

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2025/2026

# GROWING STRONG MINDS TOGETHER



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year has been one of significant transition and reflection for Wellkin. As we navigated changes in both Board leadership and the Executive Director role, we were reminded that periods of uncertainty also offer valuable opportunities for renewal and growth. While leadership transitions can bring challenges—requiring adjustment, resilience, and trust—they also invite fresh perspectives and a renewed commitment to our shared mission.

Cassie Barber, the new Executive Director is committed to fostering innovation, deepening community partnerships, and advocating for the resources needed to meet growing mental health demands.

This year has also been a time for reflection. We have taken important steps to listen, learn, and assess how we can strengthen our services and better respond to the evolving mental health needs in Oxford and Elgin Counties. These insights are shaping our priorities and guiding our path forward. Wellkin is focused on enhancing collaboration, improving access to services, and ensuring that every child, youth, and family who turns to Wellkin receives timely, compassionate, and effective care.

Throughout this time, our dedicated staff, committed Board members, and community partners have remained steadfast in their focus on supporting children, youth and families in Oxford and Elgin Counties. Their professionalism and compassion ensured continuity of care, even as we adapted to new structures and ways of working. I am thankful for this unwavering commitment and I am honoured and grateful to have been on this journey with all of you.

Together, Wellkin will continue to move forward - grounded in its mission, responsive to the communities, and hopeful for the future.

**-Sharon Labonte- Jaques**

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As I take a moment to reflect upon this past year, I am extremely grateful to the staff at Wellkin whose depth of knowledge, caring spirit and resiliency enabled Wellkin to navigate the shift and make the alterations needed to move forward. This year has been characterized by reflection, change and resilience.

In July, the Ministry of Health requested an Organizational Review of Wellkin. The following month, an Interim Executive Director was appointed, marking the beginning of a period of resilience, change, and reflection for the organization. By late November, the Organizational Review was completed, and Wellkin began developing an Action Plan based on its recommendations. By the end of the calendar year, both staff and the Board had already started implementing key actions identified in the review. Progress has been significant, with several Action Plan goals already achieved, including the transfer of the Lead Agency responsibility.

During this past summer and fall, Wellkin said good-bye to four Board members. In keeping with the Action Plan and the organization's evolving needs, recruitment efforts took place this spring. As a result, Wellkin looks forward to welcoming four new Board members this September, strengthening governance and supporting the organization's continued growth and transformation.

The search for a building site for the Oxford County Youth Wellness Hub began in earnest in January, alongside efforts to develop the clinical services that will be offered through the Hub. Significant progress has been made on both fronts, with clinical services being provided and a suitable site moving forward for development. Together, these efforts are bringing us closer to realizing a state-of-the-art Oxford County Youth Wellness Hub.

In January, the Board of Directors began the search for an Executive Director. The Board is pleased that the search is complete and very successful. The Board of Directors would like to welcome Cassie Barber as our new Executive Director. Cassie brings many years of leadership across community child and youth mental health systems. She is a trained social worker and an accomplished healthcare executive and she has extensive experience leading complex mental health services for children, youth, and families.

We look back on this past year and we see that we have learned from our mistakes, celebrate our resiliency, and acknowledge our ability to adapt to change and anticipate our future. I believe that our children, youth, and families in Elgin and Oxford Counties are in very good hands because of the depth of knowledge, caring spirit, and resilient nature of our staff. The Board is proud of the leadership team who will, along with staff transform Wellkin, to better meet the needs of our children, youth, and families in both Elgin and Oxford.

**-Mary Roberts**

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# The Wellkin Team

## Board of Directors

## Staff & Students

### Executive Officers

Mary Roberts  
President

Julia Levreault  
Vice President

David Creery  
Secretary - Treasurer

### Directors

Christy Heimstra  
John Sinclair  
Kelsey Vande Ven  
Janis Hunt  
Shelley Stacey

### Past - Executive

Mike Gobeil  
Lisa MacDonald  
Leslie Jack  
Pamela Byrne

Alexandria Fournie  
Anna Kudzia  
Annamaria Vetro  
Ariel Seale  
Bella Salter  
Brittany Schmitz  
Carrie Heron  
Chantal Dubois  
Christina Nielsen  
Crystal Otto  
Darci Young  
Davis Horowitz  
Deborah Donovan  
Emily Farr  
Hayley Sullivan  
Ingrid Heide  
Jaida Wasyluk  
Jamie Caskanette  
Janet Hansford  
Jennifer Merkley  
Jessica Bosma  
Jessica Ross  
Joanna MacAloney  
Julie Bartlett-Hejira  
Kaitlin Kent  
Kathie Brett  
Kathleen McLean  
Kathy Deadman  
Kayla Collins  
Kelly Baker  
Kimberly Goodger  
Kristen McFadden

Mariela Rivera  
Matthew Knox  
Nicholas Preston  
Patricia Wright  
Patricia Dufton  
Penny Sim  
Rebecca Thompson  
Riley Doan  
Samantha Boland  
Sarah Acchione  
Sarah Luxton  
Sarah Rider  
Sharon Labonte-Jaques  
Shawna McLeod  
Shelby Schneider  
Susan Heath  
Stephanie Chenoweth  
Tammy Enright  
Tammy Walker  
Tom Farfaras  
Tracy Brooks



# THE NUMBERS

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**1,575+**

clients served in-person and through virtual services

**3000+**

referrals to Wellkin programs and services

clients served by gender identity

50% female

48% male

2% another gender identity

clients served by age

0-5 = 9%

6-10 = 33%

11-14 = 28%

15-17 = 24%

18+ = 6%

clients served by county

Oxford = 58%

Elgin = 40%

Other = 2%

**700 +**

Board of Director  
Volunteer hours

**193.5**

hours contributed by  
the youth on the  
Youth Engagement  
Advisory Committee

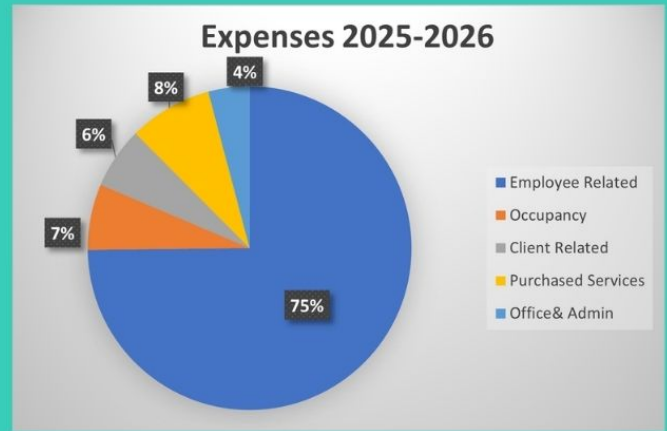
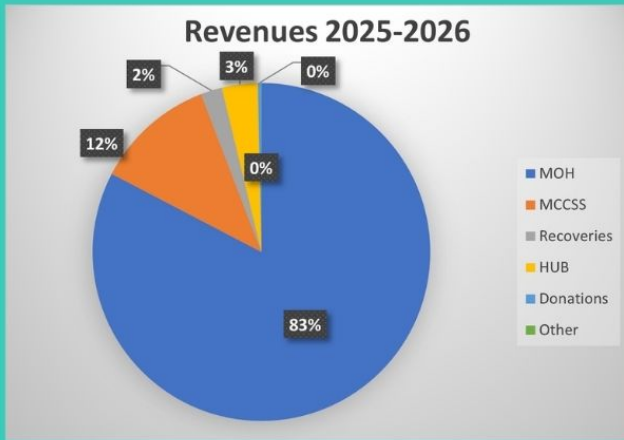
## FROM YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Wellkin's Youth Engagement Advisory (YEA) has made a meaningful impact by championing youth voice, inclusion, and community connection across Oxford and Elgin Counties. The group played a key role in facilitating events during the Unmasking Mental Health Week, helping to spark important conversations about mental health and wellness among young people. YEA members also created welcoming and supportive spaces by hosting the "Chill" Space at Elgin County Queer Prom and participating in community celebrations, including the Woodstock Santa Claus Parade, Elgin County Pride and Oxford County Pride Family Day. Throughout the year, they engaged with community members at volunteer fairs and outreach booths, promoting youth involvement and raising awareness about Wellkin's programs and services. Beyond events, YEA members ensured youth perspectives were represented at a variety of community and organizational committee tables, including Wellkin's Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee. Their dedication, leadership, and advocacy have strengthened community connections and helped create more inclusive, supportive environments for youth across the region.

-Jess Ross, Supervisor of Youth Engagement and Community Development



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



|                      | <b>25-26</b>     | <b>24-25</b>     | <b>% Change</b> |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>       |                  |                  |                 |
| Ministry Funding     | 4,962,750        | 4,490,789        | 10.51%          |
| Other Revenue        | 306,837          | 404,342          | -24.11%         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b> | <b>5,269,587</b> | <b>4,895,131</b> | <b>7.65%</b>    |

|                         |                  |                  |              |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>         |                  |                  |              |
| Salaries & Benefits     | 3,881,708        | 3,640,461        | 6.63%        |
| Travel & Training       | 49,600           | 37,212           | 33.29%       |
| Client Related          | 322,107          | 446,324          | -27.83%      |
| Occupancy               | 345,412          | 361,297          | -4.40%       |
| Office & Administration | 216,326          | 245,320          | -11.82%      |
| Purchased Services      | 438,195          | 104,691          | 318.56%      |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>5,269,587</b> | <b>4,895,131</b> | <b>7.65%</b> |

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

**Canada** 

**Ontario** 



**In addition to our Ministry funders and all donors, we want to thank the following:**

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Woodstock Mazda  
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