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**To All Media
-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

Bill Bevan to Retire After 18.5 Years at Helm of Local Children's Aid Society

Bill Bevan has announced that he will retire April 6th from his role as the Chief Executive Officer of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS). Bevan completed both his Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work here at the University of Windsor. Bevan's career has spanned 40 years in child welfare. He served in various roles at both original Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Societies, and in the CAS' of St. Thomas, London, Grand Prairie (AB), Newmarket, Owen Sound and Thunder Bay. He was appointed Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society to lead the amalgamation of the Haldimand-Norfolk agencies. Bevan returned to his home town of Windsor in 1998, having accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer of the local Children's Aid Society.

During his tenure, Bevan oversaw the amalgamation process between the Essex County Children's Aid Society and the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society of Windsor and Essex County. He led capital expansions including WECAS' Riverside Drive headquarters, the Bill & Dot Muzzatti Child and Family Centre expansion, and he led the planning of the Community Hub 33 project in Leamington, which brought a number of social services agencies together in one complex.

Bevan facilitated the growth of the agency from 120 staff to a current complement of 400, and saw the growth of a \$13.5 million budget to approximately \$60 million today. There are also over 200 foster parents and 250 volunteers that support the operations. WECAS is now one of the most progressive Children's Aid Societies in Ontario, excelling in comprehensive programming for children, youth and families; diversity programs; collaborations with community partners; information and technology; and philanthropy and public relations, as a result of the strength of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Foundation.

The biggest accomplishment is expressed by Bill Bevan himself: "It has been the privilege of a lifetime to lead a team who have a passion for assuring the safety and protection of our community's most valuable resource, our children. As well, the "success stories" that are associated with the many children and youth that WECAS has supported over the years instills great pride and satisfaction in knowing that together we made a difference."

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Terry Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of the Society, will assume the position of Acting Chief Executive Officer during which time the Board of Directors will conduct a search for a permanent CEO.

For more information, please contact;

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