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February 6, 2014

Senator Elizabeth Hubley  
Parliament Hill Office  
348 East Block,  
Parliament of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A4

EMAIL: [hubblee@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:hubblee@sen.parl.gc.ca)

Dear Senator Hubley:

I am writing as President of the Canadian Foster Family Association (CFFA). Our mandate is to speak as a collective voice for foster families throughout the country with a goal to enhance the quality of care provided to children and youth across Canada.

I would like to thank you for calling attention to the increasing issues with the child welfare system across Canada affecting children and youth in care and foster families, in the Senate last week.

The CFFA believes it to be very important to have a national perspective, and it is frustrating at times when child welfare falls under Provincial jurisdiction. The CFFA is aware of the many kinship foster parents who face additional issues in caring for children, and Aboriginal foster families with their unique challenges.

National Data on children in care would be a great asset for many reasons, and could assist with needed funding for increased services and support to families, foster families and children and youth in care.

You make reference to the Every Child Matters Project. The CFFA partnered with the CWLC on this 3 year project, with funds provided by HRSDC. I am pleased you are aware and familiar with our project, and am hopeful the results will assist with moving forward to better the current system. One constant across Canada is many of the current group of foster parents are aging and new recruitment is not replacing them, and most child welfare agencies are struggling with recruitment and retention of foster parents. As the National Organization representing the Provinces and Territories, we would be pleased to assist in any way to continue encouraging attention be put on Canadian children in care, foster families and the child welfare system.

Most of the Provincial and Territorial Foster Parent Associations are members of the CFFA, as is the PEI Federation of Foster Families (PEIFFF). Wayne MacFarlane, President of the PEIFFF, whom I am aware you have met, sits as the PEI Director on the CFFA Board. PEI is lucky to have you as an advocate for their children in care and foster families.

Together we have a stronger voice, and together we can make a difference for vulnerable children and families. All foster parents would love to be out of their job if it meant less or no need for children to be in care! We would get closer to that goal if, as you recommend, more funding is provided for families that do not have the resources to provide for their children.

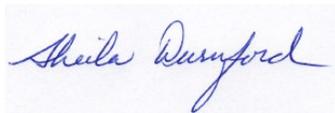
Thank you again for taking a stand on this very important issue. I would be very interested to know if any action or follow up will be done from your request to the Senate.

I would like to extend an invitation for you to attend our 2014 CFFA National Conference being held in Edmonton, Alberta, June 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2014. It is a time when the Provincial and Territorial Foster Parent Associations come together for training, meetings and elections. Our Directors and Delegates would be interested to hear from you, and would give you the opportunity to meet foster parents from across Canada.

Please contact me if you would like further information, and whether you are interested in speaking at our 2014 CFFA Conference.

My contact information is as follows:  
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Sincerely,



Sheila Durnford  
President

Copy to: Wayne MacFarlane,  
CFFA Board of Directors