

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
SHEILA DURNFORD

JULY 2009

I just recently returned from a very productive, enjoyable and well organized CFFA Symposium which was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 26th – May 31st. All those attending enjoyed the great hospitality of the Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia who hosted our week long event. A HUGE THANK YOU to the Federation and the Conference Committee for a job well done!

During the week various meetings were held, Executive meeting, Board of Director's meeting, National Working Group, Executive Directors Meeting, President's meeting, and of course the CFFA Annual General Meeting.

Participants had the opportunity to hear guest speakers.

* Iain Matheson came from New Zealand to present his findings on a research project the New Zealand Foster Parent Association asked him to do on Foster Parent Standards in 4 countries, one being Canada.

* The Child Welfare League of Canada shared information on 2 of their current projects. The CFFA has assisted with one of these projects but being a part of the Advisory Committee.

* Toronto Community Living – Explained their new web based computer program (Connect-Ability) to assist Foster Parents and others working with children & youth.. They were present during the conference giving demonstrations and answering questions.

* Nova Scotia Council for the Family shared information on their Youth Achievements awards which recognizes the achievements of youth in care in Nova Scotia who demonstrate outstanding perseverance in the face of life challenges.

There was of course some time scheduled for social events. An evening was organized with wonderful skits from some Provinces, great music, a fun evening of socializing, laughing and relaxing. One evening we loaded ourselves onto two school buses for a trip to Peggy's Cove and to the small town of Hubbard for a Lobster feast with good music and dancing. I am not sure about the other bus, but there was a great deal of singing, laughing, and joking going on all the way home. The poor bus driver!!

Each Provincial Director has taken back all the information from these meetings to share within their Province/Territory so if you wish further details or information, please contact them directly. For those Provinces/Territories whose Directors were not able to attend, all the information will be forwarded to them.

Page 2

Elections were held at our AGM. I would like to welcome Sylvia Thompson from Alberta to our Executive as 2nd Vice President, and Sharon Joyal from Manitoba as 3rd Vice President. We also look forward to the new people joining us as Provincial Directors.

A Board of Directors Meeting will be held again this year in October. Alberta has kindly donated the use of their camp again this year. It was felt by the Directors that having a second Board meeting during the year is very productive and positive. This enables the Board of Directors the opportunity to share input from their Provincial Boards on motions taken back from the AGM, bring forward items from their Province for discussion, to share information, to network, continue working on suggestions from the National Working Group.

The CFFA continues to grow and become stronger each year. This is not accomplished without a great deal of hard work and persistence. I thank the Executive and Board for their continued support and work throughout the year.

I encourage you to visit our newly designed CFFA Website www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca for updated information throughout the year. It is one of my goals to keep our website up-to-date as much as possible.

Included with my report is an up-dated list of successes of the past to give you an idea of what work has been done and our accomplishments.

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable Summer. After the winter we all experienced, we deserve a nice sunny, warm and dry summer.

Sheila Durnford
President, CFFA