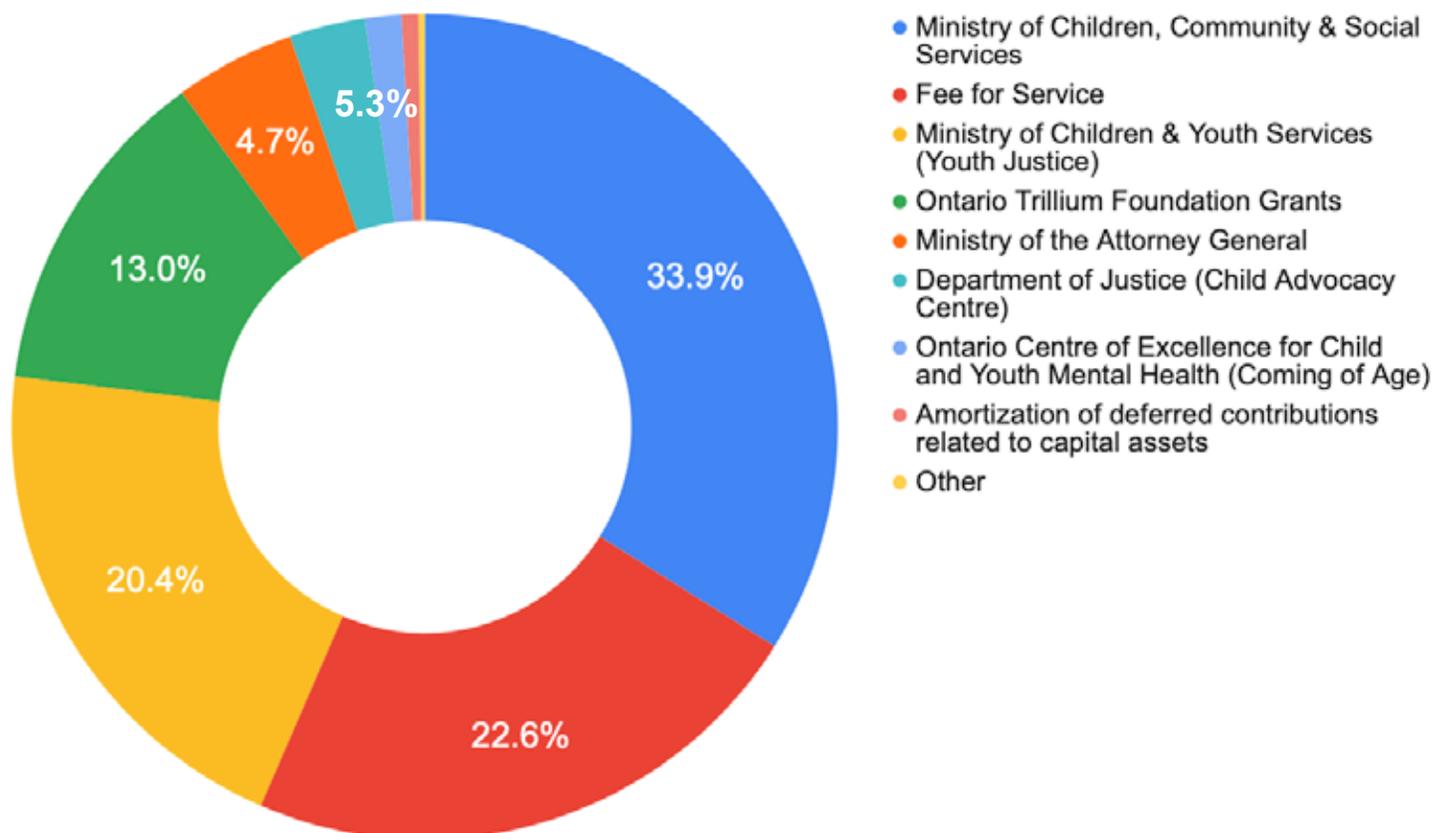
LFCC continues to strive to be an exceptional employer; a challenging commitment given the fiscal climate that is impacting the entire social service and health care sectors in Ontario. We are focusing our efforts on redesigning our model for the allocation of human resources in specific service areas. This is meant to support us in becoming a leaner, more productive organization, yet at the same time highly responsive to the broader needs of an increasingly diverse community.



Last year, we pledged to report what our energy use is at the clinic. In 2018/2019, we found that LFCC used 81,793 kWh of electricity, which translates into 12.27 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> emitted.

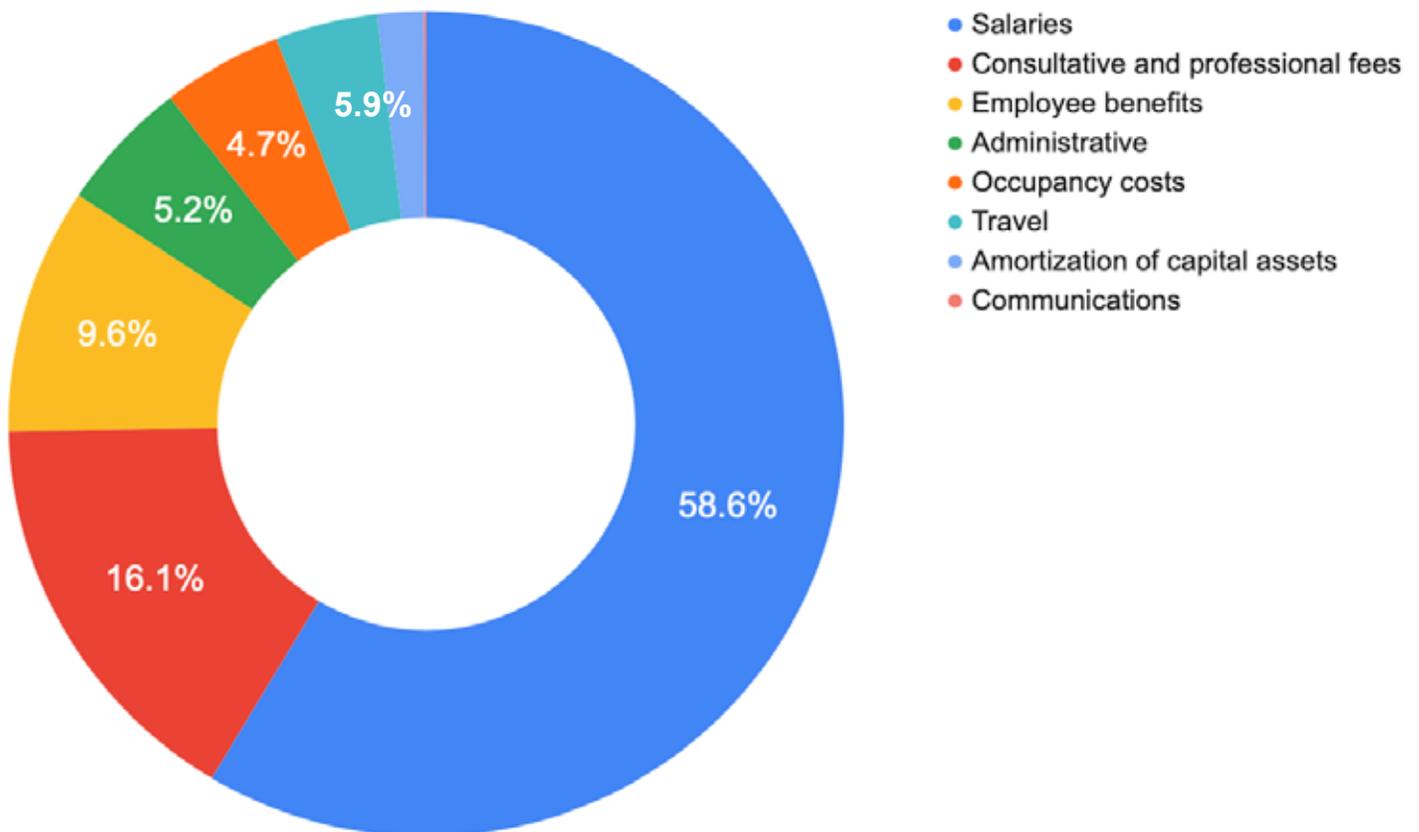
# Revenue | Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services	\$1,190,582
Fee for Service	\$792,405
Ministry of Children & Youth Services (Youth Justice)	\$717,602
Ontario Trillium Foundation Grants	\$457,770
Ministry of the Attorney General	\$165,652
Department of Justice (Child Advocacy Centre)	\$104,179
Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health (Coming of Age)	\$49,733
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	\$23,012
Other	\$8,942
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,509,877</b>



# Expenses | Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Salaries	\$2,255,008
Consultative and professional fees	\$620,310
Employee benefits	\$371,266
Administrative	\$198,259
Occupancy costs	\$179,424
Travel	\$152,694
Amortization of capital assets	\$68,533
Communications	\$3,996
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,849,490</b>





# London Family Court Clinic

254 Pall Mall Street #200,  
London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5P6  
[www.lfcc.on.ca](http://www.lfcc.on.ca)  
[info@lfcc.on.ca](mailto:info@lfcc.on.ca)

## **Our Mission:**

Integrating specialized clinical practice, education and research that promotes resiliency in children and families to move beyond the justice system.

## **Our Financial Supporters:**

Agape Foundation of London  
Department of Justice Canada  
Government of Ontario – Local Poverty Reduction Fund  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services  
Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services  
Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health  
Ontario Trillium Foundation

We appreciate the financial support received this year from individuals and businesses. Your contributions are important to us as they enable us to provide practical supports to clients in need.

Funding for this year's Annual General Meeting and Report is generously provided by the Margaret McCain Foundation.