



2021

Annual Report

About Us

The BCFFPA is a provincial organization for foster parents, run by foster parents. We are a registered non-profit charity which aims to bring together foster parents, social workers and other stakeholders who are working to continuously improve the standard of care for children in our province.

We provide information to the general public about fostering as well as recruitment services to the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. We offer our community a support network through our local Branch affiliations and our Solutions Program, accessible fostering information and

education, a hub to share news across our sector and insurance resources for foster caregivers. For over 50 years, we have consulted about the revision and development of policy and practice within BC's child welfare sector.

BCFFPA's structure facilitates contact with all foster parents in the province. We provide funding to our Branches and Regional Councils, and we maintain a Board of Directors that represents our diverse BC culture. BCFFPA's Board of Directors provincially, regionally and at a community level are all volunteers, elected by their foster parent membership community.



BCFFPA has been serving BC's foster caregivers and our broader fostering community since 1967. We strive to meet the needs of all caregivers by maintaining an involvement in the provincial government's development of fostering policy and practice guidelines.



Our Mission

To represent and support all foster parents who provide quality in-home family care in British Columbia



Our Vision

Supporting children and youth to reach their full potential through exceptional care



Our Belief

Supported and resilient caregivers raise empowered children and youth



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Holmlund
President

Jeanette Dyer
Vice President

Kevin Daniel
Secretary

Marcy Perron
Treasurer

Raquel Lesieur
Interior Delegate

Vacant
Coast Fraser Delegate

Vacant
Island Delegate

Vacant
Northern Delegate

PROVINCIAL OFFICE STAFF

Jayne Wilson
Executive Director

Ronda Sweeney
Office Manager

Annette Harding
Solutions Manager

Michelle Relevante
Communications Manager

Krissy Ramcharan
Solutions Coordinator

Tanya Pitts
Solutions Assistant

Gabby Cousins and Saara Sandhu
Reception



President and Executive Director's Year in Review



Julie Holmlund
President

Last fiscal year was a wild ride for our entire community! Despite the pandemic restrictions and the challenges experienced by our foster families, BCFFPA has been carrying on with our mandate to provide advocacy and direct service to foster parents across the province. As the pandemic continued, we identified some additional needs within our community and have discussed these additional services with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.



Jayne Wilson
Executive Director

Throughout the year, we have been on the job discussing the recommended changes to Chapter 5: Children and Youth In Care Policies. Working in partnership with the Child Welfare and Reconciliation Policy Branch and a team of advisors, the policy now includes wording that supports each of the Foster Parent Rights. This project was completed just after fiscal year end and a webinar is currently being designed so that social workers and foster parents have all the information needed to work together cooperatively.

The Social Sector Advisory Committee continued to meet virtually to review much-needed shifts across the social service sector and to discuss potential solutions. This active committee includes several members representing agencies and special interest groups throughout BC. The foster parent levels and youth transitions are and will continue to be on the agenda of this group until our community's needs are addressed. The committee has been responding to emerging pandemic-related responsibilities as they arise, so discussion priorities have necessarily been fluid for the past 18 months.

More BC Foster Basics YouTube videos are on the way! Since 2014, we have been producing short videos that answer your most common fostering policy and practice questions. These videos are hosted on BCFFPA's YouTube channel for free and accessible information for foster parents and other foster community stakeholders. Series 3 has encountered several interruptions and unavoidable delays. We will be completing these videos concurrently with series 4. If we have learned anything from this global pandemic, it has been to remain flexible and to curb our expectations.

At the very end of the fiscal year, we received a grant to identify and develop resources for foster parents. These comprehensive resources will specifically strengthen foster parents' capacity to support young children's social, emotional and mental well-being.

The Foster Family Handbook was last updated in 2013. The Ministry has provided us with the ability to again partner with the Policy team to ensure that this valuable resource for foster parents receives regular updates including current policy and practice guidelines. We are very pleased that MCFD has agreed to resurrect this publication as so many foster parents still refer to it as their main guidebook.

Our Communications Manager has been very busy developing eye-catching recruitment materials to share with our agency partners and on social media. Many will have noticed the refreshed newsletter design and messaging that appeals to a younger audience. We are thrilled with our community's enthusiastic response to our newsletter features including interviews with foster parents, former youth in care, social workers and other stakeholders in the fostering sector.

Our Provincial Office Staff and Board of Directors are working closely together to support our community members in any way we can. Our Solutions Program has been busier than ever, providing direct support and advocacy to individual foster parents and entire communities. The engagement we have received from MCFD regional leaders has been very gratifying.

Overall, the past year challenged us in ways we never expected but it also opened the door to growth, learning and new opportunities.



Treasurer's Report

Having returned to the Treasurer position after being in the President role for 4 years, it was nice to settle back in to the familiarity of my former routine. Our office staff continue to monitor expenses, provide monthly financial statements for review and consult with our Board whenever additional expenses are forecasted. As previous Treasurers have said, it's a "well-oiled machine".

BCFFPA's 2020-2021 fiscal year saw very conservative spending with very little notable financial news. Travel for staff and board members was limited to essential travel only due to the pandemic restrictions. Early in the year, it was necessary to invest in our technology infrastructure as all staff were required to work from home. As technology updates had been low priority for several years, the equipment upgrades were significant. Luckily, there were additional funds available for the development of our communication and technology infrastructure.

We received funds to produce three more video topics in 2020-2021. We discovered that video production during the first year of the pandemic was very challenging. The scripting and animation processes were significantly delayed due to team members being impacted by COVID-19 and the very sad loss of a community member who was involved in the project as one of our script developers and video facilitators. Funds have been carried forward as these videos are still under development and will be delivered in 2021-2022 fiscal year.



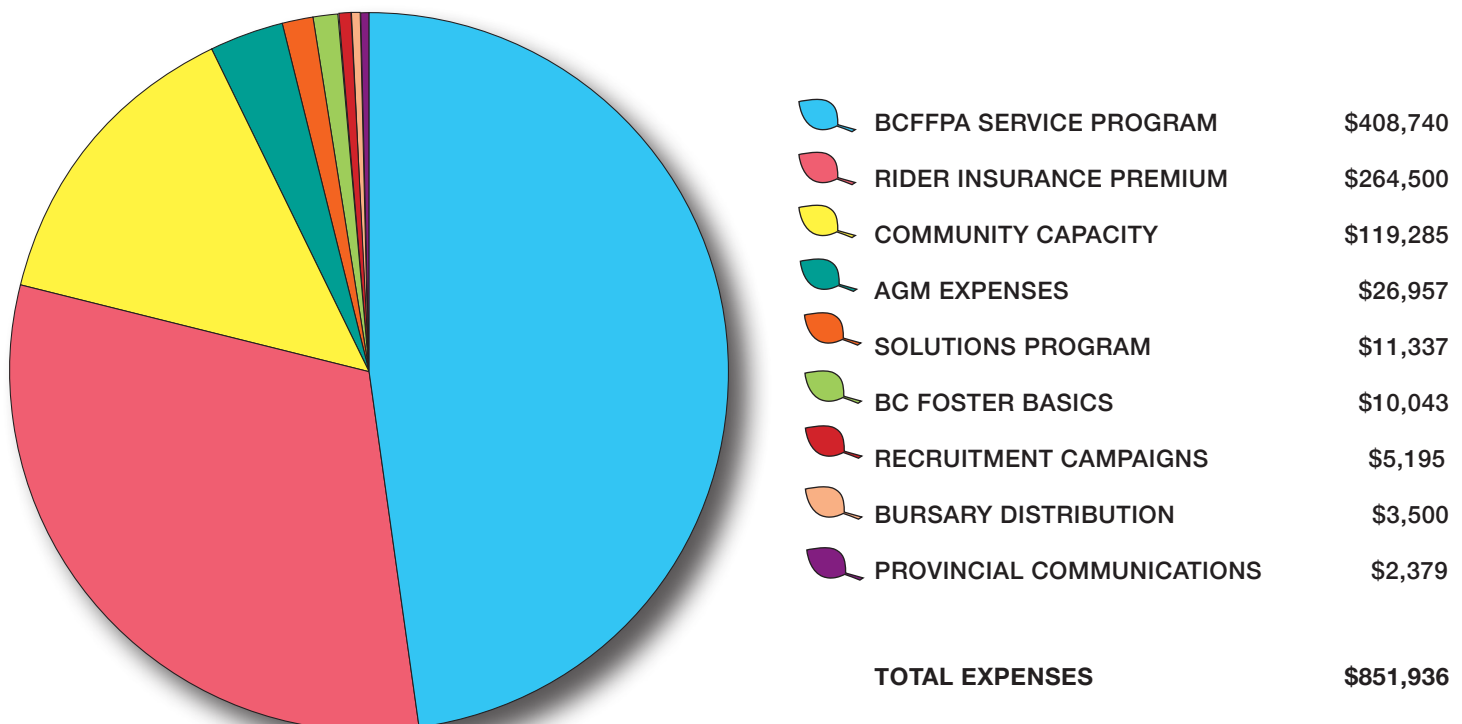
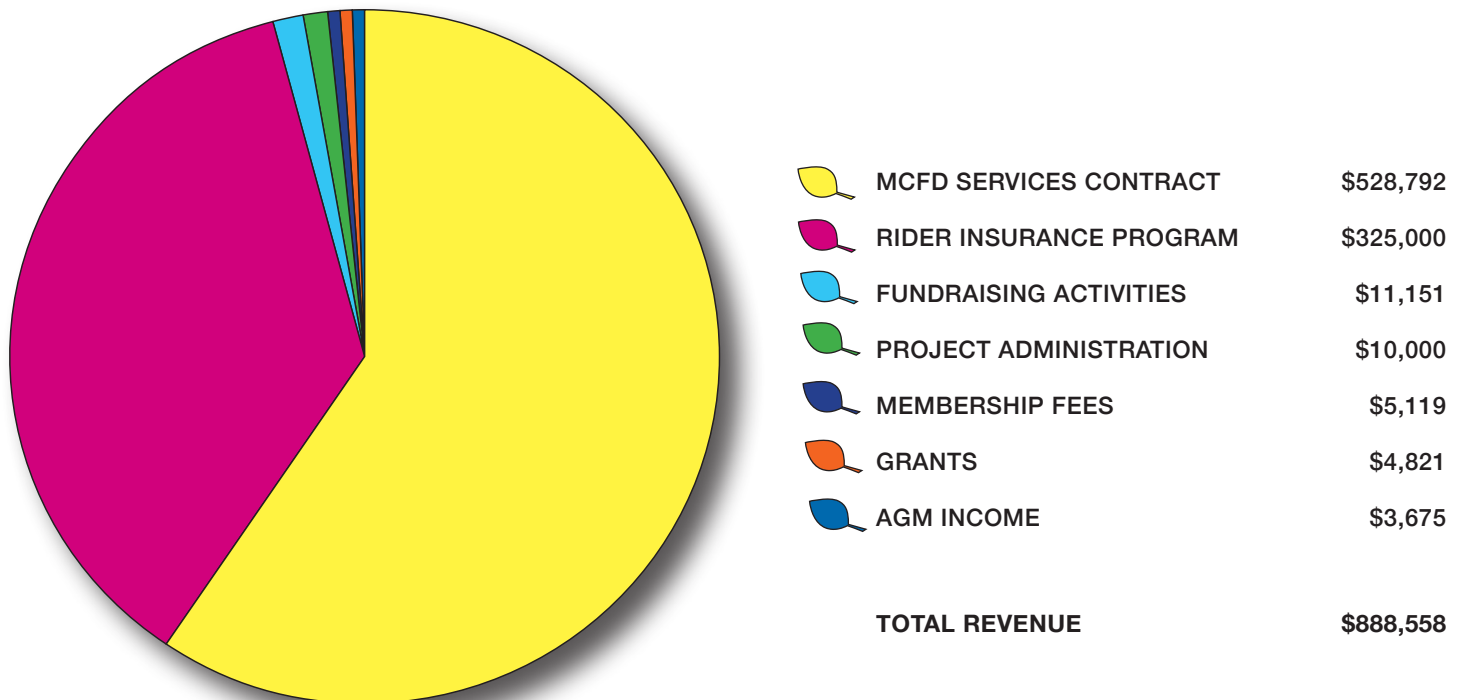
Marcy Perron
Treasurer

AGM 2020 was a brief morning meeting with 50 attendees in person while others joined in virtually. Regardless of the scaled down event, the expense was still significant at 40% of our average cost. We were able to offer online workshops to foster parents at a nominal fee. This created a small amount of revenue, but only 7% of our typical income. With the loss of the fundraising portions of our annual event, our Camps for Kids funds were not replenished this year. Luckily, our Camps for Kids account still had some funding to draw from.

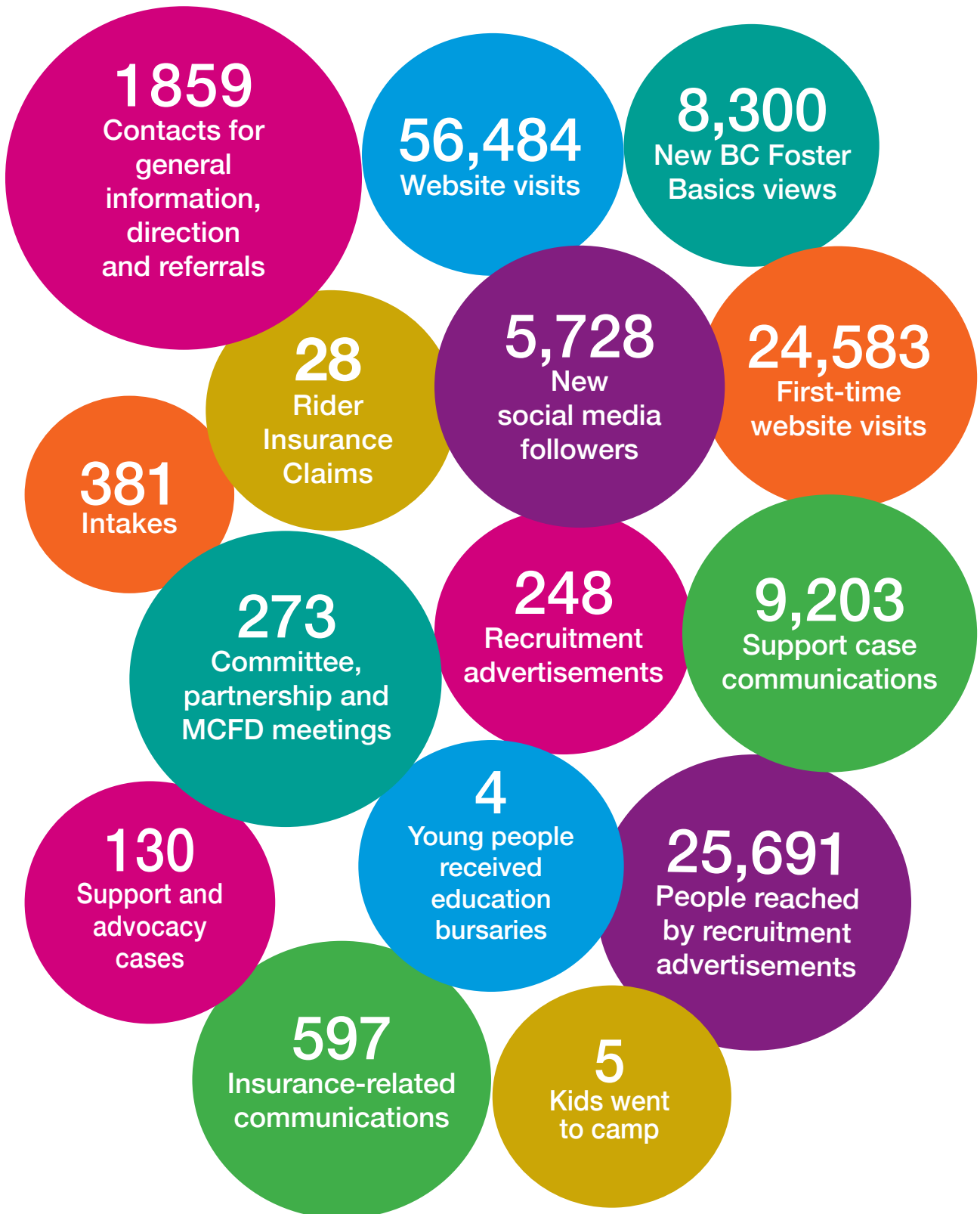
BCFFPA continues to support foster parents throughout the pandemic. Being as fiscally responsible as possible, we are utilizing our volunteer board members and staff to ensure that everyone is receiving the support they need. It's time like these that we need to support each other. We wish you and your loved ones health and safety as we continue to navigate these difficult times.

Financial Summary

The information below for the year end March 31 is derived from the financial statements for 2021, which were audited by Brian Tipper Inc.



Our Year in Numbers (2020-2021)



Recruitment, Information and Referrals

FOSTERING INFORMATION & INTAKE CALLS

The Fosterline continues to provide consistent information to BC foster parents about supports available to them, as well as to the general public regarding becoming a foster parent.

Information and intake service is available between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm on weekdays. BCFFPA provides direction, information and referral to callers.

REGION	INFO CALLS	INTAKE
Vancouver/Coast	72	47
Fraser	220	166
Interior	79	78
North	23	22
Island	80	68

Total intakes: 381 (6% increase from last year)
Overall percentage: 80% of information calls resulted in intake

Outcomes and Results

Potential foster parents are processed, educated and supported to best meet the needs of their community's foster children.

Foster parents have consistent information about supports available to them.

The general public has a central number for obtaining information regarding becoming a foster parent. Accurate information about the fostering process is available to BC's public.

Assist MCFD with foster parent recruitment.

MCFD workers and sector partners receive information about Rider Insurance, policy development, foster parent rights and advocacy.

PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

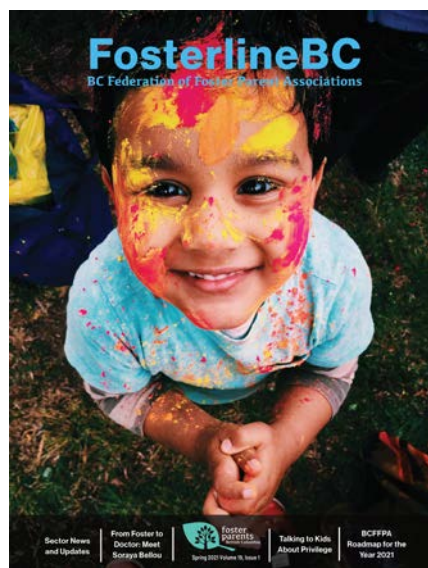
BCFFPA maintains and promotes our website and social media platforms to provide information, share news, links and developments in the province's fostering sector. In addition, we also engage in direct email marketing via our email newsletters to share provincial news as soon as we receive them. This allows us to build strong direct relationships with foster caregivers and stakeholders.

BCFFPA creates and distributes a minimum of 3 FosterlineBC newsletters annually. We coordinate partner and stakeholder messages reflecting provincial and regional news.

Total website visits: 56,484
First time website visits: 24,583
New social media followers: 5,728
Newsletters distributed: 3

Outcomes and Results

The province has one resource for accurate, timely news about fostering practice, initiatives, and current information.



RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH

In partnership with other agencies and stakeholders, BCFFPA creates and distributes print and digital materials for provincial and regional foster parent recruitment campaigns. BCFFPA also participates as a member of the Ministry-led committee to discuss provincial recruitment initiatives and strategies across the province.

This year, BCFFPA developed provincial and regional foster parent recruitment campaigns. Due to the pandemic and the increased use of digital tools, we optimized digital advertising to reach more people online to create awareness of fostering.

This year, we launched our Northeastern regional recruitment campaign in collaboration with Community Bridge in Fort St. John and the foster parents they support within their region. We created posters, newspaper ads and social media ads using quotes from interviews with foster parents. We are grateful to all the foster parents who participated and provided their valuable insights to help the campaign become a reality.

Print and digital advertisements created: 248

Campaign materials created: 98

People reached with digital ads: 25,691

Outcomes and Results

The public are aware that fostering is an option for more people than they may have thought.

General fostering myths are dispelled.


Potential foster parents have more awareness of the realities of fostering before they go through the intake and vetting process.



"As a foster parent, I enjoy witnessing developmental milestones. Watching a child learn something new is a wonderful experience!"




If you're interested in becoming a foster parent, please call 1-800-663-9999.



"I was a foster child and wanted to give a child the same opportunities as I had."

If you're interested in becoming a foster parent, please call 1-800-663-9999.



"My parents had foster kids when I was young. I always dreamed of fostering and helping families heal someday."

If you're interested in becoming a foster parent, please call 1-800-663-9999.

Rider Insurance Program

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has arranged for Extended Property Damage (Rider) Insurance to supplement a residential caregiver's homeowner or tenant insurance policy. The Rider follows the underlying homeowner or tenant property policy to provide up to the same limits and coverages. BCFFPA administers the Rider Insurance program for foster parents. The Rider Insurance Program provides coverage against loss or damage to buildings or contents owned, rented, used or occupied by a caregiver due to the acts of a child placed in their care.



Total claims: 28
Insurance-related communications: 597
Rider insurance training: 1 webinar
Training participants: 35
Consultations with community service agencies or MCFD about claims: 3
Consultations with agent and follow-up: 10
Consultations about challenging claims: 8

Outcomes and Results

All Ministry workers and foster parents are aware that any MCFD or DAA caregiver with a current signed contract is covered under the Rider Insurance Program.

Any changes to the program are quickly disseminated.

The Rider Insurance program is reviewed and recommendations for any changes are made annually during the renewal period.

Foster caregivers are not out-of-pocket for damages and losses that occur in their homes and belongings that they cannot afford to repair or replace.

Claims are processed efficiently and foster parents don't collect incidences to submit all at once.

Children live in well-maintained foster homes with less instances of environmental disruption.

Insurance agencies are aware that they cannot discriminate against foster parents by refusing to provide insurance due to the structure of their family.

Camps for Kids Grants

Every year, BCFFPA raises funds to send children in foster families to summer camp. We believe that every child deserves a chance to enjoy some summer fun. Summer Camps allow children in foster families to experience self-confidence building activities, social interaction, team building and physical activities. Whether it's a scouting camp, sports camp or an arts camp, the kids that receive our grants get the opportunity to build life skills and create positive memories.

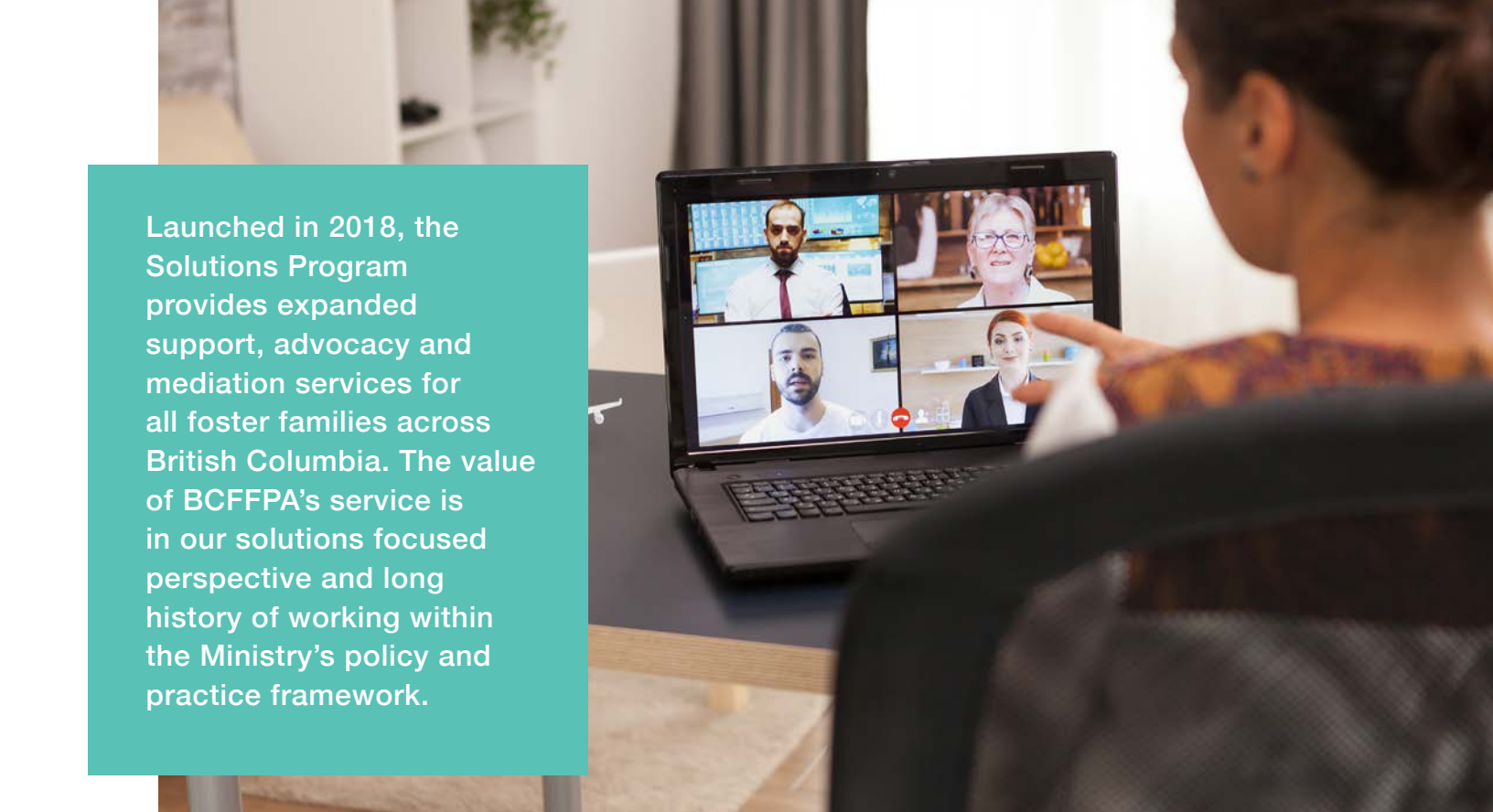
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BCFFPA was not able to hold our Camps for Kids fundraiser. However, we were still able to send 5 kids to summer camps of their choice.



Education Bursaries

There were 4 education bursary recipients this year, each of whom received \$500 to use toward tuition, books and other student costs. Since 2000, BCFFPA has distributed over \$40,000 in bursary funds to children who live or have lived with a BC foster family.





Launched in 2018, the Solutions Program provides expanded support, advocacy and mediation services for all foster families across British Columbia. The value of BCFFPA's service is in our solutions focused perspective and long history of working within the Ministry's policy and practice framework.

Solutions Program

The Solutions Program has completed its third year of operation and continues to be busy with a whole range of support and advocacy situations. This report will reflect on some of the trends and learning from the program inception to date. As the Program statistics are provided to the Ministry by fiscal year, this report reflects the services and supports up to March 2021. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Solutions Program worked with a total of 130 foster families from every Service Delivery Area in the province. All the program's support case communications with foster parents, community agencies, MCFD or DAA teams or the MCFD provincial office totalled to 9,203 this year.

We continue to work in partnership with the regional foster parent support services,

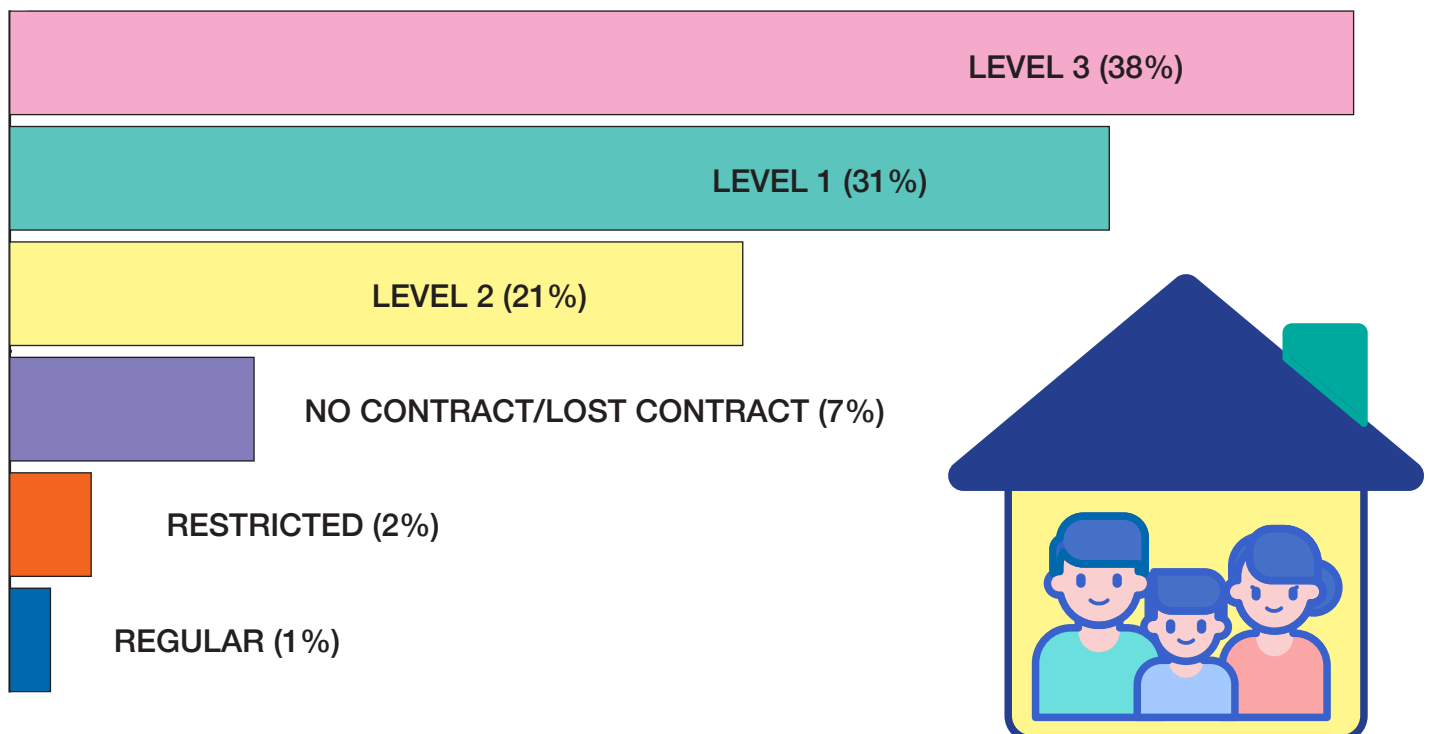
receiving referrals to assist with an investigation, care planning or to support a request for a review from Quality Assurance. For some situations, we work jointly with the local or regional support service representative until the matter is resolved. Over the last 18 months, our partnership with the caregiver support staff at Indigenous Perspectives Society has grown and we can provide joint support for foster families working with Delegated Aboriginal Agencies throughout the province. This collaboration and Indigenous perspective is of vital importance for many of the situations that foster families face during family care home investigations and care planning, particularly permanency planning. Over the last fiscal year, the Solutions Program worked in partnership with other agencies supporting 15 foster families.

Now in our third year of operation, the Solutions Program is becoming better known among the fostering community and social workers. Social workers are also starting to refer or suggest the Solutions program to their foster families which bodes well for relationship building and solution finding. All types of foster homes may need support but it's worth noting that over the last year, similar to previous years, it is the specialized levelled foster homes that experience more challenges requiring support and advocacy.

Throughout the year, there is a certain amount of turnover of support situation with a number resolved, such as investigation or quality of care completed with no findings or further follow up, or the case planning process was completed for that stage but we mostly experience a support situation remaining open for a considerable length of time. Currently, 87 foster families are receiving support services to varying degrees, some of whom have been with us for more than a year.

One of the trends we have paid more attention to over the last year is the length of time our support case stays open. As we looked more closely into the situations, we noticed that quite a number of foster families were experiencing more than one support issue over the period of time since the initial intake. Cases that start out with one issue often become multi-issue support cases. For example, a case could start out as a Care Planning issue, then becomes a Quality of Care Review, then there are contract issues, then the family requests a Review of the Quality of Care outcome. These multi-issue situations take much longer to work through and require a good deal of collaboration and follow up for all concerned. Foster families experiencing these multiple issues are under great stress and we try our best to be supportive when the outcomes are not what was expected. The foster families we work with become more informed on policies, contract expectations and guidances covering their role with children in care and teamwork.

Program Statistics by Foster Home Level



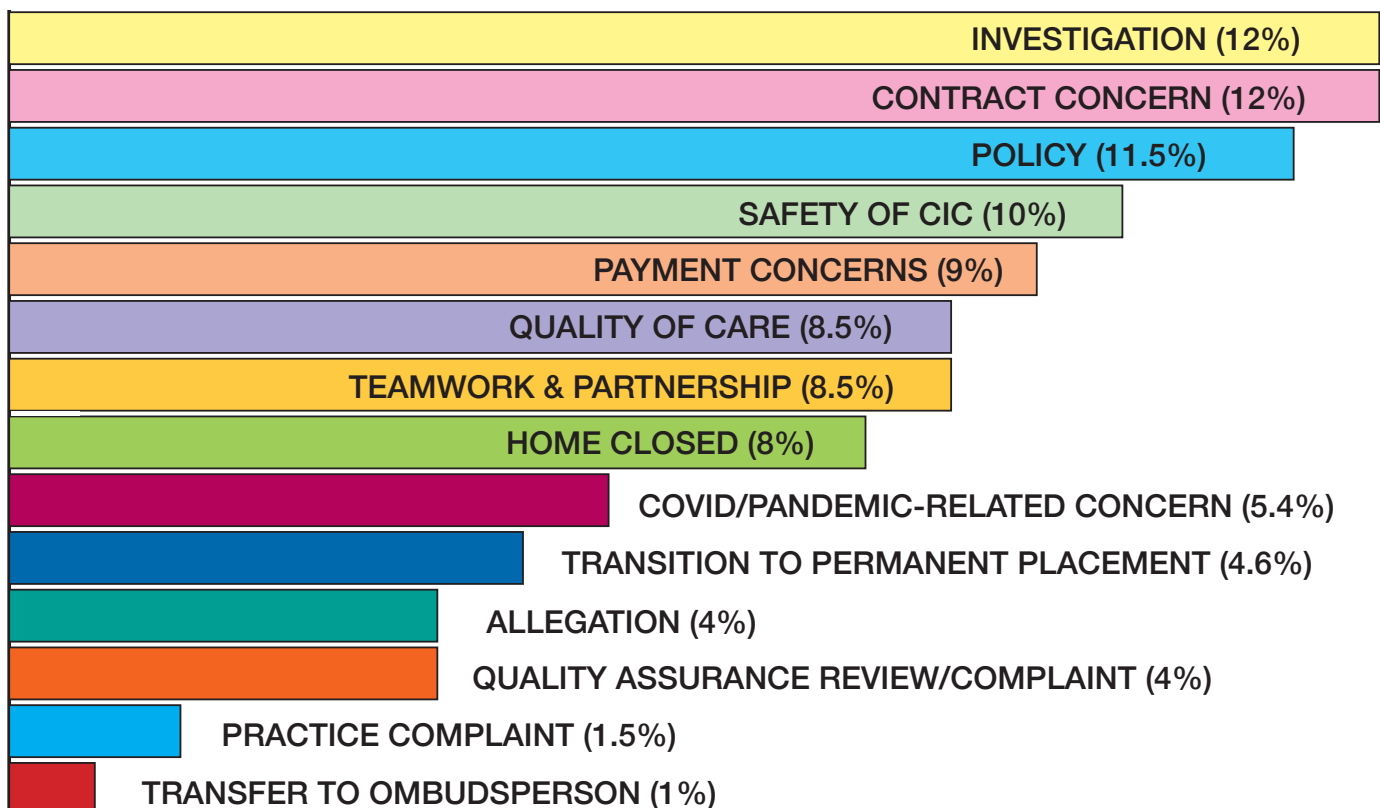
Having this information is empowering and helps the foster parents feel more knowledgeable and prepared for what is happening. We work in an honest and transparent way with foster families and support them in self-advocacy as we work through situations, so the foster family can express their perspectives, concerns and ideas.

While our primary focus has been on providing support and advocacy for individual foster families, we have also participated in completing a survey and community meetings with foster families in one Service Delivery Area that was experiencing more systemic challenges. The local fostering community, Ministry senior leadership, the Solutions Program and Board members came together to discuss key issues and potential solutions. More remains to be done but individual concerns are being heard and followed up on while other systemic work is completed.

The Solutions Program also provided an online webinar for broader information sharing and continue to broaden awareness of this provincial service. The webinar recording is available to watch on the BCFFPA YouTube channel.

The consistent level of requests for support the Solutions Program has received over the last 3 years has demonstrated a need for our provincial program to augment the supports provided by the regional support agencies and Indigenous Perspectives Society. We have all been very busy during the pandemic supporting the foster families who have stepped up to do an amazing job supporting children and youth. We look forward to continuing our work with foster families, support agencies and social workers to keep strengthening relationships and partnership in caring for children and youth in care and their families.

Solutions Program Caseload Statistics by Primary Concern





BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
“Another Branch of the Family Tree”

Provincial Office

208-20641 Logan Avenue
Langley, British Columbia V3A 7R3
Toll-free Fosterline: 1.800.663.9999
Fax: 604.544.2223
Email: office@bcfosterparents.ca
www.bcfosterparents.ca