

Together in Fostering

A message from the CFFA President



Hope that summer was wonderful, and that everyone is enjoying a nice fall. Soon winter will be upon us with the excitement of the holiday season, to the delight of all our children young and old!!

I am writing this at the beginning of National Foster Family Week (NFFW), and thinking of all the thousands of wonderful, caring and giving foster families out there!! It is important that there is a special time set aside for communities to appreciate the work you do! I am a firm believer that this recognition needs to be shown all year as well. I hope you were able to attend an event in your area to celebrate and recognize the work you do all throughout the year.

In recognition of National Foster Family Week, letters were received from our Prime Minister and Governor General. These letters, along with a letter from the CFFA, can be found on pages 4-7 of this newsletter and on our website.

The Canadian Foster Family Association (CFFA) had the opportunity to produce a 15 second video on fostering. A media company contacted us and offered to produce this at no charge. We decided that the message would be around Celebrating Foster Families, thus the title of this video.

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It was aired at the Rockton World's Fair held over the long weekend in October, just outside of Brampton, Ontario. Some television stations are airing it during national foster family week. The video was produced so that it can be shown throughout the year in any of the Provinces or Territories. You can view this video on the CFFA website at CanadianFosterFamilyAssociation.ca.

The CFFA Board of Directors held their Fall Board meeting at James River Camp in Alberta at the beginning of October. Thank you to the Alberta Foster Parent Association for the use of the camp! Entitlements to foster parents; Industry Canada Standards; Canada Revenue; Bylaws; Safeguarding Manual and National guidelines for Foster Care committees met during the first day. A great deal of work was accomplished, with some committees completing their work, and others having more to work on. The following day our Board meeting was held. Much work was accomplished over the 2 days.

We have been working hard at updating our website regularly and believe this is assisting in more visits to our site and more people contacting us. We are in the process of developing a Facebook page, and Twitter account. It is hoped that these will be up and running in the near future. Watch our website page for details!

The Every Child Matters II Project has run into some financial difficulties, however, the compilation of the

information and stats that were gathered during the ECM I project is nearing completion and it is hoped that the reports will be available to the Provinces and Territories in the New Year. When we hear we will notify our Prov/Terr. organizations.

The Alberta Foster Parent Association is hosting our 2014 CFFA Annual Conference. It will be held in Edmonton, Alberta from June 9 – 15, 2014. Hoping that many of you will have the opportunity to attend!

Thank you to those that have contacted us, it is great to hear from people with ideas, suggestions, input, etc. We are always interested in hearing from you, and this is one way that we can grow as an organization.

It seems a bit early, but this will be the last Newsletter prior to Christmas, so I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and all the best to you and yours in the New Year.

Sheila Durnford
President, CFFA



Our Newest Video

The CFFA is pleased to announce our newest video, "CELEBRATING FOSTER FAMILIES", which aired at the Rockton World's Fair in October.

To view this 15 second video visit the CFFA website: <http://tinyurl.com/mtx4o9c>

Thanks to Maximum Media & PR for their generous donation of producing this video for us.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hard to believe we are in the fall again with Christmas around the corner.

Having just come back from CFFA meetings in Calgary, we are all full of great ideas and jobs to do.

The CFFA Conference Manual is now complete and approved. Each Province and Territory will get a copy sent directly to their organization's office. This was a real work in progress and hopefully it will be a great asset to anyone wanting to host our conference in the future.

I have been talking to Alberta representatives in regards to fundraising for the 2014 Conference in Edmonton. I look forward to working with them.

The Poster Contest will be on again with information to come out in the New Year. Thanks to Nancy from PEI who will be helping me this year.

I am Chair of the Committee that has taken on "Guidelines for Foster Parents". We got a good start on this in October and hope to do a lot more work on this in the New Year.

I look forward to our conference in Edmonton in June 2014. Our conference is always a great way to network with other foster parents throughout Canada.

*Mary Smith,
1st Vice President CFFA*

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to the Foster Parent Society of Ontario for a great conference and opportunity for networking. I find it very interesting learning about how things are done in other parts of the country. While we have the same goals in mind, how we arrive at them is different.

As a result of new federal legislation around Not-For-Profit organizations, we have to make some minor changes to our by-laws.

While at our fall board meeting in Alberta, a by-law/legislation/financial committee was formed to look at

the guidelines. With a guide provided by the federal government, we went through our by-laws. Nancy, our committee, and I are pleased to say that we have recommended changes and will be presenting these at the AGM in June 2014 in Edmonton.

Save the date June 9-15 for CFFA conference 2014 in Edmonton; more details to follow soon.

*Sylvia Thompson,
2nd Vice President CFFA*



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL

As the father of five children and the grandfather of ten grandchildren, family is especially important to me. I am therefore very pleased to mark National Foster Family Week.

Families, whatever their nature, are the cornerstone of the communities they build and the children they look after. I would like to congratulate the Canadian Foster Family Association, which has contributed for over 25 years to children's well-being by improving the resources and support available to foster parents. They play a key role in the development of so many children. Let us take this opportunity to recognize their dedication and to thank them for their generosity.

I wish to salute everyone taking part in the activities going on during National Foster Family Week throughout Canada, and I wish everyone the happiest of celebrations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Johnston". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Johnston

October 2013



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL

En tant que père de cinq enfants et grand-père de dix petits-enfants, la famille revêt pour moi une importance toute particulière. C'est donc avec grand plaisir que je souligne la Semaine nationale des familles d'accueil.

Les familles, quelle que soit leur nature, sont la pierre d'assise des communautés qu'elles bâtissent et des enfants qu'ils entourent. Je tiens à féliciter l'Association des Familles d'accueil du Canada qui contribue, depuis plus de 25 ans, au mieux-être des enfants en améliorant les ressources et le soutien disponibles aux parents d'accueil. Ceux-ci jouent un rôle essentiel dans l'épanouissement de nombreux enfants. Profitons de l'occasion pour reconnaître leur dévouement et les remercier de leur générosité.

Je tiens à saluer tous ceux qui prennent part aux activités organisées pour la Semaine nationale des familles d'accueil partout au Canada et je souhaite à tous d'agréables célébrations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'David Johnston'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Johnston

Octobre 2013



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking National Foster Family Week 2013.

The many activities planned for this week by the Canadian Foster Family Association will raise awareness of, and celebrate, the vital role foster families play in the well-being of our children and in the development of a healthy society. Foster families open their hearts and homes to children living with complex needs, providing them with a sense of continuity and stability.

I commend the many individuals who strive, each and every day, to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of so many young people and their families. Their dedication contributes to the betterment of communities across Canada. I would also like to thank the Canadian Foster Family Association for their tireless commitment to the well-being of children in Canada.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable week.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2013



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à tous ceux et celles qui célèbrent la Semaine nationale des familles d'accueil de 2013.

Les nombreuses activités que l'Association des familles d'accueil du Canada organisera durant cette semaine permettront d'accroître la sensibilisation à la mission des familles d'accueil dans notre pays, et de célébrer le rôle considérable qu'elles jouent dans le bien-être des enfants et dans l'établissement d'une société saine. Les familles d'accueil ouvrent leur cœur et leur foyer à des enfants qui ont des besoins complexes et elles leur apportent un sentiment de continuité et de stabilité.

Je salue les nombreuses personnes qui s'efforcent chaque jour d'améliorer à long terme la vie de tant de jeunes et de leurs familles : leur dévouement contribue à améliorer les collectivités de partout au pays. Je tiens également à remercier l'Association des familles d'accueil du Canada pour sa détermination de tous les instants à assurer le bien-être des enfants au Canada.

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je vous souhaite à tous et à toutes des célébrations des plus mémorables.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Stephen Harper'.

Le très honorable Stephen Harper, c.p., député

OTTAWA
2013



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NATIONAL FOSTER FAMILY WEEK!!!
OCTOBER 20 – 26, 2013

National Foster Family Week is being celebrated across Canada October 20 – 26, 2013!

During this week foster families are recognized for the work they do throughout the year with children and youth who are unable to live with their families. Foster families not only open their homes to children and youth, but their hearts as well.

We have healthier communities and stronger citizens because of the dedication and commitment that foster families have for our children and youth.

The Canadian Foster Family Association (CFFA) has developed a short video in celebration of foster families and to thank them for the incredible work that they do. We invite you to view this video on our website: www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca.

Sheila Durnford,
President,
Canadian Foster Family Association

www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.com.

2014 ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at the next Annual General Meeting in June 2014 in Edmonton, Alberta. If you are interested in running for a position, please make your intentions known to Sharon Joyal at sing4joy47@gmail.com. You can also submit a brief bio with your interest in the next issue of the Bulletin by emailing Tammy Roberts at info@ffcnwt.com no later February 20th, 2014. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the AGM. The following positions will be up for election:

PRESIDENT

Sheila Durnford is the incumbent and will be seeking your support for re-election at the next AGM.

The President shall:

- Coordinate overall activity of the CFFA and ensure the same complies with all legal requirements and provisions of the Bylaws and Constitution and the by-laws;
- Set the day, time and place of the Executive meetings;
- Attend and chair all meetings, including Executive meetings and the AGM;
- Report on any Executive meetings;
- Be an ex-officio member of all committees of the CFFA;
- Be the official spokesperson of the CFFA;
- Be responsible for Public Relations;
- Assist Treasurer with budgeting;
- Before a meeting is called:
 - (a) prepare an agenda in consultation with other executive members and / or committee chairperson (s);
 - (c) follow the agenda allowing appropriate time to each item;
 - (d) ensure that all members have the opportunity to be heard;
 - (e) call for the vote on motions;
 - (f) determine the validation and timing of motions, and;
 - (g) has the power to cast a vote in order to break a tie.
- Present an Annual Report at the AGM;
- Serve as the liaison between the CFFA and the Federal Government;
- Enter into any agreement or contract on behalf of the CFFA which has previously approved by the Executive Committee and which is required for the transaction of business;
- Ensure that all motions passed are complied with;
- Be the CFFA delegate to the International Foster Care Organization (IFCO) or designate an alternate should they be unable to attend the IFCO meetings;
- Maintain CFFA Website;
- Keep the 1st Vice President informed of CFFA activities;
- Be responsible for Ad Hoc committees;
- 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

- Serve a minimum of a 2-year term.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Smith is the incumbent and will be seeking your support for re-election at the next AGM.

The 1st Vice President shall:

- Be responsible for the Fundraising Committee;
- Be responsible for the Conference Manual;
- Chair any meeting, and perform the duties of the 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 the areas of their 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.

TREASURER

Nancy MacFarlane is the incumbent and will be seeking your support for re-election at the next AGM.

The Treasurer shall:

- Keep an accurate record of all financial transactions of the CFFA;
- Arrange and present an annual audited financial report;
- Be aware of the laws and provisions of the Non-Profit Corporations Act and file such reports as are required with the appropriate officials;
- Comply with the various Labour, Income Tax, Worker’s Compensation, Health Care and Unemployment Acts as it relates to withholding employee contributions and making the necessary payments under these Acts;
- Attend all executive meetings;
- Receive and pay all bills;
- Present a financial report at all meetings indicating the current financial position of the CFFA;
- Assist the President in controlling the finances of the CFFA;
- Present a motion to appoint an Auditor at the AGM;
- Present a motion accepting the audited financial statement at 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.

PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REPORTS

ALBERTA REPORT

On behalf of the Alberta Foster Parent Association, it is with pleasure that I submit this report for the Canadian Foster Family Association's newsletter, "The Bulletin".

This is a busy time of year for the Alberta Foster Parent Association as we plan for our 40th Annual Awards and Training Conference in Jasper, Alberta this November. We are expecting it to be a full house and are looking forward to getting together with foster families and workers from across the Province. We are so pleased that our Minister, the Honourable Dave Hancock will be in attendance and will participate in one of the workshops.

In addition to our Conference, we have been busy with several other projects aside from the day to day business of being the Alberta Association. Some examples are:

- the development and implementation of a Provincial Mentorship Program
- the AFPA's Brownell Children's Retreat summer camp programs for children and youth
- the AFPA's Aboriginal Awareness Weekend

- negotiations for supports for foster families and children and youth in care

Alberta has just completed the adaptation of the "Safe Babies" program offered in British Columbia to make it more suited to Alberta. The Alberta Foster Parent Association is pleased to announce that this training will be available at the 40th Annual Training Conference! I believe Katherine will be taking copies of Alberta's Safe Babies training modules with her when she attends the meeting for National Executive Director's in Montreal at the end of November so the other provinces and territories can take a look at it.

There have been a variety of changes to our foster care program in the past year; actually it just continues to evolve on a daily basis. Our Association works very closely with the various committees to provide input to the changes and redirection.

In closing I would like to say that I hope everyone had a wonderful Foster Family Week. I know Alberta was busy celebrating the great work that our families do and I am sure the rest of you were as well.

Best wishes to all!

Linda Krauskopf,
Alberta Director, CFFA

BRITISH COLUMBIA REPORT

The summer has given us all a much-needed chance to spend time with our families and recharge for the back to work/school season.

BC has experienced some recent changes. Some of the long-term leaders at the provincial Ministry office have experienced a shuffle, which results in delays in target dates for planned initiatives such as the Residential Redesign Project. As one of the partner agencies that have been consulted throughout the project, we await news on when and how the project will move forward. Another development in our province is the expanded mandate of the Representative for Children and Youth's Office. As of October 1st, the Representative will now be able to advocate for youth aged 19-24. Of key importance here is the ability to oversee suitable transitions into other care streams once a youth ages out of the Ministry foster care system.

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations is still participating on weekly calls to review and revise the Provincial Protocol process. The Ministry's goal is to do away with the variety of investigative protocol processes used regionally throughout the province in order to ensure consistency and adherence to provincial standards and policy. Quality assurance teams are heavily involved in this process.

BCFFPA received a donation for 14 tickets to the recent Selena Gomez concert in Vancouver. The Minister of Children and Family Development hosted foster children and caregivers from across the province to attend and the children were able to meet and have their pictures taken with Selena. Of course, they were all thrilled to meet the young superstar!

Foster Family Month in BC is currently underway and the schedule is promising some wonderful events to be attended by BC's foster parents.

In the coming few months, Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, one of our key partners in the community, will see the retirement of their Executive Director, Gary Mavis. Gary has been a caring and generous steward of the organization's mandate for many years. We wish Gary the best with his future endeavors!

Russell Pohl

British Columbia Director, CFFA

MANITOBA REPORT

Board of Directors Update

- Are in the process of researching up-to-date governance practices to determine necessary revisions to current practices.
- Developed operational plans for carrying out the three-year strategic plan identified in October 2012.
- We continue to have a governance model that best suits the mandate of the organization to empower foster parents in Manitoba.

Peer Support Program

- Grassroots method of providing support to Foster Parents throughout the province by training and supporting Foster Parents to provide reactionary support to their peers.
- Exploring new ways to recruit and retain volunteers for the organization and this program with the establishment of a volunteer management strategy.
- A Critical-Incident team, trained to provide support at the time of a critical incident such as the death of a child or loss of a house, went live in June 2013 and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of

Manitoba foster parents.

Education Program

- Continue to develop standards and domains for workshops and to establish foster parent facilitators throughout the province.
- PRIDE module of “Transitioning Youth into Interdependent Living” continues to be reviewed and considered for implementation.
- We have designed a Community-Based Mentorship program, which is designed to be a community-specific; culturally relevant, Manitoba-based program which will involve experienced and trained foster parents delivering training to newly-licensed foster parents. The second part of this program has been approved for piloting purposes and has begun in the Winnipeg area.
- The Special Rate system in Manitoba is currently under review revision for the purposes of standardization.

*Cathy Wiebe,
Manitoba Director, CFFA*

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FOSTER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Fall always tends to be a busy time for our Association as we try and get most of our regional visits completed before the snow arrives. We also have an in-person Board Meeting and Training Day which this year was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. It was a great weekend of learning and team building. Three workshops were offered: Effective Communication; Inuit Culture and Traditions; and Maintaining Cultural Connections. We also had a Board Orientation session for Directors.

The implementation of the Continuum of Care Strategy continues and the contract has now been awarded for the development of the training modules for Level 3: Specialized Foster Homes. Phase two of the Foster a Future provincial recruitment campaign began in September and continues to see great success; both in the number of inquires and the number of new homes being approved. We always believed that if people were aware of the shortage of foster homes that they would reach out, and they have. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of children being cared for in Alternative Living Arrangements. The Protection and In Care Policy Manual has now been updated to reflect the changes that came with the Continuum of Care Strategy. There were two policies in particular, sleepovers and babysitting, which were welcomed by foster parents because it gives them more autonomy in decision-making.

We have had a recent cabinet shuffle in our Province, which resulted in a new Minister for the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services. While we were disappointed to see Minister Charlene Johnson leave, we are also looking forward to continuing our positive working relationship with the Department and Minister Paul Davis.

As I am writing this report, Foster Families Week is about to begin. The kickoff and proclamation signing will be this weekend and we anticipate it will be a successful event. Foster Families not only care for children and youth but also support families and build stronger communities. I want to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to all foster families throughout this great country who understand that it really does take a village to raise a child, and who step up to nurture and care for children. Wishing you all a wonderful fall.

*Diane Molloy
NLFFA Executive Director*

FOSTER FAMILY COALITION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

After another very successful summer of Camp Connections we are full steam ahead as winter approaches North of 60. Since the last CFFA Conference in Toronto the Foster Family Coalition of the Northwest Territories has been working on a few very exciting projects.

With the support and partnership of the Department of Health and Social Services, the FFC has extended our services to cover adoption as well. This will be an extension of the support services we are already offering to foster families. With the increase in workload, it has enabled me to get an Admin person in the office. We have been preparing for the launch of our adoption support services that will during the month of November.

P.R.I.D.E. Training is planned to start up again in the near future which will mean more travel to the outer lying communities to meet and train foster/adoptive parents.

We have continued to work with the department on many areas that needed to be either changed or improved and we are very happy to see some positive changes, especially when it comes to policy and procedure that affects the communication for everyone on the Child Protection Team, especially our foster parents. We have focused on and are seeing huge improvements in the following:

- Clarifying guidelines for criminal records checks
- Foster parent liability/property insurance
- Procedure for consent to administer psychotropic medication

- Procedure for passport applications
- Recruitment of foster/adoptive homes
- Foster care rates
- Foster Care Standards
- P.R.I.D.E. training
- Preparing for youth aging out of care
- Adoption support

Plans are underway for providing support to youth until the age of 24. We are hoping to see this in place in the spring.

I will be heading to Montreal in November for the National Executive Director's meetings. We are so close to launching our website so it is very exciting to see it all come together!

*Tammy Krivda,
Northwest Territories Director, CFFA*

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia has been working on recommendations for the Minister that came out of a survey given to foster parents. A working group called **Dialogue for Foster Parents** was formed consisting of association presidents and provincial staff from Children-in-Care and Foster Care. The Minister was presented with 13 recommendations and has approved them all. The recommendations were then presented to foster parents and DCS staff around the province.

The 2014 Annual General Meeting is being held in the Central Region from May 31st until June 1st and planning of this event is well underway.

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia Executive Director and Board Chair met with Premier Elizabeth Hubley from Prince Edward Island on September 30th at her request. She has an interest in what is happening in other provinces and would like to recognize Foster Family Week in the senate.

October 20th is the launch for Foster Family Week and it is being held in the Northern Region at the Pictou County Wellness Centre. Foster Families will be welcomed with food and entertainment for the children and will also include a swim.

Every year the Council for the Family honours children in care for all they have overcome. This year the banquet and presentations will be held on November 14th in Truro. The Federation Staff and Board will be in attendance as support to honour these children.

Darlene Arseneau
Nova Scotia Director, CFFA

FOSTER PARENTS SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

In Ontario, situations vary from agency to agency; there is not a great deal of consistency across the province. But we are seeing amalgamations progress with varied success, and we are seeing trends in agencies. One such trend is the reduction of rates provided to foster care providers. There is a move towards this in the east, and it is unfolding in the west. We are not seeing reductions in salaries.

The Provincial Child's Advocate has done a great deal to bring the needs of our youth, and especially youth leaving care, to the attention of our Provincial Parliament. Legislation has been put in place to ensure that former crown wards receive financial support no matter what. While this can be excellent for most of our

youth, there have been situations where funding their choices is damaging...some tweaking will have to be done. As well, because of the new awareness of the needs of our former crown wards, the public universities and colleges have agreed to waive tuition fees for them. Funding for our former crown ward students continues longer, to help them finish school. And if our wards choose to stay in their foster homes past the age of 18, the Ministry asks that they be supported to stay, with at least a minimum rate of \$850 per month being provided to the foster home to help support this.

There is a strong push on once again to find kin homes for children who have been apprehended, to the extent that some workers state foster homes will no longer be needed. There is work being done, some of it quite good, to find lost family members who have significance to our kids, and to look past information gathered initially to see who these people are, where they are living and if they want to have contact. Some of this work focuses on keeping kids connected with their relatives, with the idea of a placement being secondary.

Things are changing here. Some changes have been detrimental and some have been insightful and responsive. Where it will all go, I am not sure. But if we pursue the positive changes and proceed respectfully, Ontario will be changing for the better.

Gena Morrow,
Ontario Director, CFFA

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES

Hello again from the foster parents of PEI. Our board is still moving forward with the Department. We are

currently working on a new Level Contract. This is going to be one of our tougher assignments, but the board is confident we can make it work to everyone's satisfaction.

One of our recent successes is that we were able to secure a ten percent increase in the Room & Board, and Clothing Allowances, this will come into effect in October 2013. Also since my last report we have had our Annual BBQ, everyone who attended had a GREAT time, unfortunately we continue to have poor attendance. The Board is becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of attendance at our FREE functions. It is a great opportunity for all the children in our homes, be they Bio, adopted, or in care, to come together, interact, and get to know each other better. But, we will not give up and continue to have the functions and we can just hope that people will want to attend.

Our AGM is coming up on Saturday October 26, 2013 at the Delta Prince Edward. We are expecting (at least hoping for) a really good turnout. As usual we will have registration, coffee, and sweets in the morning followed by our workshop with Ms. Landy Anderson, who is presenting on Conflict, Crisis, and Chaos. We were very impressed with Landy at the National Conference and feel very fortunate to have her present at our AGM. There will be a lunch with the Minister as guest speaker that will be followed by a Q & A with Landy. Our AGM will be in the afternoon.

In closing I would like to thank the Board of the PEIFFF for their continued support, without these dedicated members working behind the scenes, we would not be where we are today.

*Wayne MacFarlane,
Prince Edward Island Director, CFFA*

SASKATCHEWAN FOSTER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Hello from Saskatchewan!

Well we can say our summer is over and our winter is on the way!!!! We have been busy in Saskatchewan with our "In Home Support Programs, and our continuous work with our government to ensure our member's are receiving what they are need in order to care for the children in our province.

Our Foster Families Week is approaching fast, with our Provincial and Local offices getting ready for the various events to celebrate. In our continued efforts to ensure our families and children in care receive the best we can give them, we are having our Leadership Team Leaders, Treasurer's and Volunteer's (Peer Support and Rate Review) seminar November 1st and 2nd. Our goal in this event is to work together to ensure we are all going in the same direction. We also have some classes to give to our families caring for our children that will provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to help them on their journey.

We continue to encourage all of our families to have CPR and First Aid and have done about 65% so far. In realizing this is a tremendous task, we will continue until we have reached our goal of all existing Families with the training. New families starting the PRIDE program will also have the CPR and First Aid as part of their mandatory training.

It still amazes us that in 2014 our organization the "Saskatchewan Foster Families Association" will have been in business for 40 years and preparations for this event in June are well underway!

Well, in closing I would just like to add, that the reason we have come so far is the continuous support from our Members, the Provincial offices, the board of Directors

and our executive Director, Deb Davies and her staff. Everyone's dedication time, support and vision will help us continue to live by our vision statement. Everyone take care and stay warm!

Christine Fullawka
Saskatchewan Director, CFFA

YUKON FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Well we are back up and running after a summer of everyone doing his or her own thing. Summer for Yukon foster families means camping, fishing, drying fish and berry picking. It also means LONG trips down south to visit relatives in the more people populated regions of Canada as opposed to our more wildlife-populated region. There is nothing like driving south on the Alaska Highway meandering through herds of bison, spotting black bears, brown bears and the odd grizzly, along with trying not to hit a smattering of sheep, moose or caribou at 100 km. Oh and there is also the biggest danger we face - the tourist who stops in the middle of the road to take a photo of all our beautiful and bountiful wildlife.

The Yukon Foster Parents Association board is busy organizing family events for the fall and winter. Our recent Family Fun Night at the local gymnastics gym was a huge success with 19 foster parents and 49 children attending the well-supervised evening. There will be more activities to come in the future. Board committees are up and running and providing a variety of services to fostering families.

YFPA board members are back to meeting monthly with Family and Children's Services staff and Regional Services staff to discuss foster care issues and work collaboratively on issues of importance to all involved. The new Foster Care Manual has been distributed and an orientation is being planned. F&CS has had a good deal of staff changes lately and there are several new

members joining the joint committee. We are looking forward to building a solid and productive working relationship.

The YFPA sent out CFFA calendar ribbons, along with the CFFA President's letter, Governor General's letter and Prime Minister's letter of congratulations and best wishes to all Yukon foster families during National Foster Family Week. Family and Children's Services put on a lovely dinner for foster parents and their annual Halloween party for all the kids. It was lovely to be honoured with a nice night out for a meal and a chat with fellow foster parents and workers.

PRIDE training is in the works but there has been a decline in the community's interest in participating in foster parent training or fostering in general. We are in need of more foster homes to provide emergency, short term and long term care. In 2005, we had 105 foster families in Whitehorse and approximately 50 foster families through out the other 12 communities. In 2013 our mailing list shows approximately 53 active foster families in Whitehorse and approximately 24 foster families in the other communities. The number of children coming into care had begun to decline as well, however foster parents have noticed a significant increase in phone calls requesting placement of children/sibling groups in their already very busy households. We have also noticed that there are fewer and fewer young families joining us older, long time foster parents. When we have our events, it's starting to look like the seniors centre joining up with the daycare centre!

Any successful recruitment ideas would be welcomed! That's all for now from the Snowy North!

Donna Wilkinson
Yukon Director, CFFA

Special Offer: Living with FASD Recordings

As a parent of a child with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), wouldn't it be nice to get your hands on essential tips and ideas from experts with the latest research, without leaving the comfort of your home? And how reassuring would it be if those experts also happened to be parents of children with FASD themselves? Who knows better than people like you who walk in the same shoes you do!

To hear experts on FASD speak, you usually need to attend an FASD conference in person. However, now there is an easier way! In September, I attended an online conference called the Living With FASD 2013 Summit. 22 expert interviews were recorded so participants could listen from the comfort of their own home, on their own time. I can play these interviews on my computer, and I have downloaded the MP3 recordings of each interview onto my MP3 player. I also have transcripts of each interview.

I was able to attend several of the sessions live, which covered a wide variety of topics. Brenda Knight's talk reminded me that I am not alone in the work I do with the children and youth who share our home. Erin Reimer, a former youth in care, shared her strategies for successfully living with FASD as an adult raising her own family. Erin gave me insight into the struggles and structure she and her husband have developed in order to succeed—that really helped me support our children with FASD who are now young adults trying to make it on their own. Dr. Clair Coles discussed important new research on teaching math for FASD. And Dr. Rod Densmore's interview and questionnaire on caregiver stress was practical and enlightening because he, too, is a parent. There are many more interviews I plan to listen to in the months to come.

I encourage all those working in the child welfare field to make a point of listening to the 22 interviews in this Summit. There is a wealth of practical tips and immediately implementable strategies contained in these 25+ hours of MP3s and transcripts.

Normally this series is \$97. The Canadian Foster Family Association has negotiated a 50% discount for our members and potential members, **thus the price is only \$48.50!**

If you are not a member of the CFFA already, we encourage you to support us by joining today. Visit CanadianFosterFamilyAssociation.ca/category/fundraising-membership

To take advantage of this special offer:

Visit LivingWithFASD.com/cffa and enter this special coupon code at the checkout: **LWF-CFFA**

I know you will get a lot of value from this resource!

*Sheila Durnford,
President, CFFA*



Contact

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.

Submissions

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 Tammy Roberts, Newsletter Chair at info@ffcjwt.com. The submission deadline for the next Bulletin is February 28th, 2014.



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

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