



THE CFFA
BULLETIN

Forward in Unity

A message from the CFFA President



One of the highlights of the upcoming year will be the CFFA National Conference hosted by the Foster Parents Society of Ontario

Happy New Year to you all! I hope 2013 has begun positively for you. It is now time to say goodbye to winter and welcome spring.

This winter has been fairly quiet for the CFFA, with no new projects being worked on. That being said, there always seems to be something to do, and to work on. I was contacted by several media outlets to do interviews and took part in a radio talk show. These were all of a positive nature which was great!!

The CFFA Board of Directors held their Board meeting and training last fall in Sundry Alberta. Again we are very grateful to the Alberta Foster Parent Association in providing the accommodation for us at their camp. These meetings are very productive and important to the running of the CFFA. We will be meeting again in the fall of 2014.

It is nice to see the Provincial and Territorial Executive Directors also are meeting twice a year. Their group is called NED (National Executive Directors). The Board of Directors are kept informed and given a report

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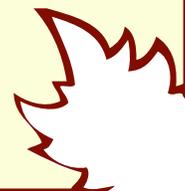
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

at the board meeting held during the National Conference.

The Every Child Matters I (ECM I) project, in partnership with the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) has now come to an end. Over the 3 years of the project a great deal of statistics and information was gathered nationally. The researchers are working on the report which should be completed soon. The CWLC is hoping to secure funding to move forward with new aspects of the ECM II project. (See report from CWLC).

We are looking forward to the 2013 CFFA National Conference (United in Caring) being held June 10-16, 2013 and hosted by the Foster Parent Society of Ontario (FPSO). You will find conference details and registration forms in this newsletter. FPSO has been working hard over the past year or so at making this a great event. Please note that if you are coming to attend the CFFA portion of the conference at the beginning of the week, it starts on Wednesday June 12th with the CFFA opening ceremonies followed by the National Working Group. This is an important day

for everyone attending the conference to attend, you will hear updates from all the Provinces and Territories, there will be time for discussion around topics brought forward from those attending, and the CFFA will receive direction on their work for the following year.

I am sorry that we are saying goodbye to Fran Harding our faithful Newsletter Editor for so many years. Fran has decided to move on and let someone else take over the job of newsletter editor. We thank you so much Fran for all the work you have done for us over the years. I am sure we will stay in touch.

In closing, I again thank all those who contact us. We need to hear from you, our members! You can contact me, your Provincial/Territorial CFFA Director, or any one of the Executive. Your ideas, suggestions, comment are always welcome.

Have a Happy Spring! Hope to see many of you at our 2013 CFFA National Conference.

Sheila Durnford,
President CFFA

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well it has been a long hard snowy winter so far.

It is time to get though to get ready for CFFA in Toronto June 16.

Really look forward to getting together with Foster Parents to meet again discuss Fostering and other issues across Canada.

In speaking of Conference, a reminder that this is the one of the big Fundraisers for CFFA.

So please do not forget your Silent Auction Items in for the Silent Auction. There will be a huge crowd at the Conference so hope to make some money. There will also be the usual 50/50 and a couple of other draws.

The Final Copy of the Conference Manuel will be presented. Thanks so much to Tammy Krivada for her help in finalizing this document.

The Poster Contest will be held again with a Deadline of June 1st to mailing to me. For those of you bringing them to the Conference please give them to me as soon as you see me.

Please see the guidelines for the Contest in this Newsletter.

This is my report for now. Look forward to seeing all of you in June.

Mary Smith,
1st Vice President CFFA

Every Child Matters (ECM) Project Report Status Report – February 2013

The Every Child Matters I field survey of foster parents has continued through to early spring 2013. Small fun events were sponsored through the Canadian Foster Family Association (ECM I partner) and its member provincial and territorial foster parent associations, in order to bring survey numbers up to where the 700+ returns constitute a very rich database. Quebec remains the sole province with no completions. CWLC and the researchers did amend the on-line French version of the survey to meet concerns of the Government of Quebec, and have the agreement that data will be returned before end March 2013. Alberta has also asked if they can reopen their survey in an attempt to get more data volume before the end of March.

The ECM research team appreciates CWLC's commitment to having national representation however the Quebec situation is holding back final survey analysis. ECM I's current funding ended in early fall 2012, but Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has left the door open for a continued relationship around ECM, which they consider a flagship project for the Government of Canada's new multi-partner approach to grants and contributions. CWLC is working with HRSDC on options to move the project forward in 2013.

The Children's Aid Foundation supported Year one of ECM II but ultimately declined to provide forecasted Year two funds. With some exceptions funded by individual jurisdictions, ECM II has not been able to progress this past fall and early spring. New funds must be raised to complete ECM II and move on the ECM III (implementation). To this end, CWLC has been using the ECM II Advisory Committee to test ideas on social financing. Expert advice suggests that with the research of ECM I and II completed, this project may be just at the right stage to attract

significant investment, particularly given the topic and attractiveness of owning potential social outcomes. To this end, a small investment will be necessary to develop a sophisticated pitch aimed at the corporate third quarter of 2013. In the interim, pre-paid ECM I survey research will continue along with some in-house work, and connections with Directors of Child Welfare will be maintained. Also, ECM II consultations will be finished in Nunavut and will likely occur in Alberta this spring, sponsored by those governments

ECM continues to expand the national dialogue about foster family care to confronts the roadblocks to providing care for every child who needs it through research on how it feels to be a foster parent in Canada today, and how Canadians perceive fostering and what would motivate them to step up to help children in their own community – full time or part time.

*Kelly Stone,
Director Program Development
Child Welfare League of Canada*



THANK YOU FRAN HARDING!

Over the past many years, Fran Harding has been our tried and true CFFA Newsletter Editor. She has volunteered hours of her time to collect Board reports (3 – 4 times a year!) articles of interest, and other information, putting it all together and producing our Newsletter – The Bulletin, and distributing it to our members across Canada.

Fran has decided to step down from her position as CFFA Newsletter Editor- this being her last issue as CFFA Newsletter Editor.

You have done a fantastic job Fran, producing our Newsletter over the years. You will be missed!

The CFFA Board of Directors would like to THANK YOU Fran for your commitment, dedication, and support and hours of work you have given to the CFFA over so many years.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CFFA PRESIDENT!

We are pleased to announce that Sheila Durnford has been awarded the **Child Welfare League of Canada's 2012 Foster Parent Achievement Award**. Sheila attended the Awards Reception held in Ottawa, Ontario, February 28, 2013. The Canadian Foster Parent Association nominated Sheila and we were very pleased that she was chosen from all the other nominees.

There were a total of 6 different Achievement Awards presented during a special Awards Reception. These awards recognize and honour individuals from across Canada who have shown exceptional dedication in specific areas of the child welfare system. Nominees are identified by CWLC member organizations and represent an array of professions from all provinces and territories. They are selected by an independent Evaluation Committee.

We are very proud to have Sheila recognized for all the work she has done and continues to do for foster children and youth as a foster parent and for foster families throughout the country in her role as the CFFA President.

View the press release for this announcement at canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca.



Sheila Durnford receiving the Child Welfare League of Canada's (CWLC) 2012 Foster Parent Achievement Award from Gordon Phaneuf, Chief Executive Officer (CWLC) Ottawa, Feb. 28, 2013.

ELECTIONS FOR ODD NUMBERED YEARS

At each Annual General Meeting falling on an odd numbered year, the 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice-President & Secretary's positions will be up for election.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The 2nd Vice President shall:

- Be responsible for the Policy and Procedure/Bylaws and Constitution Committee (P&P committee);
- Perform the duties of the 1st Vice President in their absence or inability to act;
- Assist the Executive in promoting the aims and objectives of the CFFA;
- Attend all executive meetings;
- Present a report at the AGM covering their areas of responsibility;
- Be responsible for the historical records of the CFFA by maintaining and updating, with all identifying information, a record of all CFFA Conferences, including annual President's report, yearly photos of the CFFA Board and significant news releases and articles relating to the CFFA;
- Arrange for the taking of photographs at each Conference as well as at the AGM or specially called meetings;
- Perform such other duties as called upon by the President;
- Ensure that all documentation they have on hand relating to their position at the end of their term of office is turned over to their successor within thirty days. They will make every effort to ensure a seamless transition that is to the full benefit of the CFFA; and
- Shall serve a minimum of a 2 year term.

3RD VICE PRESIDENT

The 3rd Vice President shall:

- Be responsible for ensuring all membership fees are collected prior to the AGM;
- Create and distribute membership cards;
- Maintain updated records of the membership;
- Be responsible for the nominations at AGM;
- Perform the duties of the 2nd Vice President in their absence or inability to act;
- Assist the Executive in promoting the aims & objectives of the CFFA,
- Attend all executive meetings;
- Present a report at the AGM covering their areas of responsibility;
- Perform such other duties as called upon by the President;
- Ensure that all documentation they have on hand relating to their position at the end of their term of office is turned over to their successor within thirty days. They will make every effort to ensure a seamless transition that is to the full benefit of the CFFA; and
- Shall serve a minimum of a 2 year term.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

- Hold the Seal of the CFFA;
- Keep accurate, concise and clear minutes of all meetings;

ELECTIONS CONTINUED

- Distribute and file the minutes of the previous meeting(s);
- Distribute the correspondence of the CFFA under the direction of the President and the Executive Committee;
- Ensure that the previous year's AGM minutes are distributed at the next AGM;
- Attend all Executive Meetings and such other meetings as called upon by the President,
- Maintain an accurate record of all Board of Directors' contact information;
- Distribute proposed changes of Bylaws and Constitution to Provincial/Territorial offices and Directors at least 60 days prior to the AGM;
- Perform such other duties as called upon by the President;
- Ensure that all documentation they have on hand relating to their position at the end of their term of office is turned over to their successor within thirty days. They will make every effort to ensure a seamless transition that is to the full benefit of the CFFA; and
- Shall serve a minimum of a 2 year term.

In the absence of the Secretary, any board member may be appointed by the presiding officer to perform the duties of the office.

2013 CFFA CONFERENCE

"UNITED IN CARING" June 9 - 16, 2013

AN INVITATION FROM THE CFFA PRESIDENT

I am pleased to have the opportunity to invite you to attend the 2013 Canadian Foster Family Association (CFFA) National Conference - "United in Caring", being hosted by the Foster Parents Society of Ontario June 9 - 16th in Toronto, Ontario.

These annual conferences are a time for the CFFA and it's Provincial and Territorial members to come together to hold face-to-face meetings and attend workshops. For those attending the conference, it is an opportunity to network with people from across Canada.

The week promises to be a busy one with interesting workshops to choose from, keynote speakers, meetings, and of course some fun social events as well.

The CFFA Executive and Board hold meetings during the first part of the week. Mid week the NATIONAL WORKING GROUP is held. All participants are encouraged to attend. Provincial and

Territorial Directors will update participants with initiatives and news from their areas. This is a time to ask questions, make suggestions, and discuss the future work and direction of the CFFA.

Attending this conference is an opportunity to increase your knowledge base, meet new people, see old friends, network with those in the fostering world from across Canada, and to have a bit of fun as well!!

We are pleased that the Foster Parents Society of Ontario is hosting this year's conference and many thanks go to this group for their hard work in organizing this event. Hope you are able to attend.

Sheila Durnford,
President CFFA



FPSO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are pleased to announce this year we are co-hosting the Canadian Foster Family Association conference immediately preceding ours in June. The conference committee strives to provide superior training each year but this year we are confident in stating the training being offered is above average and will be of interest to workers, trainers, foster parent trainers and foster parents. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Corey Keyes Associate Professor of Sociology from Emory University in Atlanta

Georgia. Dr. Keyes will be speaking on positive mental health for our children in care.

We believe that this year's conference theme "United in Caring" is representative of FPSO's goals and objectives. We have much to celebrate this year as it is also your provincial association FPAO/FPSO's 40th birth-day. FPSO has effectively represented the interests of foster parents in the province of Ontario over the past 40 years and will continue to do so.

2013 CFFA CONFERENCE CONTINUED

There have been a number of changes in the child welfare system of late and the FPSO Board of Directors feel that everyone needs to know where we stand and what we stand for.

The FPSO Board of Directors would like to stress that ultimately all of our voices as foster parents coming together in unity through our provincial association is what gives each of us individually and all of us collectively the strength to lobby and advocate provincially and nationally to raise the standards of the child welfare system. This will ultimately: “Achieve what each of us as individual foster parents needs so that we may provide the optimum environment which will enable the positive outcomes for children; that is at the heart of our FPSO’s purpose and mandate.

FPSO is diligently continuing the pursuit of this optimum goal for all foster parents. We are doing this through our lobbying efforts in positively liaising with all relevant government parties. We are seeking improved Quality Assurance in the global child welfare system as well as the local agency level. Not only are we interested in measuring the standards of care for the children, but also in the measuring of the standards of care for children and ensuring foster parents are members of the professional team.

FPSO will continue to strive for a system in which all of Ontario’s foster parents receive training over and above the Pride Pre-Service, where all foster parents in the province have the same third party liability currently enjoyed by foster parents fostering for a Children’s Aid Society, where all foster parents in the province are members of a legal defence fund that assists them in time of allegations, and a system in which all damages are recompensed, not from the foster parent’s own personal insurance (in which claims could be subject to termination depending on the amount of claim.) FPSO has available to all foster parents a personal insurance program for health and dental, and has contracted with Omega

Nicholson through Economical Select for a home and automobile insurance coverage.

As you peruse this brochure you will notice additional training days and more intensive training in some areas. There is training being offered on a variety of topics, attachment level 2, FASD, assisting in suicide prevention, trauma, conflict, positive mental health and much more. Advocates please note Level 4 training on appeals is available this year and will be presented by Paula Rochman., L.L.B. and Adrienne Conroy.

Please pay particular attention in completing your registration as training begins on Wednesday June 12th, 2013 through Sunday June 16th this year in addition to the Canadian Foster Family Association. Please register early to ensure your course selection as some courses a maximum number of registrants. Additionally, pay particular attention to the registration forms enclosed. There are two separate registration forms one for the weekend package and one for those intending to attend CFFA or some of the more extensive training.

FPSO is in the business of researching the needs of Foster Parents, and seeking to have those needs met. We do this best when we are connected to you, our members: we hope to see many of you at this year’s conference. By attending you can not only help yourself, but can also help us help you.

*Cecile Brookes,
FPSO President*



2013 CFFA CONFERENCE

Conference Workshops

ATTACHMENT LEVEL I INTRO

(Dr. Sian Phillips)

Wed June 12; 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT LEVEL 2

(Dr. Sian Phillips)

Thurs June 13 to Sat 15; 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

FPSO WORKSHOPS FOR FPA PRESIDENTS, FPA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND ADVOCATES

(Thurs June 13th)

Derek Sarluis from Frank Cowan Insurance Third Party Liability (1:00p.m.)

Graeme Turrell from United Foster Parents of Canada Legal Defense Fund (2:30 p.m.)

Irwin Elman, Ontario's Advocate for Children and Youth Changes for 18+ (3:30 p.m.)

Cathy Luciano, Oegema Nicholson Auto mobile and Home Insurance (5:00 p.m.)

Mary Burnett, Health and Dental Insurance (5:30 p.m.)

Dr. Bernadette Gallagher, OACAS Provincial Update (7:00 p.m)

APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING

(Michele Kennedy, Sonia McDonald)

Fri June 14th, and Sat June 15th; 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

FASD FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

(Donna Debolt)

Fri June 14th, and Sat June 15th; 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADVOCACY MODULE I

(Garry Mozes, Ella Kobylka)

Fri June 14 and Sat 15; 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADVOCACY MODULE II: TRAUMA AND THE INVESTIGATION

(Bill Tibbo)

Fri June 14 and Sat 15; 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADVOCACY MODULE III

(Dr. Tara Black)

Fri June 14 and Sat 15; 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ADVOCACY MODULE IV

(Paula Roachman., L.L.B., Adrienne Conroy)

Fri June 14 and Sat 15; 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CONFLICT, CHAOS AND CRISIS

(Landy Anderson)

Sat June 15th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LIVING WITH CHILDREN WITH TRAUMATIC LIFE HISTORIES

(Dr. John Lyons)

Sat June 15th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m

WHAT IS POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH?

(Dr. Corey Keyes)

Sat June 15th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m

Register early to ensure that you get your first choice of workshops as some workshops have seating limits. For the complete registration package including printable registration forms, please visit our website: canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca. To receive a printed registration package via post, please contact CFFA president Sheila Durnford.

CANADIAN FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION ART CONTEST GUIDELINES

WHO CAN ENTER:

All children and youth living in Foster Homes between the ages of 2-19 years of age. (including the natural children/youth of Foster Families)

CATEGORIES:

2-6 years

7-12 years

13-19 years

WHEN AND WHERE THE POSTERS WILL BE JUDGED:

The winning posters from each Province/Territory **MUST** be delivered to the CFFA Poster Contest Chairperson at the Annual CFFA Conference held in different locations in the spring of each year..

The CFFA Directors will judge the posters during the National Working Group and the Winners will be announced at the CFFA Annual General Meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR THE POSTERS:

The following guidelines MUST be followed in order to qualify for the Contest:

- The Poster shall measure approx 57 cm (22.5 inches) by 36 cm (14.5 inches). This is one half of a Bristle Board.
- The printed name, address, phone number, and interpretation shall be on the back of the Poster. This information shall also be printed on a separate piece of paper and attached to the back by a paper clip.
- A caption or other words of the Child or youth are welcome.
- The first and second place Provincial and Territorial Winners from each category shall be eligible for the CFFA judging.
- The Director from each Provincial/Territorial office can bring the posters to the Conference or they can be mailed to the CFFA Poster Contest Chairperson no later than June 1st, 2013:

**Mary Smith,
CFFA Poster Conference Chairperson (902-443-7716)
29 Rosedale Ave, Halifax NS. B3N 2J2**

Please Note: Upon receipt of Posters they then become the property of the CFFA and may be used for CFFA purposes.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this event.

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS

ALBERTA FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION

The Alberta Foster Parent Association (AFPA) is pleased as always to present this report outlining some of the work and changes that have been going on in Alberta's Foster Care World and also appreciate the opportunity to thank the CFFA and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for the wonderful symposium that we were honoured to attend last year. What a beautiful province and wonderful people; I would recommend that anyone who is looking for somewhere to holiday, try Newfoundland and Labrador!

We are excited about the opportunity to attend the next CFFA Symposium in Ontario this June. It is always a pleasure meeting delegates from across Canada and being able to dialogue and expand our knowledge and understanding of the various programs offered across this land.

For those who do not yet know, the Alberta Foster Parent Association will be hosting the 2014 CFFA Symposium. We have already begun making plans and looking for the best venue to hold the event. We hope that you will join us in the hospitality suite to learn about what you can expect when you come to this wonderful province of our, Alberta.

One of the highlights of 2012 is that our President, Norm Brownell was honoured by the Province as one of the Volunteer Stars of Alberta. It is a very prestigious award so we were so pleased to see Norm receive it. The staff and other friends and his family were able to attend the outstanding dinner and presentation. I cannot think of a person more deserving of this award. Congratulations Norm! You make us proud!

It has been another busy year for our Association and Human Services Staff as our Province continues to move into an "Outcome Based Service Delivery" foster care system. It is a challenging endeavour; however, we believe it will provide good outcomes for our children, youth and families. For those of you who are

not aware of what OBSD means, I will try to give you an overview.

OBSD is focused on supporting vulnerable children and youth to live successfully in their own community and to be reunited quickly with their families. Children and youth will be placed in permanent homes as quickly as possible, youth will be transitioned to adulthood successfully and Aboriginal children and youth will live in culturally appropriate placements. It is believed that OBSD will improve the effectiveness of services that children and families receive and experience as they move in and out of the child intervention system.

In addition, it is also believed that OBSD will provide agencies, foster parents and caregivers more flexibility to respond to the unique needs of children and families while focusing on intended outcomes and better supporting innovative practice. Outcomes data received through OBSD within Alberta will be used to align the work between the formal child intervention system, caregivers and contract agency service delivery. Outcomes of OBSD in our province will be based on the child's safety, the child's wellbeing, permanency and family and community support. There is still a great deal of work to be done in this area to ensure it works as is believed it should.

The Alberta Foster Parent Association in conjunction with the Alberta Associations of Services to Children and Families have taken on a project to look at enhancing the available supports and services for children who are transitioning from Foster Care to Adulthood. Our Associations are in the process of hiring a staff person to research and pull together a resource of tools that have proven their success in helping children succeed in life.

Another area in which our Association has been involved is in the "Success in Schools Program" which was implemented to help children and youth succeed in their studies and it is believed that Alberta will see an increase in youth who graduate from high school. We are watching for the stats to come out for this year.

 PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

A lot of work has been done to the AFPA Brownell Children's Retreat by way of renovations. Several volunteers have committed copious hours of time and effort into helping make our camp a beautiful, safe place for children and families. We are just in the process of getting everything organized to have the siding on the main lodge replaced with new metal clad siding. This is a very exciting project and we will be sure to share photos of the before and after on the AFPA website. The dates for the Children's Summer Camps Programs are: We Wet and Wild, for ages 6-9 will be July 14 – 20, 2013 and Adventure Camp for children ages 10-13 will be held July 21-27, 2013.

The Provincial Mentorship Program has been developed and is moving along very well. Melissa has begun the training of the new Mentors and is matching them with foster families who need mentoring. It will take another year to roll this program out provincially but it will be well worth the effort.

The AFPA Board and staff continue to support and advocate for foster families and children and youth in care on a daily basis.

Take care and hope to see you in Ontario!

Linda Krauskopf,
Director, Alberta Foster Parent Association

FEDERATION OF ABORIGINAL FOSTER PARENTS - BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (FAFP) has been working with the caregivers of Aboriginal children and youth in British Columbia for more than 17 years and yet there are many who do not know all that entails.

In summary, we recruit, train and support caregivers. We are involved in many partnership committees, meetings and are affiliated with a number of societies in the same field.

We attend Provincial meetings dealing with recruitment and education collaborating on how best to provide our collective services. We continue to be involved with the Residential Review to Build Communities of Caring in BC. As part of this, we are involved in the designing and implementation of new training for caregivers in BC.

As an Aboriginal agency, and with more than 55% of the children in care in BC being of Aboriginal decent, we develop and design programs and trainings to meet what we believe is a fundamental right of Aboriginal children to be raised in a nurturing, culturally appropriate environment. With this in mind, we have developed a new workshop-

Ts'isemtset te Stá:xwelh (Together we have raised the children). Working with Birth Families - Developing & Maintaining Connections

Inclusive fostering is the relationships between a child in care, the birth family and the foster family. Birth parents and foster parents and children work together to ensure that everyone is safe, identity continues in development, connections are maintained and parenting is shared.

We continue in our work on our Caregiver Education Program. We consider this to be a living document and are consistently updating the information to ensure that caregivers receive the best possible training we can provide as they do the most important job – caring for the children and youth!

Gary Mavis
Executive Director,
Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

 PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FOSTER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year. Hope 2013 is a great year for all of you and your families. We are anticipating that it will be a good year for foster care in our province.

The launch of our new provincial recruitment campaign, Foster A Future, in November was much anticipated and it is expected that it will result in an increase in the number of foster homes. Feedback on the campaign has been very positive and there has been a significant increase in the number of inquiries received. The campaign launch was one of the beginning steps in moving the Continuum of Care Strategy forward. The new Level System started to come on stream in January with the implementation of Level 1 and 2. It is anticipated that Level 3 will be implemented in the Spring. Block Funding for respite, social recreation and local travel will be commencing in February for those who choose this payment option. As with any change, there are lots of questions and there will likely be some glitches along the way but we are optimistic that the end result will be a more consistent and effective foster care program.

The Fall was a time of travel for the Board and staff. Our November in-person Board meeting was very successful with thirty-five people participating in our regional training day on the west coast. This was the biggest turnout we have had since we began the training days almost four years ago. Staff also travelled to the Central and Labrador Regions in November and December. The National Executive Directors Committee met in Montreal in November and this was very productive. The Committee is continuing to generate resources for foster parents on national issues.

We have recently reactivated our Foster Parent Handbook Committee. This committee had been on hold because of anticipated changes in legislation and

standards. Now that all that work has been completed, we can get back to the task of finalizing the handbook. This has been a long awaited resource for our foster families and we are eager to get it to completed and in all our foster homes. We are hoping that this will happen in June.

We have now starting making plans for our 2013 Symposium in June and we are also looking forward to the Canadian Foster Family Association Conference in Ontario. We hope to see many of you there!

Diane Molloy
NLFFA Executive Director

FOSTER FAMILY COALITION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

It's FINALLY warming up.... What a cold couple of months we have had this winter. I do know from experience, not to get too excited because we still have some very cold weather yet to come. Everyone is happy to see the longer days and YES, I get to see the sun with no windows in my office, I never see the sun in the winter.

I attended the National Executive Director's meetings in Montreal on November 22 and 23rd. We continued to work on research from across the country. We will be meeting again at the CFFA Conference in Ontario in June 2013. Meeting twice a year is so much more beneficial.

The first FFC-NWT Foster Family Guide has been approved, printed and distributed across the territory in January. The guide is a support to foster parents and follows the theme of PRIDE. There is a section in the guide that is to be completed by each region about rates and clarification of other expenses as they differ according to remoteness. I have been working with each region on this section.

 PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

PRIDE Training has been in full swing since the beginning of the New Year. I just returned from the Beaufort-Delta region way, way up north. I was able to put my feet on the ice of the Arctic Ocean! What a great group of people that took part in the training. It is so rewarding to get to our remote communities. I also did training in Inuvik. I will be in 3 other regions to do PRIDE in smaller communities before the end of March.

We recently met with a team from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada who are doing a Report on Child and Family Services. They welcomed our feedback on our opinions of what works and what is challenging. The Report will be tabled in the legislative Assembly in the spring of 2014.

The FFC-NWT has once again been chosen to distribute \$25,000 through the Stay in School Awards (Children's Aid Society) over this school year. This gives incentives to at risk youth to encourage them to stay in school. There are also graduation awards and funds available for tutoring. The awards are getting more popular each year!

Plans for Camp Connections 2013 are underway once again. This is our summer camp that offers a weeklong adventure for children and youth living in foster homes across the territory. Our rustic camp is on the beautiful shore of the Cameron River located 63kms north of Yellowknife. If you would like to view our camp on YouTube, please go to our website at: www.ffcnwt.com and click on the link.

The FFC-NWT is considering offering services for adoption in the future and is working closely with the department to make sure that all children and youth find FOREVER homes and families.

Tammy Krivda,
FFC-NWT Executive Director

FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

Greetings from Nova Scotia.

On February 4th our board had a meeting with Minister Denise Peterson-Rafuse. We would again like to thank the Minister for her on-going support to Foster Parents in Nova Scotia. On the agenda was respite in Nova Scotia. There is still a need for respite homes to provide children-in-care an approved respite home.

Spring, non-violent crisis intervention training,(basic and refresher courses) along with sensitivity training and Pride training will be getting under way starting in early March, for more information you can contact the Federation of Foster Families Nova Scotia at 1-888-845-1555.

Nova Scotia will be holding their annual AGM in May 24th -26th in the Northern Region at Truro's Holiday Inn and Convention Centre. This year starts with a meet & greet for Foster Parents on Friday night, Saturday there are workshops ending the Evening with a banquet, Sunday the Annual General Meeting is held. We anticipate a big turnout for this event and many thanks to the staff of the Federation office for all the help they do to make this weekend possible.

Darlene Arseneau,
FFFNS Director

FOSTER PARENTS SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

Hello from Ontario! The big news here is Conference. June 10th -17 we will be hosting the CFFA Conference in conjunction with our provincial FPSO Conference. There will be training galore. We are providing intensive training on attachment, as well as much training on attachment, and suicide intervention and mental health. And you have to grab a copy of Landy

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

Anderson's new book and hear her speak about surviving the foster care system. You can hear her speak too. Read the brochure carefully though; check out what food and lodging is included.

Provincially things roll along, with amalgamations picking up speed. It is being said in every corner except the "official announcement" one that more are coming. These early ones are supposed to be the practice ones for the next round. It seems to come to the forefront what management really thinks of foster parents. Hmmmm. As well we continue to both teach and learn from our foster parents. President's meetings just concluded, with ideas abounding as to what we need to know, and what we want to know. The conversation will continue in June.

Come see me in the hospitality suite. Introduce yourself if I haven't met you yet...my husband Tony and I will be the one filling up the bowls and drink bins up in the Presidential suite on the 10th floor of the Sheraton. Unless Tony is playing poker with you downstairs, then it will be me with the bins.(And ask to have a look at the bathroom...bubble tub with a view!). We look forward to seeing you there.

*Gena Morrow,
OFPS Director*

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES

Storm stayed - that's what I am- normally Saturday is my big day to work, being a Driver's Ed Instructor, the students are free so I can get a lot done. BUT!!! not today - BIG Blizzard happening, so it's a good time to get this report done. Fran our newsletter editor is retiring and had done a great job over the years. The last number of years she wasn't even fostering so did it out of the goodness of her heart... it certainly wasn't for the money... Thanks Fran you did a great job.. Not much happening on the Island and at the same time

there is a lot happening on the Island. Changes are coming, and depending on who you are and what job you're doing, your perception of these changes can be both positive and/or negative. The PEIFFF Board has been working tirelessly to make sure that the majority of changes being implemented are positive for both the child in care and the care giver. So far so good - we have an excellent Executive and Board, who are doing tremendous work for the care givers. We haven't had an increase in our Room & Board or Clothing Allowance since 2008 so the Board is very active in trying to get one that would match the average Annual Cost of Living Allowance. We have gone through normal channels and followed the proper protocol in asking for an increase in both allowances - but unfortunately without success - so far. We then took the next and unusual step of having the Executive make a presentation to the reigning Caucusus. We were told that our presentation was restricted to forty-five minutes, which actually turned into seventy-five minutes due to the number of very good questions from the Caucusus members. We have yet to hear back but we're keeping our fingers crossed. We understand that these are tough economic times for Governments, but these are not our children, and we feel that the Government needs to step up, take responsibility, and provide due diligence.

Our annual Spring Symposium will be in April (date TBA) and we have had several very good suggestions for guest presenters. I believe that we have a consensus on what we need to be educated on and the Board members are working to get the presenters lined up.

Our relationship with the Department continues to strengthen, the partnership between "The Department" and the PEIFFF is doing great. There is a mutual respect for each others concerns and responsibilities which is evident during our regular meetings. The PEIFFF looks forward to continue their work by supporting both the Department and all Foster Parents on PEI.

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

We are also active at the National level, we have been and will continue to be an active supporter of the CFFA. In the time that I have served as PEI's Director I have witnessed great leadership from our President, Sheila Durnsford, along with the Executive, and Board of the CFFA. Although the work that has been done may not always be evident to the masses, it is nonetheless extremely important. The next time you get a Report from the CFFA, just take a moment and look and the achievements they have accomplished over the past year, as a matter of fact, you could look at what they have accomplished over the past several years - it is impressive. The CFFA National Conference will be held in Ontario this year, which from a National standpoint is Central (at least for the Western and Eastern Provinces) so lets have a great turnout from all the Provinces and see if Ontario can outdo Newfoundland and Labradors Conference from last year.

In closing I would like to thank the PEIFFF for their continued support of the CFFA and to the CFFA for their continued support of the Island.

Wayne MacFarlane,
President, PEIFFF & PEI Director, CFFA

SASKATCHEWAN FOSTER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Hello from Saskatchewan!

Well we are already half way into February!!! That's hard to believe and just shows how time flies! The office has been busy working on existing and new projects. Our recruiting strategies have been doing great, we sent out 20,000 brochures in October and the response has been positive. Our Pride trainers have been training regularly in the bigger centers and every quarter in the rural areas.

The Province's mandatory CPR training is on going, we hope to be completed by the end of spring, with all existing and new families trained with their certificates, which is a great accomplishment!

Our association is also looking to broaden our Support Services to Kinship Care, PSI and Alt - care, we also currently have the IN-Home care program in Saskatoon and have been recently approached to do the project in Regina. This is a great opportunity for our association and shows how our organization is viewed by the ministry and other organizations.

Our annual PAGM this year is in June in Saskatoon, and the office has been buzzing with preparations. Hopefully we will see some of you there!!! Well in closing I'd like to thank our Executive Director Deb Davies and her team, Kendra Mazer, Paul Bunz, Tracey Arnold, Wayne Roman, Nicole Hoffman, Pam Kostyk, Kristine Scarrow, Cheryl Zamora and Rene Stock, because these people along with our Board of Directors, partners, and supporters are how we are able to continue to "care for" and "better the care for" our children and families.

Thanks

Christine Fullawka
Director, SFFA

YUKON FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Over the winter, the board to the Yukon Foster Parent Association has put a great deal of energy into establishing a more positive working relationship with Government of Yukon Health and Social Services decision makers, managers and supervisors. There have been bi-monthly meetings with a work plan to review the department's Foster Care Manual developed to reflect the three year old legislation and policy. Many of the more challenging or controversial sections have been discussed and recommendations made, for

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS CONTINUED

change. Those recommendations are within days of being presented to the Director for approval.

Afternoon and evening foster parent support sessions have started up again and more are planned for the spring. Two family events are planned for March and June, a supervised gymnastics evening with food and beverages and space for parents to chat if they like, as well as a rock/wall climbing evening in June when the sun shines late into the night and we all forget that it is really bedtime.

Our AGM is set for the end of March and we are hoping to see some new, along with familiar faces at the banquet and hopefully on the 2013-2014 board.

We have had a large percentage of phone calls coming to us lately relative to disagreements about reimbursements to foster parents. Foster parents thought they had approval for reimbursement for expenses incurred with extra driving, extra support to transitioning families, etc. as requested by workers. It is a reminder to us all that we absolutely need to get any financial agreements in writing! Your worker

saying the agency, department or ministry agrees to pay for something just doesn't hold water in the long run. Document document document to keep track of these agreements yourself but get signatures on any financial agreements before you carry out any requests that might cause your family financial burden.

The sun is shining brightly in the Yukon right now and soon we expect our usual spring snow fall, which brings lots of opportunity for outdoor family activity – dog mushing, snowshoeing, skiing, boarding, snowmobiling and ice fishing. After that, we look forward to our fast melting snow and little bits of green popping up here and there. We will be busy getting our seedlings started inside, under grow lights for planting in mid-June and then we are off and running with warm summer days of 18-20 hours of sunshine, camping and midnight golf tournaments.

Donna Wilkinson
Yukon CFFA Director

MOVING ??

If you are now receiving your copy of "The Bulletin" by mail and you would like to have it sent to your new residence, you MUST send notification of your new address to Sharon Joyal - 3rd Vice President and CFFA Membership Chairperson. Addresses can be found in each issue of the newsletter..

DEADLINE

for submitting articles for the next issue of "The Bulletin" is June 25th. Do you have an article/report or fostering story that you would like to share with other foster parents? Please e-mail your articles/reports/stories to:

cffa.secretary@shaw.ca

**MISSION**

The CFFA is a national organization that works in collaboration with the provincial and territorial foster family associations and other national organizations involved with children & youth in care to enhance foster care across Canada.

VISION

Canadian Foster Families will be respected and empowered in order to better facilitate the best possible environment for children in care.

VALUES

- Support positive change to fostering in Canada.
- Advocating for the empowerment of Foster Families in Canada

At the last meeting of the CFFA Board of Directors a Vision statement and Values Statement were developed

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