

## 2014 CFFA NATIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT



Our 2014 CFFA National Conference, “Coming Together for Canada’s Children” was held in Edmonton, Alberta, hosted by the Alberta Foster Parent Association (AFPA).

The CFFA meetings were scheduled for the first part of the week, with the CFFA Executive meeting followed by the Board of Directors meeting, the National Working Group and our Annual General Meeting; workshops took place on the Friday and Saturday.



*Norm Brownell, Sheila Durnford, Honourable Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Alberta Human Services.*

We were pleased to have the Honourable Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Alberta Human Services address the participants at our Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, June 12th. It is always a thrill to see all the flags paraded in by the Provincial and Territorial Directors to the bagpipe marching music!

Following the opening ceremonies, the National Working Group took place. Provincial and Territorial updates are given by the Directors, and all present are welcome to take part and bring forward items for discussion. Some of the items discussed were, Community Recruitment and Mentorship.

During our AGM elections were held and this year there were several people nominated for the positions that were up for election. I was re-elected as President, Mary Stubbington-Smith was re-elected as 1st Vice President, and Nancy McFarlane accepted the position as Treasurer as there were no other people running for that position. All positions are on a two-year terms.

A number of workshops were offered on Friday and Saturday, with options of full day and half day workshops. The CFFA arranged to have several of the workshops taped so they can be shared with others that could not attend the conference. They are now being edited and information on how to order copies will be posted on our website in the near future.

The Alberta Foster Family Association arranged for a wonderful closing banquet on the Saturday evening. Assistant Deputy Minister Mark Hattori joined us for dinner and gave a very entertaining and informative keynote.

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The CFFA presented a plaque to Norm Brownell, President, AFPA, and Katherine Jones, Executive Director, AFPA in recognition of all the work and dedication it took to organize such a successful conference.

The CFFA flag was handed over to Gena Morrow, CFFA Director from Ontario, as Ontario will be hosting the 2015 National Conference in Niagara Falls.



*Passing of the CFFA flag. Gena Morrow, Ontario, Sheila Durnford*

We hope to see many of you at the CFFA Conference in Niagara Falls in the fall of 2015!! Watch our website for updated information as it becomes available.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for my re-election and I look forward to serving another term as president.

***Sheila Durnford***  
*CFFA President*

