



**Children's
Aid Society**
Of Oxford County

Safe children and youth, strong families, caring communities

Tina Diamond, MSW, RSW, MBA, CHRL
Executive Director

Lindsay Mansbridge

Oxford County Administration Building
21 Reeve Street
Woodstock, ON N4S 7Y3

Subject: Strong Support for the Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator in the 2026 Budget

Dear Lindsay Mansbridge,

We are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of a **Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator** in the 2026 Oxford County Budget. This position represents a strategic investment in public safety and community wellness, ensuring that Oxford County continues to lead in collaborative, evidence-informed approaches to addressing complex social challenges.

The Coordinator role is designed to provide hands-on leadership and oversight necessary to strengthen alignment across multiple initiatives that are critical to Oxford County's future. This includes the Oxford Situation Table, the Femicide Prevention Table, Oxford's Safety and Well-Being Plan, and the significant work underway to ensure the successful implementation of the HART Hub.

The Situation Table model is recognized as a best practice for enhancing public safety and promoting timely interventions through multi-agency collaboration. In Oxford County, the Situation Table brings together key community partners to identify and mitigate situations of acutely elevated risk (AER) - circumstances with a high likelihood of imminent and significant harm to individuals, families, or communities. When member organizations determine they have a role in the intervention, they mobilize immediate (ideally within 24-48 hours) multi-agency supports, connecting those at risk to the services required to

reduce AER factors and improve pathways to care. The success of this model relies on strong coordination, which ensures timely responses, effective collaboration, and sustainable outcomes.

Historically, facilitation of the Table was provided by staff from member organizations; however, without dedicated funding for a Coordinator, this model has become unsustainable as staff must balance coordination responsibilities with their regular workloads, limiting both time and overall impact.

Establishing a central point of coordination through a Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator position will address these challenges by reducing duplication and inefficiencies across community planning tables and will enable the Table's ability to respond effectively to situations of acutely elevated risk on a sustainable basis, building upon 10+ years of highly collaborative work. The position will also play a vital part in mapping and clarifying entry points for residents seeking services, ensuring that individuals and families can access the right supports quickly and effectively.

Beyond coordination, this role will bring strategic insight to emerging trends and risks, enabling proactive interventions and informed decision-making. It will foster stronger partnerships across health, social, justice, and education sectors, ensuring that efforts are integrated and resources are used efficiently. The Coordinator will also lead community engagement and education initiatives, reinforcing Oxford County's commitment to transparency, collaboration, and prevention.

This position directly supports Oxford County's **Strategic Plan pillars** of *Promoting Community Vitality* and *Fostering Progressive Government*, as well as the **Safe and Well Oxford Plan**, which prioritizes mental health, housing, and substance misuse. By funding this role, the County will not only enhance community safety and well-being but also achieve significant cost savings by reducing reliance on emergency services and improving service navigation for residents.

The need for this position is clear, and the benefits are substantial. We urge you to approve the proposed funding for the Community Safety and Well-Being Coordinator in the 2026 Budget. This investment will ensure Oxford County remains a leader in building safer, healthier, and more connected communities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the residents of Oxford County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Diamond". The signature is written in a light grey color and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Tina Diamond, MSW, RSW, MBA, CHRL
Situation Table Steering Committee Chair
Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Aid Society of Oxford County
Tel: 226-228-0656
Email: tdiamond@casoxford.on.ca