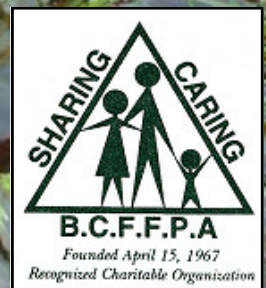


BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

# FosterlineBC

~ Fostering Awareness ~

April 2011  
Volume 9, Issue 2





## ~ Inside This Issue ~

- 3 President's Report
- 4 2011 Notice of Annual General Meeting
- 4 2011 Call for Nominations
- 5 Nomination Form
- 6 Annual General Meeting Location & Hotel Discounts
- 7-8 BCFFPA Delegate Regional Reports
- 9 Guideline to Foster Care Rates
- 9 Have You Hugged Your Social Worker Today?
- 10 IFCO Bursaries for BC Foster Parents
- 11 IFCO Registration is Now Open!
- 12 Insurance: Yes, We Have No Bananas
- 12 Insurance: Interprovincial Travel With Kids In Care
- 13 Special Resolution Form
- 13 MCFD Art Contest
- 14 Stand Together Conference
- 15 New Protocol for Advocacy
- 16 Foster Parent Rights
- 17 Getting To Know You: Russell Pohl, Fraser Delegate
- 17 Home Closures and Contract Changes: Become a Self-Advocate
- 18 Community Resources
- 18 Advertising Available

Publications Mail Agreement #40889526

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations  
207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road  
Maple Ridge BC, V2X 3K1

E-mail: [office@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca)

Publication of FosterlineBC (previously Infoletter) has been made possible through funding from The Ministry of Children and Family Development. Thank you to all who provided content for this edition.

## BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

Provincial Office  
207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road  
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3K1

Toll Free: 1-800-663-9999  
Fax: 604-466-7490  
E-mail: [office@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca)  
Website: [www.bcfosterparents.ca](http://www.bcfosterparents.ca)

### Provincial Staff:

Executive Director	Jayne Wilson <a href="mailto:jayne@bcfosterparents.ca">jayne@bcfosterparents.ca</a>
Office Manager	Lea Ann Bryant <a href="mailto:leaann@bcfosterparents.ca">leaann@bcfosterparents.ca</a>
Membership Services	Louise Walker <a href="mailto:louise@bcfosterparents.ca">louise@bcfosterparents.ca</a>

### Board of Directors:

President	Heather Bayes Interior Region
Vice President	Sheila Davis Central Island
Treasurer	Les Toth Central Island
Secretary	Marcy Perron Interior
Regional Delegates:	
Vancouver Coastal	Peter Dueck
Fraser	Russell Pohl
Interior	Kevin Daniel
North	Sherrie Jones
Vancouver Island	Jo Axe
IFCO Delegate	Melanie Filiatrault

~~~

The BCFFPA is a provincial organization for foster parents, run by foster parents. We are a registered Society aiming to bring foster parents, social workers and others together in order to continuously improve the standard of care for BC's children in care. BCFFPA provides education, training and professional development as well as advocacy, support and assistance for the foster parents of BC.

**FosterlineBC** (previously InfoLetter) is a quarterly publication (January, April, July, October).

**Submissions**—Forward articles, personal stories or ideas to the BCFFPA office. Materials may be edited for length and suitability.

**Advertising**—Please contact the BCFFPA office for advertising opportunities, sizes and rates.

## President's Report

Hopefully the snow is gone where you are and Spring is in full bloom. With the Spring comes soccer and softball and general busy times. This Spring we are in full swing planning for the AGM in July. I hope you have plans to join us in Victoria at the Fairmont Empress!

As we have been talking about for the last 2 years, IFCO is being held in Victoria this July as well. I am excited to announce the Board has approved funding for bursaries for up to 30 BC foster parents to attend. Please read the details included in this FosterlineBC newsletter and apply soon! This is a rare opportunity and it would be an excellent chance to network with foster parents from around the world. BCFFPA's AGM is being held the day before IFCO begins. I hope to see you there!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to acknowledge and thank Ellaine Ashby for her 14 years of service to the fostering community. She was with us during some of our most turbulent times in years past, leading us through the downsizing and working with Board and MCFD to maintain our service mandate. We thank Ellaine for the many wonderful things that were achieved through her dedication and diligent efforts on behalf of foster parents throughout BC. Ellaine has moved on to other challenges and opportunities and we wish her the best.

Our Board has been working hard on behalf to foster parents. Some of the recent issues we've been addressing with MCFD are changes to contracts, protocol issues and discussing the impact of HST on foster parents.

There are 3500 foster parents in BC taking care of over 8000 children and youth. It's a very large commitment and we need to keep our focus on our kids; but we cannot ever forget that we are in this together. Keep in contact with your Local, check the BCFFPA website, attend partnership meetings and training sessions in your area. Come to the AGM! Being with other foster parents helps us keep things in perspective and allows us to safely share our experiences with each other. We live unique lifestyles that only another foster parent can truly understand.

Heather Bayes  
President, BCFFPA Board of Directors

## Notes from the Office

Spring Greetings! As I write this there is, just this week, a greenish hue on the trees outside my window.

We are in constant motion at the Provincial office, supporting foster parents who have advocacy needs, taking on new projects, researching new initiatives to benefit foster parents and "waiting for the ink to dry" on the our new MCFD contract which, I'm happy to report, was renewed! We continue to enjoy a wonderful working relationship with MCFD staff.

Ralph Libby and I will be travelling in the coming months to deliver Rider Insurance information workshops to areas of the North, the Sunshine Coast and the Interior. We're hoping to plan for Vancouver Island in the early fall. If your area hasn't received a workshop in the past 2 years, please let me know.

Our AGM and IFCO are both coming up in July. The IFCO Committee has been planning the conference for a couple of years—there's a great deal in store for those who attend. The Victoria Conference Centre is a lovely venue and Victoria itself is a beautiful place to spend time, meet new friends and enjoy an enriching experience. I hope you can join us for both events!

In January we hired Louise Walker, who will take on the role of Membership Services and Development Coordinator. Among many other activities, Louise will be contacting additional vendors in BC communities to secure helpful discounts for foster parents. Louise will also be an integral member of our fund development team.

In 2006 I was hired by Ellaine Ashby to do research and help out in the Provincial office. Ellaine helped me to build my skills and confidence as an administrator. Although Ellaine won't be returning to BCFFPA, I hope to carry on her positive legacy of advocacy and fortitude. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Jayne Wilson  
Executive Director

### Our Mission

The BCFFPA represents and supports all Foster Parents to provide quality in-home foster care in British Columbia

### Our Vision

Supporting children and youth to reach their full potential through excellence in foster care

### Our Belief

Resilient Foster Parents = Empowered Children and Youth



call us!

fosterlineBC

1-800-663-9999

we're here for you



# 2011 Annual General Meeting and Call for Nominations

Join us at the [Fairmont Empress](#) in Victoria for the 2011 Annual General Meeting! (See location and booking details on page 6.) Registration packages will be mailed on May 25th, 2011.

As a bonus for members only, banquet cost will be \$30 per person. Non-member banquet cost will be set at \$60 per person.

Please contact the Fairmont Empress to book your accommodation. Tell them you will be booking under the block of rooms reserved for "**BCFFPA Annual General Meeting**". You will not be required to provide a deposit. If you will be staying through IFCO, you may extend your room booking throughout the week. Standard AGM and conference room rates for BCFFPA are \$169 per night. Upgraded rooms are available for reduced rates; just ask your booking agent!

**Toll free reservation line: 1-866-540-4429**  
**Fairmont Empress Direct: 250-384-8111**

## Noteworthy Dates...

May 9th: Nominations and Special Resolutions must be received by BCFFPA Provincial office

May 25th: AGM and Ballot packages sent to membership. AGM Registration Open.

June 9th: Notification of AGM

June 29th: Deadline for Mail-In Voting

**"Special Resolutions":** At this time of year, prior to the BCFFPA's Annual General Meeting, we receive proposals for **special resolutions**. A special resolution is a proposed change to our governance model or common practice that is presented to our membership as a whole and voted on. We require a majority vote for the special resolution to be passed. When a special resolution is adopted into the Association's practice or articles, the wording of the resolution is then submitted to the governmental authorities to become part of the Association's permanent documentation.

## 2011 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

BCFFPA will be holding elections for executive officer positions on the Board of Directors at our Annual General Meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Victoria, BC at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. The hotel is located at 721 Government Street, Victoria.

There are 2 positions coming up for election on the Executive Committee. The positions up for renewal in the year 2011 are:

- ☒ Secretary
- ☒ Treasurer

Each position has a two-year term. Nominations for each position **must** be received by the BCFFPA Provincial office by May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for distribution to the membership.

The bylaws regarding eligibility to become an Officer of the Federation, state the following:

- Paid in full member as of January 31<sup>st</sup> of current year.
- Must be present at the AGM unless excused by the Board for extraordinary reasons.
- Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
- Candidates for these officer positions shall be selected by the Nominating Committee from a pool of foster parents and associate members. They will be chosen for their knowledge and expertise in relation to these positions.
- The successful candidates will be elected through a combination of mail-in votes and the votes of those attending the Annual General Meeting.
- Associate Members, elected to hold positions on the Federation Board of Directors, shall have full voting privileges during their term of office.
- Any candidate for these positions, must have held a BCFFPA membership in good standing for at least three years immediately previous to running, and must have served for at least one year in the previous three years on a local, area, regional, or macro regional council, or on the BCFFPA Board of Directors.
- Nominations require a nomination form duly moved and seconded by two members in good standing (ie. current membership as of January 31<sup>st</sup> of the present year).

## PLEASE FORWARD NOMINATIONS TO THE FEDERATION PROVINCIAL OFFICE

207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road  
Maple Ridge BC, V2X 3K1

***Nominations must be received  
no later than May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011***



**More AGM Information on Page 6!**  
**To propose a special resolution for the AGM,**  
**please use the form on page 13.**

# BCFFPA Provincial Officer Nomination Form

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

## Candidate Information

Fostering Experience

BCFFPA Experience

Related Volunteer or Employment Experience

Views and Objectives to Offer this Position

Other Comments

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of Candidate* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

## Join BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations for our Annual General Meeting 2011 at Victoria's Historical Hotel

We are thrilled to announce that ***The Fairmont Empress*** ~ the Grande Dame of Hotels in Victoria's beautiful downtown harbor ~ will be hosting *BCFFPA's 2011 Annual General Meeting*. Room blocks have been reserved at the very reasonable rate of \$169 per night. If you need more room for your travel partners, room rates in all classes have been reduced for our members ~ just say you're coming for the BCFFPA Annual General Meeting!

Where: The Fairmont Empress Hotel  
721 Government Street  
Victoria, BC

When: July 9th, 2011

Event: Morning Annual General Meeting  
Evening Banquet



Stay tuned for more information in the coming months. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the BCFFPA Provincial Office. 1-800-663-9999



Join us in the luxurious Crystal Ballroom for our Annual General Meeting and Evening Banquet. We look forward to seeing you there! *Extend your stay for the IFCO Conference which begins the next day...just remember to carry over your room booking.*



*Pssst! Big Savings for you!*



### **An Additional Everyday Deal for Members of BCFFPA!**

The Fairmont Empress has generously extended to us a special off-season rate for foster parents who are members of BCFFPA. If you are travelling to Victoria or live nearby and need a weekend escape between October 1st and April 30th, stay at the Empress with significant discounts on their Fairmont and Fairmont Gold room prices. Contact us for information on our special rates and how to process your booking!

# Regional Delegate Reports

## Vancouver Coastal Report by Peter Dueck

Laughter and tears are both responses to frustration and exhaustion. I myself prefer to laugh, since there is less cleaning up to do afterward. ~ Kurt Vonnegut



Vonnegut's famous quote seems like an appropriate start to this issue's report. Our home has had its share of problems but of course, we are not alone. Many foster parents are finding that fostering is becoming more difficult. Little wonder; there are fewer children in care and those in care are often more challenging. To make matters worse, winter has been too long!

We sometimes forget that our long winter is shared by all including Ministry and funded agencies and staff. Judging from some recent meetings, CAPP is not exactly a harbinger of Spring! The need for a greater emphasis on 'clinical' practice is necessary but fraught with questions and apprehension. A centralized 'qualitative' information system is no doubt a good thing but who will do the extra work? Who will pay and can it be implemented as scheduled? So what's with CAPP?

For your Association and for all foster parents, I think CAPP should signal the need for even more professionalism in fostering. We need to be loving *and* skilled. Both qualities are more and more necessary when caring for children with health challenges. All of us need to take education, skills improvement and support opportunities seriously. To that end...

- 4th Annual FASD conference was held March 4-6, 2011
- 5th annual Stand Together Conference will take place April 29 & 30, 2011
- NeuroDevNet conference is scheduled for June, 2011
- IFCO will take place in Victoria July 10-15, 2011
- FASD Support Group is ongoing
- NEW Adolescent Support Group is beginning

## Fraser Report by Russell Pohl

Monthly meetings are happening regularly in Langley at the ABC Restaurant at 192 Street and Highway 10, and of course in Surrey at Ricky's Restaurant at 152nd Street and 88 Avenue.

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas hampers and the extra draws for the food hampers!

The Fraser Valley Foster Parents AGM was held. The new board positions for the Fraser Valley Foster Parents Association are as follows: Betty Davis as President, Cheryl De Graaf as Vice President, Judy Chiasson as Secretary, and Laurie Crosby as Treasurer. I am past-president and Sandy Williams and Karen McClung as directors at large. These ladies will be an awesome addition to a great Board.



The workshop on FASD was a wonderful success. A coupon workshop was held on April 7th. There is some talk about holding another Lifebook workshop.

Langley meetings will run through the summer and of course all will resume in September.

The trailer will be available starting in May for Summer 2011. Please call Betty for details at 604-534-1092.

If anyone has further workshop suggestions, they'd be greatly appreciated. Call Betty with your ideas!

## Interior Report by Kevin Daniel

For the last 14 years, I have enjoyed working with teens in the Williams Lake Area. For 7 of those years I worked with Axis Family Resources in a Group Home before moving into fostering for MCFD. I currently sit as head of the Williams Lake Local and president of the Interior Macro Board.

The Interior region has been very busy over the last few months with fundraising efforts for IFCO with different events happening in each community. Some of the events that we are seeing are pie sales, dinner and dance, and raffles.



Partnership meetings continue in most areas. Over the next few months OFPA, ICS, and BCFFPA are putting together some exciting training sessions for our foster parents.

Currently in Kamloops, we are hearing positive reports coming from the foster parents who are involved with 3<sup>rd</sup> year social work students from Thompson Rivers University. These are observing family dynamics, understanding how foster families work and how they interact with MCFD. Other universities, within and outside of BC are watching. We look forward to their report in July at the IFCO conference.



## Regional Delegate Reports Continued

### Northern Regional Report by Sherrie Jones

My name is Sherrie Jones and I am your Northern Regional Delegate. My husband, Doug, and I have been married for 34 years and we reside in Pouce Coupe, BC. We have 7 children; 4 by birth and 3 joined our Family through MCFD Adoptions. We are grandparents to 3 wonderful grandchildren and have 2 daughters-in-law.

Our family started Fostering in 1997 and we have had the privilege of having numerous children reside in our home. Prior to fostering, I worked in a teen group home for 10 years, so I have several years experience working with MCFD. I look forward to hearing from any and all Northern Foster Parents so please feel free to contact me at 250-786-5357.



I hope that everyone is managing to get through this trying winter weather! I know that I am eager for the first signs of Spring!

As Dawson Creek is the Pilot area for the North to implement the CAPP program, I am sure that starting April 1<sup>st</sup> Foster Parents may start to see changes in how MCFD manages cases.

I have asked if there will be training events to educate Foster Parents as to what to expect with the implementation of the CAPP program, but there are none set at this time to my knowledge.

Protocols are once again happening in the Northern Regions. The North is very short of support workers. If you have training in this area or would like to become a support worker in your area please contact me or the BCFFPA Office. The issue of following timelines in dealing with Protocols is also a concern.

With the North being such a large area it is impossible for me to assist in the Northwest. If you are in a Protocol or having difficulty with MCFD over issues, we can't help if we are unaware. Foster Parents need to move into Pro-active work and not wait to be in re-active mode. Foster Parents need to be connected to other Foster Parents to ensure that they have a Support Network in place prior to being in a crisis. There is a huge amount of knowledge between Foster Parents and we need to use that knowledge and skills to our advantage!!

Dawson Creek will once again be holding team building meetings with MCFD. The date is April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at the MCFD office. These meetings are used to address issues and concerns between all involved and used as an information exchange.

I am once again requesting information from other Northern Regions. It is very difficult to know what the issues and concerns are if no one passes information along. Feel free to contact me or our Provincial Office at any time.

### Vancouver Island Regional Report by Jo Axe

As a foster parent since 2007, I have provided care for Aboriginal children from 9 months to 4 years of age. In addition to my two foster children, my husband and I also have two teenage birth daughters, four dogs, two cats, and a budgie.



I have served on numerous committees over the years, both in a volunteer and a professional capacity. In addition, I sat on the Southern Vancouver Island Certified General Accountants Association board for seven years as the Communications Chair and was the Treasurer for the Saanich Neighborhood Place, as well as the Treasurer for the Oak Bay Chapter of Toastmasters.

At work, I am a member of several boards and committees and enjoy the benefits and challenges of working collaboratively.

Although I don't have much time outside my work and family commitments, currently I am taking sailing lessons and looking forward to getting out on the water when the sun is shining.

I look forward to serving on BCFFPA's Board as Vancouver Island Delegate. Please contact me if you have any news or concerns that you would like me to pass on to the Provincial Board.

#### Read Carefully Before Signing

We caution caregivers to CAREFULLY read and understand your contract or modifications to that contract before signing.

Once it is signed it is difficult to have it changed, and you may find yourself out of pocket.



## Cloverdale Paint

offers helpful money-saver  
discounts for BCFFPA Members!

**With these great savings you can't  
afford *not* to spruce up your home!**

Call the BCFFPA Provincial office for details  
about how to get your discount



## Have You Hugged Your Social Worker Today?

### March 8-14 was Social Worker Week in BC!

Social workers provide many essential services in each community throughout not only our province, but our country and internationally.

Social workers can choose many different career paths that include not only working with families and children, but one-on-one counselling, service program administration or case investigations. One of BC's communities is on the cutting edge of social worker training in the area of supporting foster parents and children...

Other fostering organizations in Canada are anxiously awaiting the outcomes and feedback from the Thompson Rivers University program which places social work students in foster homes for the care-home experience. It's the full-meal-deal from classroom to experience! Many other provinces may follow suit!

Day in and day out our social workers in BC serve, support and advocate for our community members. They work tirelessly juggling large caseloads to make a positive difference in people's lives.

We don't say it nearly often enough ... congratulations to all of our dedicated Ministry and agency social workers and thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the Children and Families of BC!



### Camp For Kids 2011

Each year BCFFPA raises funds to help send foster kids to camp. As donations in the 2010-2011 fiscal year are lesser than hoped for, we regret that our Camp For Kids program may see reductions in the number of "Camperships" awarded for the 2011 summer season.

There is still some time for donations to arrive. Please spread the word to your community business people and personal contacts regarding the benefits of providing this much needed support to foster families.

### GUIDELINE TO THE FAMILY CARE RATE 2009\*

| Basic Foster Care Costs               | Ages 0-11yrs  | Ages 12-19 yrs |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Monthly</b>                        |               |                |
| Food                                  | 135.04        | 183.35         |
| Housing                               | 149.51        | 183.35         |
| Transportation                        | 67.52         | 76.89          |
| Personal Needs                        | 14.46         | 17.74          |
| Recreation                            | 33.78         | 35.50          |
| Clothing                              | 81.98         | 94.63          |
| <b>Sub-total</b>                      | <b>482.29</b> | <b>591.46</b>  |
| <b>Additional Family Care Costs</b>   |               |                |
| <b>Ages 0-11yrs    Ages 12-19 yrs</b> |               |                |
| Education                             | 25.72         | 31.85          |
| Babysitting                           | 86.81         | 57.33          |
| Transportation                        | 61.09         | 60.51          |
| Personal Spending                     | 41.79         | 54.14          |
| Gifts/ Activities                     | 61.09         | 60.51          |
| Equipment/ Recreation                 | 45.03         | 54.15          |
| Sub-total                             | 321.53        | 318.49         |
| <b>Total Monthly Maintenance</b>      | <b>803.82</b> | <b>909.95</b>  |

\*The amounts in each category are estimates of what is required for most children. Actual costs will vary between categories, with some caregivers spending more in some categories but less in others. The total amounts should be sufficient to cover the actual costs for most children.

#### The Relief Foster Care Rates

|                                            |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| Restricted (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs)  | \$36.79 |
| Restricted (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs) | \$40.33 |
| Regular (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs)     | \$36.79 |
| Regular (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs)    | \$40.33 |
| Level 1 (all ages)                         | \$55.60 |
| Level 2 (all ages)                         | \$68.35 |
| Level 3 (all ages)                         | \$90.89 |

### Membership Benefits for BC Foster Parents

BCFFPA members can receive tickets to events through *Kids Up Front Foundation*. To be placed on the mailing list e-mail the Provincial office at [office@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca) or Debbie Drewitz at [ddrewitz@telus.net](mailto:ddrewitz@telus.net)



# IFCO Bursaries for BC's Foster Parents

*~ Don't miss out on your chance to attend IFCO! ~*

2011 is the year that British Columbia foster parents have the unique opportunity to attend an international conference taking place in our own province. IFCO 2011 takes place in Victoria from July 10-15, 2011. The week-long IFCO conference provides foster parents and service providers with an opportunity to learn, share and network with others from around the world.

Your BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations has established bursaries for up to 30 BC foster parents to assist with the cost of attending the conference. We invite you to submit your application for a chance to be awarded a bursary. Up to 6 foster parents will be chosen at random from eligible applications. We hope to see you there!

BCFFPA holds its 2011 Annual General Meeting in Victoria on July 9, 2011, just the day before the IFCO Conference begins! Please join us for the morning meeting and evening banquet to celebrate the beginning of an exciting event! For more information about our AGM, please contact our Provincial Office at 1-800-663-9999 or check out our website at [www.bcfosterparents.ca](http://www.bcfosterparents.ca).



## Criteria for Bursary Application

- Fostering for MCFD, Delegated Agency or Aboriginal Band in BC
- Must have an open and active fostering contract or be foster-to-adopt at present, verifiable through MCFD, Agency or Band
- Must provide name and contact information for resource worker or other relevant proof of foster status at time of bursary application
- All bursary applications must include:
  - i) Full name, complete mailing and physical residential address, contact phone number(s) and e-mail address (if available) of applicants (please submit only 1 application per foster family)
  - ii) photocopied proof of IFCO registration or hotel booking OR written intention of registration (follow up with copy of registration confirmation will be required)
  - iii) dated signature page of most recent Home Care Agreement/Contract, or letter stating fostering status with Aboriginal Band.
- Early bird registration (\$599 conference fee) closes on March 31, 2011. If you have pre-paid your registration fees you may still apply for the bursary.
- Full application package must be received by the BCFFPA Provincial Office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 10, 2011. A random draw of all eligible applications will be held on May 13, 2011.
- Bursary cheques will be mailed to recipients by June 1, 2011

| <u>Region</u>                           | <u>No. of FPs</u> | <u>Each Bursary</u> | <u>Total Per Region</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Island Region                           | 6                 | \$ 600 each         | \$3,600                 |
| Vancouver Coastal Region                | 6                 | \$1,000 each        | \$6,000                 |
| Fraser Region                           | 6                 | \$1,000 each        | \$6,000                 |
| Interior Region                         | 6                 | \$1,400 each        | \$8,400                 |
| North Region                            | 6                 | \$1,800 each        | \$10,800                |
| <b>Total BC Foster Parent Bursaries</b> |                   |                     | <b>\$34,800</b>         |

# REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



## 2011 World Conference

*Fostering Hope ...  
Together, we can  
make a difference*



IFCO 2011—International Foster Care Organisation  
XVII Biennial World Conference—July 10th to 15th  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

# GO TO [WWW.IFCO2011.COM](http://WWW.IFCO2011.COM)



## Yes, We Have No Bananas!

Once every month or so we receive a call to the Provincial office enquiring about a fund to assist foster parents with legal fees associated with an allegation or criminal court case they are involved in. To clarify, there is no such fund offered by BCFFPA. We are a non-profit association and are not presently able to provide this kind of assistance.

Many of you may be directed by other agencies to call BCFFPA regarding reimbursement for legal fees which are incurred due to a court case. Below are the details of all the coverage and insurance programs that are provided by MCFD and accessible to foster parents:

- Extended property damage ("Rider Insurance") done by children in care (contact BCFFPA).
- General Liability insurance for non-criminal allegations of neglect or carelessness (contact AON Reed Stenhouse or BCFFPA for AON Reed's contact information).
- Caregiver Legal Representation Indemnity coverage for reimbursement of eligible legal fees resulting from allegations or charges of a criminal nature brought against a foster parent. Upon a stay of charges or a not-guilty verdict, the Ministry will reimburse foster parents for legal costs. *\*Note that this coverage does not provide funding for legal fees before the outcome of the court case.* Contact BCFFPA for further information.

***For information about extended health, dental, life and critical illness insurance for foster parents, please call Ian Bideshi at 607-864-4262***

### ***What is the BCFFPA doing for YOU?***

The Provincial BCFFPA is *currently* addressing the following issues with the Ministry of Children and Family Development:

- Policy regarding assistance for foster parents who have contracted illnesses from their foster children
- Care contract changes and home closure issues that are arising throughout the Regions
- Website development for regional resources for foster parents and those interested in fostering
- Integration of CAPP



## Interprovincial Travel With Kids In Care

Did you know that BC's medical coverage does not necessarily extend to other provinces? As a rule, there are some important costs that BC Medical does not cover when travelling out of province.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Health website states: "you are advised to buy additional, private health insurance to supplement your basic coverage before you leave the province. This is true regardless of whether you'll be in another part of Canada or outside the country – even if you only plan to be away for a day."

If you have a pre-existing medical condition, you need to mention this when purchasing additional insurance as most policies will not cover treatment of that condition outside the province.

If you are employed and have medical coverage through your employee group insurance plan, check with your plan administrator to determine the coverage available. You may require additional coverage specifically for your foster children. Discuss this necessity with your child's worker.

Your basic health insurance will usually cover hospitalization costs associated with acute care, extended care or rehabilitative care but do keep in mind that you will likely be billed separately for the cost of an ambulance—anywhere from several hundred to several thousand dollars!

For more information, please contact Health Insurance BC at 1-800-663-7100.

Having trouble getting homeowners or tenant insurance due to your fostering profession?

**Megson  
FitzPatrick**  
INSURANCE SERVICES

Call Megson Fitzpatrick Insurance Services.  
*Ralph Libby or Barb Fowler will be happy to assist you.*  
250-595-5212  
[www.megsonfitzpatrick.com](http://www.megsonfitzpatrick.com)

## Special Resolutions

Whereas: (state circumstance)

Therefore: (state proposed special resolution)

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

*Proposals will be received, formatted and distributed for ballot voting by mail on May 25, 2011. Proposed Special Resolutions will be accepted from members in good standing (current members as of January 31, 2011).*



# Calling all Current & Former Youth in Care!



***Bring your artwork to the art contest that celebrates children & youth in care...***

**WHAT?** Send us your ART WORK WITH A TITLE/ SLOGAN that expresses your own personal message about celebrating children and youth in care (drawing, collage or painting) on an 8.5" X 11" paper. Win great prizes!

**How?** Mail your art work & completed entry form to:  
**Ministry of Children and Family Development**  
**CFDS (Attention: Christine Kapoor), 2- 765 Broughton Street**  
**PO Box 9724 – Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9S2**  
Questions? Call: (250) 953-3136

**WHEN? CONTEST DEADLINE: April 22, 2011.**

### CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE ART CONTEST ENTRY FORM 2011

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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of applicant OR guardian (applicants under 19 years) \_\_\_\_\_  
dd/mm/yy

Signature of applicant or guardian if applicant under 19 years of age \_\_\_\_\_

- ▼ foster & adoptive parents, social workers, teachers, school staff,
- ▼ child care workers, residential & agency staff.

# Stand Together 2011

## Multi-Faceted Training for Caregiving Professionals

### April 29 & 30, Richmond, BC

The fifth annual Standing Together conference presents some of North America's most acclaimed child development and child care specialists. Their presentations will provide practical strategies and techniques to help some of our most vulnerable children and youth.

#### FRIDAY APRIL 29

**Registration 8:00 - 8:45 (coffee/muffins)**  
**Welcoming Ceremony 8:45 - 9:00**

#### ■ The Tags In My Shirt Are Driving Me Crazy! Training on Sensory Integration Dysfunction

With Julie Gelo

**9:15 - 11:45 am and 1:00 - 3:30.**

All of the information we receive about the world comes to us through our senses. For most children, the ability to integrate (make sense of) this sensory information develops in the course of ordinary childhood activities. But for some children, sensory integration does not develop as efficiently as it should. When the process of sensory integration is disordered, a number of problems in learning, development, or behavior may become evident. This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to experience situations through the senses of these children. In addition, various interventions and strategies will be discussed and experienced. Participants will be given the chance to create and take home one or two sensory tools.

**JULIE GELO** is the mother of thirteen children, eight of whom have been diagnosed with FASD. She has fostered 22 children. Julie is a leading international, national and state advocate for people with FASD and is currently the Executive Director of National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS) in Washington. For more information about Julie visit [www.nofas.org/Julie\\_Gelo.aspx](http://www.nofas.org/Julie_Gelo.aspx)

Register at <http://www.2011standtogether.eventbrite.com>

#### SATURDAY APRIL 30

**Registration 9:30 - 10:00 (coffee/muffins)**

#### ■ If The Eyes Have No Tears, The Soul Has No Rainbow. How to Make Our Rainbows Shine!

With Julie Gelo

**10:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00**

This comprehensive workshop will cover screening and diagnosis, the implications of a FASD diagnosis, the differences between behaviors' caused by structurally different brains and negative environments, interventions and strategies, and the strengths and weaknesses of people who are alcohol exposed.

#### ■ Area of Influences

With Christ Burt, M.A.

**10:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:00**

This workshop will help parents/caregivers understand the most effective ways to influence their child's behavior while providing an overview of the different areas that affect a child's choices. Parents can understand their responsibilities over these areas as a means to forming an effective bond with their child.

**CHRIS BURT** is the Coordinator and Clinical Consultant for Hollyburn Family Services Family Programs/Victims Assistance Program. More information at [www.christopherburt.net](http://www.christopherburt.net)

#### ■ WELLNESS ROOM 3:30 - 5:30 (Pre-Registration required)

Relax as you listen to the story telling from an Elder or sit back, sip your tea, and unwind with a massage or manicure.



## MCFD & RCY Sign A New Protocol For Advocacy

Accessing services can be a complicated experience at a time when children and youth are at their most vulnerable. A joint advocacy protocol that will strengthen a shared commitment to promoting and supporting effective advocacy on behalf of BC children and youth receiving government services was signed on April 4th, 2011 by the Minister of Children and Family Development and the Representative for Children and Youth.

The protocol ensures that there are no barriers to the Representative's advocacy function and clarifies the mechanisms that enable both organizations to continue to work together to achieve the best possible results for children and youth in BC. The protocol also clearly explains the roles of Ministry and Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) staff regarding the Representative's advocacy services.

Since April 2007, RCY has opened 6,113 new advocacy cases with an average of 143 new cases per month.



Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel Lafond (left), signs the Advocacy Protocol with the Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister for Children and Family Development

## In Memorium

**Marie Davidson**, May 3, 1942—December 12, 2010

Nanaimo resident, Marie Davidson, made everyone feel like family. She passed away at home with family around her. After more than 40 years of fostering over 140 children, she was acknowledged for her unconditional acceptance and genuine caring for others.

Family, friends, community leaders and former foster children came out to celebrate her life. A local BMX park was renamed in her honor.



### BC Children's Hospital Visits... Cost of Lodging for Caregivers May Be Covered

Did you know that there's a program that will cover either all or part of the costs for a parent's/caregiver's stay if a child is admitted or has an appointment with BC Children's Hospital?

Through this program they can arrange a room for you at Heather House or Easter Seal House. If these locations aren't available, partial costs of a hotel near BC Children's Hospital may be covered. Please contact the program for more information.

The BC Residence Program: 1-800-818-3666

[http://www.bcfamilyresidence.gov.bc.ca/pdf/bcfrp\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.bcfamilyresidence.gov.bc.ca/pdf/bcfrp_brochure.pdf)

Have you read...  
Wild Horse Cowboy, by Maurice Graydon

This is a story about a young boy who entered the BC foster system during the late 1920's. He recounts his experiences and adventures of growing up in the BC interior and the great love he acquired for wild horses. Read about how he overcame many obstacles to become a pillar in the community where he now resides.

Contact the BCFFPA office for your copy!

### GET IT IN WRITING!



When agreements are made for the coverage of excess costs related to your role as a Caregiver (ie. agreement for extra respite coverage due to your needs, or payment for special travel related to the child), get it in

writing from MCFD prior to incurring the expense, so that the original intent of the agreement cannot be misconstrued or forgotten leaving you out of pocket for the expense.



**Ministry of Children and Family Development**  
**AND**  
**The British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations**

**~ Foster Parent Rights ~**

- Whereas** we wish to acknowledge the special role foster parents have as caregivers for vulnerable children
- Whereas** we wish to acknowledge that the relationship between them, built on mutual respect, deserves recognition
- Whereas** the residence that foster parents share with the children and youth of British Columbia is exclusively their private residence
- Whereas** the Foster Parent Rights document and statements therein is not intended to create, infringe, amend, or change existing or future legal responsibilities or duties whether by statute or contract
- Whereas** we agree that, from time to time, we will meet to discuss the relationship between us and will do so with regard to the stated rights in this document and may seek to amend these rights by mutual agreement
- Whereas** we recognize the paramount consideration is the safety and well being of the child
1. The right to continuing professional development opportunities with respect to caring for children, and to participation in professional foster parent associations.
  2. The right to be consulted and be able to have meaningful input into decisions affecting the foster parents home, family and other placement(s) in the home.
  3. The right to be involved in the development of the child's plan of care and informed of changes to the plan.
  4. The right to limit access to private spaces within their own home, to special possessions, and to private or personal conversations, in the same way their own children are limited.
  5. The right to refuse a placement if they feel they cannot meet the child's needs regardless of the home level.
  6. The right to be able to continue to participate in cultural, social and religious activities of their choosing, while honouring rights, values and beliefs of the foster child.
  7. The right to be considered as a permanent family for a child, along with all other suitable homes if the Director determines that a permanent plan is in the child's best interest.
  8. If requested and permitted by legislation, the right to be provided with notification of the serious illness, injury, or death of a former long-term placement, when this information is known.
  9. The right to receive available information for the care of the child, including, but not limited to, any history of violence or illegal activity, as well as medical, educational, behavioural, personal care and relevant family information in addition to guardianship, custody and access arrangements. In the case of an emergency placement, information is received as soon as possible.
  10. The right to be provided as soon as possible with reasons when a child is removed from a foster parent's home.
  11. The right to be informed of standards expected by ministry staff and consequences of not meeting the standards.
  12. The right to access information contained in any and all documents related to themselves which are held in the Director's custody, subject to all relevant legislation.
  13. The right to access support of their choosing, and the right to be assisted in contacting the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations, the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, or any other support provider or agency on any issues concerning, but not limited to, Child in Care Standards and Conflict Resolution.
  14. The right to be provided with reasons an agreement is terminated or suspended and the right to appeal the decision.
  15. The right to be treated with consideration, trust, honesty, respect, acceptance, and fairness in all circumstances by ministry staff and community service providers and the right to request the ministry's assistance when situations arise that involve verbal or physical abuse of the foster parent by a child or youth in care or their family members.
  16. The right to be informed of their Rights and the regional process or protocol for resolving differences or disagreements between the ministry and foster parents.
  17. The right to receive services to support and stabilize a placement.
  18. The right to be provided with access to support services when placements are terminated to minimize the foster parents' feelings of disruption and grief.

## Getting To Know You: Russell Pohl, Fraser Region

By Louise Walker

When you first meet Russell, you are highly aware of meeting a man bigger than life. You notice his infectious laugh, outrageous wit, and an uncanny ability to fill a veritable ballroom with his gregarious personality. What you don't see initially is his enormous heart, which is hidden underneath a boatload of bravado. You need to carefully peel away the protective layers for a full five minutes, engage in droll banter for three, and then in a single heartbeat it all falls away and you see the gentleness of his true nature. This is what his kids must see when he walks through the front door.

Russell's been a foster parent for 12 years, and considers himself part of a 'FAB' family. Not only does he deem it fabulous, but it's also an acronym for Foster, Adoptive, and Biological family. He and his partner of 23 years have seven children, two of whom are biological, and five are foster children they adopted last March. His kids range in age from 23 to five, and with both Dads working outside of the home now, it can seem like a finely-tuned balancing act in order to succeed. The group has a huge extended family of over 30 people: biological siblings, parents, grandparents and others who add to the collective mix of raising happy and healthy kids. No wonder he says it takes patience and an uncanny sense of humour to be an effective foster parent.



When he's not running a successful catering company, raising children, keeping a marriage strong, he's giving back to the community in some way. He fundraises for worthy causes, speaks at information sessions to new foster parents and at other engagements, advocates for foster parent rights, and volunteers his time on many boards. No matter what he's juggling, the 47-year-old is always passionate about his profession as a foster parent.

*"I consider myself a care worker. That's first and foremost. I consider that a career, but as part of that career, I also believe that being past President of the Fraser Valley Foster Parents Association, being a board member of the BC Federation and now the Canadian Association, it's because I want to continue to help...My goal is to continually educate myself, so that is how and why I call it a career."*

Education is one of the most important aspects of fostering to him, and he believes it should be paramount in other foster parents' lives, too.

*"Foster parents need to be considered more professional. To get to that level, we need to become more educated. I'm not saying that we all need university degrees, but what I do [think] that as foster parents we need to be mandated to take x amount of workshops, seminars...to show that we are serious about being professionals as foster parents. [Foster Parents] can enlighten themselves by taking these courses and workshops, and it shows people that we are professionals; it shows people that we care about what we do enough to keep wanting to move forward and move up."*

As well as acknowledging the need for further education, Russell has some advice for those considering a career in fostering.

*"I would say you need to think long and hard about what you're doing. This isn't for the faint of heart. It isn't for people who want to make money fast. A lot is going to change in your life. You will lose family members, as far as extended family members."*

*"You will gain wonderfully. I can't even tell you the people who have come into our lives that are amazing - that will change your lives, change your thinking, change your heart. But most of all, you will change the lives of kids coming into your life. You have the opportunity to be a strong role model..."*

*"You need to think about what that means to an individual child, not your own biological [child], because they come from what we classify as a normal life. But you need to think of it coming from a child's point of view, [a child who] has had a sometimes horrific life, you need to make the sacrifice as a family, as people, as a support family, as an extended family. There are so many sacrifices for that one small child."*

*"My advice is to think long and hard about it. It's a life changing thing and you can never go back."*

If you ever have the great fortune of meeting Russell Pohl, I recommend a bit of banter, uproarious laughter and shedding a few tears over one of his delicious brownies.

### Home Closures and Contract Changes: Become a Self-Advocate

It appears that instances of home closures and contract changes are on the rise throughout some regions of BC. Please be aware that if you are in need of support you have the right to request that another foster parent or support worker attend meetings with you. If you are experiencing something that appears to be against common policy and practice, please contact your BCFFPA regional delegate or the BCFFPA provincial office so that we can document the circumstances and support you.

Our mandate is to advocate for, support and inform foster parents. We are in continuous contact with the Ministry provincial office and have the ability to address regional and provincial issues directly with the Minister and her representatives. Please advocate for yourself and your family at all times by staying in touch with us when you experience difficulties with placements or relationships with MCFD workers. While we can't agree with our coworkers at all times, our foster parents should always be treated as respected partners in the care team.



# Community Resources

## Provincial Resources

|                                                                  |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations</b>               | 1-800-663-9999 |
| <b>Foster Parent Support Line</b>                                | 1-888-495-4440 |
| <b>Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents</b><br>www.fafp.ca    | 1-866-291-7091 |
| <b>Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks</b><br>www.fbcyicn.ca | 1-800-565-8055 |
| <b>Adoptive Families Association</b><br>www.bcadoption.com       | 1-877-236-7807 |
| <b>Pacific Post Partum Support Society</b><br>www.postpartum.org | 604-255-7999   |
| <b>Parent Help Line</b>                                          | 1-888-603-9100 |
| <b>Parents Together</b>                                          | 604-325-0511   |
| <b>Parent Support Services of BC</b><br>www.parentsupport.bc.ca  | 1-800-665-6880 |
| <b>Representative for Children &amp; Youth</b><br>www.rcybc.ca   | 1-800-476-3933 |
| <b>FAE/S Support Network</b>                                     | 604-507-6675   |

## Vancouver Coastal

*For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.*

|                                                                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Hollyburn Family Services</b><br>www.hollyburn.ca                              | 604-987-8211 |
| <b>Vancouver Aboriginal Child &amp; Family Services Society</b><br>www.vacfss.com | 778-331-4500 |
| <b>Family Services of Greater Vancouver</b><br>www.fosterhub.ca                   | 604-279-7100 |

## Fraser

*For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.*

|                                                                      |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association</b>                       | 604-865-1924 |
| <b>Abbotsford Community Services Foster Parent Caregiver Support</b> | 604-859-2165 |

## Island

*For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.*

|                                                                    |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Foster Parent Support Services Society</b>                      | 1-888-922-8437 |
| FPSSS (Victoria)                                                   | 778-430-5459   |
| FPSSS (Nanaimo)                                                    | 250-390-9686   |
| FPSSS (Campbell River)                                             | 250-286-0555   |
| <b>Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents</b><br>(Nanaimo office) | 250-591-0069   |

## Interior

*For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.*

|                                                                           |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents</b><br>(Westbank office)       | 250-768-4229   |
| <b>Okanagan Foster Parent Association</b><br>www.okfosterparents.ca       |                |
| Central Okanagan                                                          | 250-868-9285   |
| North Okanagan                                                            | 250-558-0939   |
| South Okanagan                                                            | 250-488-0561   |
| Shuswap                                                                   | 250-253-4499   |
| <b>Okanagan Metis Children &amp; Family Services</b>                      | 250-868-0351   |
| <b>Interior Community Services</b><br>www.interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca | 1-877-376-3660 |

## North

*For contact information for local foster parent groups or support in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.*

|                                                                                                      |                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>AXIS Family Resources</b><br>(24/7 support)<br>www.axis.bc.ca (satellite office locations online) | 1-877-392-1003<br>Press 205 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

*We are in the process of developing our Community Resources page. Please submit your relevant contacts to [jayne@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:jayne@bcfosterparents.ca).*



**FEDERATION OF  
ABORIGINAL  
FOSTER PARENTS**

Provincial Office Location: 3455 Kaslo Street,  
Vancouver, BC V5M 3H4

Contact: 1-866-291-7091  
Local: 604-291-7091



**Federation of BC  
Youth In Care Networks**

Provincial Office Location: 55 8th Street, New  
Westminster, BC V3M 3N9

Contact: 1-800-565-8055

**Adoptive Families  
Association of BC**



Provincial Office Location: 200-7342 Winston  
Street, Burnaby, BC V5A 2H1

Contact: 1-877-ADOPT-07 (1-877-236-7807)  
Local: 604-320-7330



## Advertise Here! (1/2 page size)

### Readership, Exposure & Frequency

- **FosterlineBC** reaches over 3400 foster parents, agencies, community service locations, businesses and other individuals 4 times each year.
- Increase exposure for your business by advertising in **FosterlineBC**

### Cost

- 1/2 page ~ 4 issues per year ~ \$925
- 1/2 page ~ single issue ~ \$250
- 1/4 page ~ 4 issues per year ~ \$650
- 1/4 page ~ single issue ~ \$175
- Business card ~ 4 issues per year ~ \$475
- 1/4 page ~ single issue ~ \$125

For information on advertising in FosterlineBC,  
contact a staff member at BCFFPA! **1-800-663-9999**

**1/4 Page Size**

**Business Card Size**

**'IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER'**

Please complete & return to: **BCFFPA 207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, V2X 3K1**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Association \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Foster Home: (tick one) Restricted \_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_ Level I \_\_\_\_ Level II \_\_\_\_ Level III \_\_\_\_ Contractor \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

This is a: **New Membership** \_\_\_\_ (OR) a **Renewal** \_\_\_\_ .

**1 year:** individual \$30.00 \_\_\_\_ OR couple \$35.00 \_\_\_\_

**2 year:** individual \$50.00 \_\_\_\_ OR couple \$60.00 \_\_\_\_

\*\$10.00 of this membership fee will be used by the provincial body for administration of the program and development of services to foster parents. The balance of the fee will be returned to your region or local association.

I/we contract with (i.e. delegated agency regional agency MCFD etc.) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ OR my affiliation with the BCFFPA is (i.e. staff, MCFD, non-foster parent): \_\_\_\_\_. As members of the B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations, I/we agree to abide by the By-laws, Policy and Procedures, and Code of Ethics of the Federation. \_\_\_\_\_

[signature(s)]

Please bill my VISA \_\_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations**

#207-22561 Dewdney Trunk

Maple Ridge BC

V2X 3K1