

**BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations**

hosts the

**Canadian Foster Family Association**

at our

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Annual General Meeting & Conference 2017**

**October 4<sup>th</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup> 2017**

at the

**Fairmont Chateau Whistler**

**4599 Chateau Blvd, Whistler, BC**



## National Working Group Discusses Permanency (Wednesday Afternoon)

We all require lifelong connections with others and yet so many young people are aging out of the foster care system without permanent relationships. Who will they be connected to as they grow older? How do we create a permanency mindset when caring for and planning for the futures of children and youth? Meet with us on Wednesday to discuss this important issue.

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## Workshop A: The Traditional Baby Swing Teachings as Cultural Healing (Thursday Full Day)

The Traditional baby swing teachings are offered as part of the psycho-educational component of healing, with a detailed understanding of how history, colonialism and forced assimilation, residential school and its intergenerational impacts destroyed traditional native parenting concepts and rites of passages.

Many of those that had attended the residential school were taken from the arms of their parents and from the well defined kinship systems for childcare and childhood teachings and experiences that had developed the First Nation Psyche and Spirit. An impact of Residential school was a loss of the love and nurturing that is so necessary for the healthy development of the individual. Without successfully attaining this stage of love and nurturance in the natural life cycle, one artificially seeks this often by artificial means. We can recreate the nurturance and give the experience by honouring the swing and the ancestral wisdom of the grandmothers and grandfathers to assist those that are lost to find the love and reconnect with that feeling.

**Beverley Hope** is Swampy Cree on her mother's side whose people are from Grand Rapids, Manitoba and Scottish/English on her father's side. Bev offers herself as a bridge of understanding between both worlds. Bev has 29 years accumulated experience as a Child and Youth Care Worker and Social Worker, working in all facets of service delivery from grass roots front line to leadership roles within community, government, not for profit, Provincial and Territorial organizations as well "on the land" cultural & traditional and mainstream settings.

Bev's experience is working within the many First Nations communities within BC, Alberta and the NT. This experience acknowledges the varying teachings amongst nations, communities, families and individuals with a deep respect for the uniqueness and distinction of each. It is her honor to work within your community to make your programs a safe and meaningful experience and making each experience significant and real, validating the worth of each participant.



Bev acknowledges the words of her Elder who shared that laughter is the best medicine and the #1 healer. "Although there is serious work to be done... we can still laugh and enjoy each other in the present." Be prepared to have some fun and some good laughs as well.

**Frank Hope** is a South Slavey Dene and a Residential School Survivor from Liidlii Kue' (Fort Simpson). Frank understands and lives his traditions, speaks his language and is a self-aware confident person who knows the strength of his abilities.

He has a sound awareness of his culture and the cultural diversity of the northern territories: the NT and Yukon. As well as a living knowledge of the appropriate protocols of First Nation, Metis & Inuit traditions and values. Frank has a detailed understanding of the history and impacts of residential schools as well as a working knowledge of the best healing practices across Canada.

Frank's experience in Social Justice with 15 years as lead suicide prevention trainer and as a Certified Addictions Counsellor. As well as in Justice and Corrections with 6 years as a Parole officer. As well as being a Community Liaison with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) with Program services and best practices at the inception of AHF services to a Residential School Survivors to delivering mobile psycho-educational trauma recovery healing programs as a Residential School Specialist and lastly with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada as the NT/Yukon Liaison. Frank is reputed for being a strong public speaker, facilitator, and trainer. Frank is dedicated to his people and is motivated to assist when, where and how he can. "This is a meaningful journey to work with my own people, I am always humbled by the strength and history of who we were, still are and the beauty of our young people... our future."

## Workshop B: Building Bridges Through Understanding The Village® (Thursday Full Day)

During this experiential workshop we will explore our personal role in supporting the revival of the values that worked so beautifully in indigenous villages for thousands of years. We will also explore in-depth the effects of Residential Schools and Canada's Policy of Assimilation. This workshop is geared to solutions rather than recrimination and is a great forum in which to ask questions. Those who participate in these often emotion provoking workshop experiences comment that while they understood a bit about the issue on a cognitive level, after participating in Building Bridges Through Understanding The Village they understand on a deep emotional level as well. The workshop is done in a non-blame and non-shame perspective and invites all participants to become a part of the healing that is already happening. Kathi's work has been inspired by Jann Derrick's teachings of 'The Circle and The Box' and by many Elders' teachings.



**Kathi Camilleri** is an Aboriginal woman who has coordinated healing programs in the Aboriginal Community for 19 years. She has a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies. Kathi works with Aboriginal Mental Health and has her own consulting business. She facilitates strategic planning sessions and experiential workshops regarding Canada's Policy of Assimilation and Colonization with social workers, foster parents, health care workers, church groups, students and educators, frontline workers in communities across Canada. The healing power and personal impact of this work elicits rave reviews. One participant wrote: "Kathi uses humour, kindness and wisdom to hold the space safely for us while we change how we see the world and how we forever interact with those who have Aboriginal heritage. It is easy to learn because of her gentle ways, and her respect for all people."

### Co-facilitation and Mental Health support provided by Meredith Martin

**Meredith** is of Coast Salish ancestry. Her people are of the Sneymuxw Nation in Nanaimo. She has a Masters Degree in Counselling Psychology. Meredith works with Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health and has her own private practice. She has assisted Kathi Camilleri in her workshops for the past seven years. Meredith is passionate about increasing understanding of the impact of Residential School on Aboriginal Peoples.



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## Workshop C: Rider Insurance Program (Thursday Morning)

The Rider or Extended Property Damage insurance provides coverage against loss or damage to foster parent personal belongings that may occur due to accidental or willful acts a child placed in their care. Coverage extends to caregivers who have Family Care Home Agreements with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, and Youth Justice homes. During this workshop you will learn about Extended Property Damage (Rider) and other insurance provided to BC's foster parents



**Emma Megson** Having grown up in a family of insurance professionals, insurance has come naturally to Emma. After graduating from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Emma has spent the last decade working in various sectors of the insurance industry. Her career path has lead her across the globe where she spent time working in Lloyds of London, to Vancouver where she has held positions as a personal lines and commercial underwriter, claims adjuster, and her current role as an Account Executive at Megson FitzPatrick. In every role she has held Emma has demonstrated a tremendous passion and commitment to her clients. It is these qualities that have driven her to specialize in the non-profit industry. Emma is dedicated to putting the needs of her clients above all else, and working hard to ensure that they receive professional and personal service.

## Workshop D: BC's PRIDE Caregiver Pre-Service Training & Resource Worker Training Tour (Thursday Afternoon)

It's been a long time coming, but PRIDE Caregiver Pre-Service Training and the Ministry's new Resource Worker Training are ready! Join us for a tour of these valuable online resources. PRIDE Pre-Service online is intended to be viewed by both foster parents and resource workers so that everyone understands the foundational elements of providing foster care to children and youth. The new Resource Worker Training is a comprehensive series of online modules for workers who have taken on the rewarding task of supporting foster parent resources in their communities.

Presenter profiles will be distributed at the BCFFPA AGM registration desk.

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## Workshop E: Finding Purpose (Friday Full Day)

Being placed in the foster care system and then adopted into a family is what happens to many children with FASD. What works? What does not work? School can be difficult for any child, but for a child with FASD it can be next to impossible. When you have issues with sensory overload, information processing and memory deficits, but appear and present as "normal", your actions are seen as behavior. What's really going on? Leaving home when you are developmentally still a child leads to nothing but trouble for the young person with FASD. Navigating a world you do not understand and that does not understand you leads to chronic failure as an individual, resulting in chaos, addiction, criminal activity and trauma. How do you find purpose? Resilience is a process that has no short-cuts. Knowing who you are begins with accepting yourself as a person first, one with FASD second. Learning about what works for you, what you can do and also what you cannot do is important. How do you get there? The process of becoming, learning to let go, finding purpose. Personal growth means finding your strengths, and becoming okay with your limitations. How to do self-advocacy is critical to finding success with personal meaning.

**Myles Himmelreich** is a well-known motivational speaker on FASD, having presented nationally and internationally for many years, sharing his experiences in living with FASD. In his work as a mentor to other youth and adults with FASD, Myles has helped them to understand and accept that we all share similar struggles and the desire to succeed. As well, working as a consultant, Myles has done a great deal of work with the media. Most recently, Myles was part of a ground-breaking study on the health and physical issues of adults with FASD. Myles' goal is to help others with FASD find their voice and to help society understand that we are greater when we are united and work together.



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## Workshop F: 50 Years of Fostering (Friday Full Day)

Everything changes. This we know for sure. As policy evolved, best practice became the norm, and as the needs of children became more complex, fostering has become as much a profession as a labor of love. Join us for a one day workshop to hear from foster parents who have spent over 50 years caring for children, social workers who have spent their careers delivering services in the child welfare sector, and youth who have spent time in the system.

Presenter profiles will be distributed at the BCFFPA AGM registration desk.

## Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Banquet



Join the drumming procession across the street to our Thursday evening event at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. Soak up the richness of authentic art in the lavish Great Hall as you enjoy a scrumptuous meal.

Space is limited to 140 seats.

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## Wellness Evening & Camps for Kids Fundraiser

Foster parents come join us for a night of wine, appetizers and relaxation. BCFFPA would like to **Thank You** for all your hard work, commitment and dedication to the children and youth that you care for. Enjoy a glass of wine or two, indulge in a massage or reflexology and spend sometime socializing with friends.



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## I-DJ Services—Our Music Host for Saturday Night

Growing up in Burnaby, BC with a musical family, Alex was influenced by his father who played drums professionally for 25 years. He started taking classical guitar and drum lessons at the age of 5 eventually becoming a live sound engineer. Alex has over 14 years experience as Mix DJ/VJ for night clubs and corporate events. He has worked with artists such as LMFAO, Colin James, Beenie Man, and Tod Rundgren as well as many international and national artists. Alex's hobbies are anything music related and he also enjoys boating in the warm weather.



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## About the Fundraisers

**The 50/50 Draws**—at Thursday's and Friday's lunch break. 10 tickets for \$10! We'll draw the winning ticket at the afternoon coffee break.

**The Bucket Draw**—Friday night's Wellness Room will be populated with our famous yellow buckets placed in front of valuable and fun prizes. Purchase an arms length of tickets for \$10 and decide which gifts you want to take a chance on winning!

**The Loonie Auction**—Saturday's AGM Banquet wouldn't be the same without our Camp for Kids Auction with ICS's Kari Beppe presiding. Bring your loonies (we'll have some for sale as well) to bid on the gift baskets that appeal to you.

## Foster Parent AGM Bursary Apply by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is supporting this years' BCFFPA AGM in Whistler! Bursaries will be given to two foster parents in each service delivery area which will cover the cost of your Conference and AGM registration fee (\$500).

For an opportunity to receive one of the bursaries, please submit the following information to our office by June 1st, 2017. Please note, bursaries for BCFFPA's AGM 2017 are open to all foster parents in BC regardless of BCFFPA membership.

### Instructions to Apply for AGM 2017 Bursary

Send us the following information by mail, e-mail or fax by June 1, 2017:

1. Your name, address, city, postal code and at least one phone number where we can contact you.
2. Provide your e-mail address.
3. The name of who you contract for as a foster parent? (MCFD, Delegated Aboriginal Agency or other agency)
4. If you have a current contract. (Applicant contract status will be verified.)
5. Send the above information to BCFFPA by e-mail, regular mail or fax:

E-mail: [ronda@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:ronda@bcfosterparents.ca)  
Address: BCFFPA Office  
3rd Floor— 131 Eighth Street  
New Westminster, BC V3M 3P6  
Fax: 604-544-2223

Winners will be notified by phone and e-mail (if provided) by June 30, 2017.

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## Agenda

### Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00am - 8:45am	CFFA Registration & Breakfast
9:00am - 12:00pm	CFFA Annual General Meeting (Coffee breaks included)
1:30pm - 6:30pm	National Working Group - Permanency (Dinner included)
7:30pm - 9:30pm	BCFFPA Meet & Greet

### Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00am - 8:45am	BCFFPA Registration & Breakfast
9:00am - 4:00pm	Workshop A: The Traditional Baby Swing Teachings as Cultural Healing (Lunch included)
9:00am - 4:00pm	Workshop B: Building Bridges Through Understanding The Village® (Lunch included)
9:00am - 12:00pm	Workshop C: Rider Insurance Program (Lunch included)
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Workshop D: BC's PRIDE Caregiver Pre-Service Training & Resource Worker Training Tour (Lunch included)
4:30pm - 6:30pm	CFFA Meet & Greet
7:00pm - 10:00pm	Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Banquet (Limited Seating Available)

### Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast
9:00am - 4:00pm	Workshop E: Finding Purpose (Lunch included)
9:00am - 4:00pm	Workshop F: 50 Years of Fostering Panel (Lunch included)
6:00pm - 9:30pm	Wellness Evening & Camps for Kids Fundraiser (Appetizers & Refreshments)

### Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast
9:00am - 1:00pm	BCFFPA Annual General Meeting (Coffee break included)
5:30pm - 11:00pm	Banquet & Dance

## BCFFPA & CFFA AGM 2017 Registration Form

(Please fill out one application per person)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Who am I?: (Please use a check mark to indicate your choice or write in your answer if applicable)

BC Foster Parent:  BCFFPA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian Foster Parent:  Province: \_\_\_\_\_ CFFA Member:

Agency Worker:  Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MCFD Worker:

### Workshops:

(Please note: some workshop space is limited. Mark off your main preference with a checkmark. Full day workshops cannot be combined with half day workshops.)

Wednesday, October 4: \_\_\_\_\_ CFFA Annual General Meeting (Morning)  
\_\_\_\_\_ National Working Group (Afternoon/Evening)

Thursday, October 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop A - The Traditional Baby Swing Teachings as Cultural Healing (Full Day)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Workshop B - Building Bridges Through Understanding The Village® (Full Day)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Workshop C - Rider Insurance Program (Morning)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Workshop D - BC's PRIDE Pre-Service & Resource Worker Trainings Tour (Afternoon)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Banquet & Event

Friday, October 6: \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop E - Finding Purpose (Full Day)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Workshop F - 50 Years of Fostering Panel (Full Day)

Saturday, October 7: \_\_\_\_\_ BCFFPA Annual General Meeting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Celebration Banquet and Dance

### Dietary Restrictions:

Vegetarian:  Gluten-free:  Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*SPECIAL ROOM RATE APPLICABLE UNTIL AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2017\*\*\*\*\***

SPECIAL RATE \$169.00/night

Call today to make your reservation at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler **1-800-606-8244**

(Please quote group code "1017BCFF" or "BCFFPA - BC Federation of Foster Parents" when making your booking.)

Registration: \$500.00

(Event value: \$2700 including 8 meals, 6 workshops, 4 networking sessions, 2 banquets, wellness evening for foster parents)

Visa/MC: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

OR my cheque is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Make cheques payable to: BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations)

Mail, fax or email completed registration form along with your cheque, money order or credit card payment to:

BCFFPA, 3rd Floor - 131 Eighth Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 3P6 | Fax: 604-544-2223 | Email: ronda@bcfosterparents.ca

Childcare is not provided for the AGM Conference Event. A finalized agenda will be emailed to registrants a week before the AGM.