



Ramona Chereches

Ramona Chereches is an accomplished and visionary senior leader with a distinguished record of driving transformative initiatives in child welfare leadership at the Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CAST). With over two decades of experience in the field, she has successfully led strategic efforts to enhance child protection services, improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, and navigate complex organizational challenges.

Ramona's career began at Bethany Social Services in Timisoara, Romania. She then joined CAST in 2002, where she has held various progressive leadership roles. As a Senior Leader, she has demonstrated a history of leading, inspiring, and guiding people towards service excellence grounded in equity, anti-oppressive practice, and client-centered approaches. Under her leadership, numerous innovative and creative projects and programs have been developed and implemented, focusing on equity, inclusion, diversity, prevention/early intervention, quality of care, permanency, and community supports.

In her current role as Director, Intake, Ramona provides leadership and oversight to eight specialized teams, including Telephone Intake, Emergency After Hours, CYAC Team, CARE Unit, and the newly created CLS Team. She has also contributed to strategic planning for the organization, ensuring that organizational and strategic objectives are met and aligned with best practices.

Ramona's expertise extends to various areas, including the Signs of Safety methodology, clinical leadership, quality improvement methodologies, and stakeholder engagement. She is proficient in implementing and advancing child welfare practices to ensure the safety and well-being of children and families. Additionally, she has excellent communication, change management, and people-oriented skills, and she believes in a professional environment where people are valued, respected, and involved in decision-making processes.

Ramona holds a Master of Social Work and a Bachelor of Social Work from the West University of Timisoara, as well as a certification as a Change Practitioner from PROSCI. She is also a multilingual communicator, fluent in English, Romanian, and French.

Throughout her career, Ramona has been actively involved in volunteer work, serving on the Board of Directors for WomanACT and The Jean Tweed Centre. Her dedication to child welfare and her commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion have made her a respected leader in the field.