

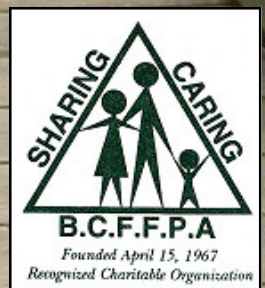
BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

FosterlineBC

~ Fostering Awareness ~



Fall 2011
Volume 9, Issue 4



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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

Happy Foster Parent Appreciation Month! October is the annual acknowledgement of the Foster Parents of British Columbia, when we stop and think about what we do for the children and youth and how much of ourselves we put into every one of them. I often look at other foster parents and stand in awe of their skills and accomplishments and wish that I can do as well. Then someone says that they admire my skills and I have to remind myself that yes, I do have skills and invest great energy into the children in my care. This month my hope for every foster parent is that they remember all year what a great job they are doing. It is very easy to forget about ourselves when we are concentrating so hard on the needs of our family and the children in our care. We have to make a conscious effort to take care of ourselves. So this month go for lunch with a friend or dinner with your partner or just spend the afternoon doing nothing but what you want to do. Enjoy yourself and celebrate your uniqueness that makes you such a great foster parent.

I want to thank every one of you for all the efforts and sacrifices you make daily to give the best you can to the youth and children of British Columbia. During the month there will be a variety of celebrations across the province and I wish that I could be at every one to personally thank each one of you. I encourage you to attend the events and meetings in your community to reach out to each other. No one understands our daily struggles like another foster parent and no one else can laugh or cry at things we do.

With October comes the relief that back to school has been accomplished and the prep for Thanksgiving, Halloween, Remembrance Day and Christmas... and let's not forget ProD days. Life never slows down and the BCFFPA is in the same boat. The Board is working on refining the Policy and Procedures document and working on projects for the good of foster parents. We continue to work with MCFD to resolve issues and to identify trends. Our staff is doing a great job and we are seeing more members join all the time. I would like to extend a welcome to all the new and renewed members over the past few months.

I have had a few calls recently concerning homeowner's and tenant's insurance. You cannot be turned down just because you foster and if you do run into this issue, please give the office a call so we can get the correct information to the brokers and insurance companies.

Heather Bayes  
President

### 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

## Notes from the Office

Foster Family Month 2011 gives us all an opportunity to say THANK YOU to the wonderful BC foster parents who support the thousands of children in care in our province. The work you do is invaluable! I hope you are all able to participate in Foster Family Month events in your community.

After a successful AGM in July, BCFFPA goes forward with a new strategic plan and focus on the future. Our initial membership renewal campaign sent to long-expired members has been successful to the tune of a 10% increase in membership numbers—and the renewals keep rolling in. In the past two months alone we've received 85 renewals and new memberships!

As a follow-up to May's meeting with MCFD's Provincial leadership team where we were welcome to discuss both provincial and local concerns, we were expecting to quickly embark on regional meetings in order to address more community-level concerns. This plan was put on hold when it became clear that there would be a reconfiguration of MCFD leadership positions. Now that all the new roles are in place, we're ready to move ahead with regional discussions. We'll keep you posted on the developments!

The Federation's provincial office welcomes Darla Hrankowski to our team. Darla's background with the RCMP and legal services ensures that she will be a strong addition to our administrative operations.

We are gearing up for another busy Fall season. The schedule is packed with meetings, events and opportunities for partnership. We will be participating in another Youth In Care Christmas Dinner on December 10th, the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents AGM in October and plans are in the works for a fund-raising event sponsored and hosted by one of our fostering community members.

Welcome to all our new members and welcome back to those who have renewed! We're so happy to have you with us. Once again, Happy Foster Family Month 2011. I hope to see some of you at an event in your community.

Jayne Wilson  
Executive Director



call us!

fosterlineBC

1-800-663-9999

we're here for you





This October marks the 21<sup>st</sup> year of celebrating Foster Family Month in British Columbia—an important chance to honour the incredible work of foster families across the province, as well as the organizations that support them.

Every child and teen is unique and everyone needs, and deserves, a safe and welcoming home. Foster families take on one of society's most important jobs: caring for children and youth when they need it the most. Every day across British Columbia, around 3,300 foster families open their hearts and their homes to about 5,900 vulnerable children and youth.

To all the foster parents and families in British Columbia, I want to extend our profound thanks. Your love and care give children and youth in difficult situations the support they need to develop into strong, confident adults. It truly takes someone special to be a foster parent.

B.C., like so many other jurisdictions in the world, always needs more foster families of all cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds. Anyone 19 years or older can make the decision to open their home to a child or youth in need of care. The most important qualifications for a foster parent are a strong desire to make a positive difference in a child's life, and a commitment to provide a safe, nurturing, stable home for children when they are not able to live with their family. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a foster parent to call the Foster Line at 1 800 663-9999.

Foster parents bring different life experiences to their role and have different reasons for doing the work they do. But from Kimberley to Kitwanga, B.C. foster parents all have one thing in common – they are ordinary citizens engaged in extraordinary acts of kindness.

I am grateful for the important work undertaken by foster families and agencies such as the B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations that support them. I hope you will join me in celebrating foster families now and throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary McNeil".

Mary McNeil  
Minister of Children and Family Development



Canada  
Province of British Columbia  
A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,  
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the  
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

**To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting**

WHEREAS the Provincial Government wishes to recognize the care, compassion and unselfish commitment of British Columbia foster families who care for children temporarily unable to live with their families and extended families, and

WHEREAS foster families are an integral and valued part of a team that helps children return to their families, live with extended family or make the transition to an adoptive family, and

WHEREAS First Nations, Métis, Inuit and other Aboriginal foster families help preserve the identity and unique culture and heritage of Aboriginal children and youth, and

WHEREAS foster families from many cultures support children and youth to understand, cultivate and preserve their heritage, and

WHEREAS fostering is a community responsibility and provides opportunities for all community members to contribute to the support of children and youth, and

WHEREAS Our Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, has been pleased to enact Order in Council 903 on October 11, 2002,

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that the month of October, 2011, shall be known as

**"Foster Family Month"**

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this eighth day of September, two thousand eleven and in the sixtieth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

  
Shirley Bond  
Attorney General  
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

  
Lieutenant Governor



October 2011

## IN RECOGNITION OF FOSTER FAMILY MONTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA OCTOBER 2011

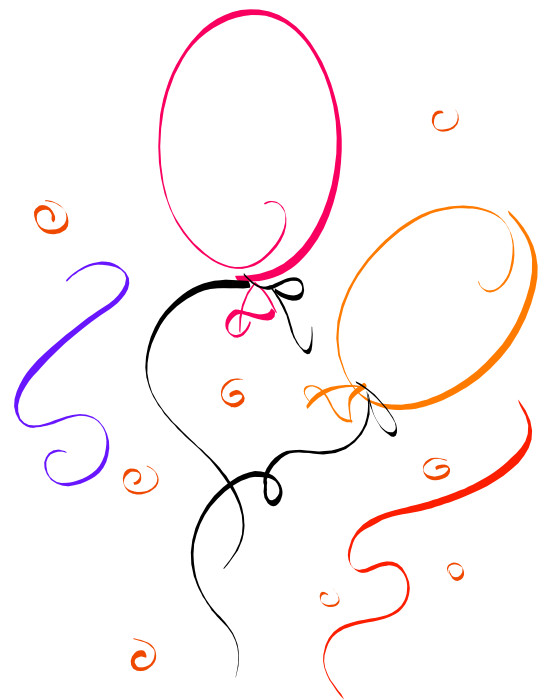
On behalf of the Canadian Foster Family Association (CFFA) I have the privilege of sending all of the foster families in BC a big THANK YOU and best wishes as you celebrate Foster Family Month in October. This is a time for all foster families to be recognized and thanked for their commitment and caring for children and youth who are not able to live with their own families.

Other Provinces and Territories across Canada will be celebrating National Foster Family Week, October 16 - 22, 2011. There are foster families in every community across Canada that open their homes and hearts throughout the year to children and youth in need.

I hope that you are able to attend the special events planned in your community to celebrate the incredible work you do throughout the year! Take the time to give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done!!

Happy Foster Family Month!!

Sheila Durnford,  
President  
Canadian Foster Family Association



BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations  
wishes you all the best for  
Foster Family Month 2011

***Thank you!***



### Are you a member of the Canadian Foster Family Association?

The CFFA is a non-profit organization and was established with a mandate to speak as a collective voice for foster families throughout the country. Our primary goal is to enhance the quality of care provided to children and youth in care across Canada. To accomplish this the CFFA has representation from the Provinces and Territories and works with the Provincial/Territorial organizations.

The CFFA does not receive any funding at the Provincial/Territorial or Federal levels of government. Our funds come from membership fees, private donations and fundraising initiatives.

With funds such as these the CFFA will have the opportunity to develop relevant documents to assist and support foster families, lobby for and connect with foster families across the country and have a strong voice at the National level.

For more information or to join the CFFA, please visit the website at [www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca](http://www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca).



## The future of fostering is BCFFPA...

44 years of history has taught us to *never give up* and to focus on and constantly *reaffirm our goals* of continuously bettering our services and offering what no one else can.

We are BC's *only* mainstream foster parent advocacy, support and information hub with a Provincial mandate. In the coming year we will be achieving our goals and taking on new challenges including:

- ☑ Targeted increase in our membership
- ☑ Targeted increase in our core funding and donations
- ☑ Expanded reach and presence within BC communities
- ☑ Raise the profile of foster parents
- ☑ Ensure collaboration with our partner organizations
- ☑ Targeted expansion of our service program and delivery

## 2010-2011 Achievements and Activities

- Hosted Foster Family Month Open House
- Reorganization and Restructure
- Attended Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents AGM
- Global TV Interview during Foster Family Month
- Attended Practice Change Orientation and Think-Tank
- 6th Annual Youth in Care Christmas Dinner and Gift Giving
- Expanded Community Network (Additional Agencies)
- Identified Fund Development Opportunities, Created Plan
- Hired Membership Services & Development Coordinator
- Secured New MCFD Contract

### Programs and Services in 2010-2011

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Information & Intake Calls/E-mail  | 17,670 |
| Other Calls (FP/MCFD) Calls/E-mail | 8,509  |
| Support & Advocacy Calls/E-mail    | 3,223  |
| Insurance-Related Calls/E-mail     | 1,520  |
| Information Brochures Sent         | 825    |
| Intakes/Potential Foster Parents   | 265    |
| Insurance Claims                   | 25     |
| Website Updates                    | 43     |
| Network & Partnership Meetings     | 223    |
| Support Meetings                   | 97     |
| Brochures Distributed              | 7,850  |
| Newsletters Distributed            | 12,788 |

## 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)



## Halloween Safety Tips—Top 10 Hazards

**Hazard #1: Candles.** Instead of using candles in your jack-o-lantern, opt for a flashlight. Also, make sure you buy flame-retardant costumes or make costumes with materials that don't burn quickly and are tighter fitting so that costume edges won't catch the flame of a candle in a neighbour's pumpkin.

**Hazard #2: Candy Binges.** Have a large delicious dinner before everyone goes trick-or-treating so that everyone is full. When the kids come home, select a few treats to enjoy and put the rest away for later.

**Hazard #3: Cars.** When it's a dark or gloomy Halloween evening, you and your children might be hard to spot on the streets. Use reflective tape on costumes and jackets or around sleeves or cuffs of pants to ensure that you can be seen. Don't forget to remind your young people to stay on sidewalks and to use designated crosswalks.

**Hazard #4: Pumpkin Carving.** Purchase the safe pumpkin carving implements available at this time of year—plastic scrapers, shapers and knives so that your youngsters can participate in creating the masterpiece, and let them get their hands dirty by cleaning out the pulp. Let the adults use the sharp knives. Ensure that your knife isn't wet and cut away from yourself in short strokes.

**Hazard #5: Inappropriate Costumes.** Consider the audience of any gathering and whether or not you want to see pictures of yourself in this costume a week later on Facebook.

**Hazard #6: Trick? Or Treat?** Some people think it's a trick to insert sharp objects such as needles into Halloween candy. Make sure you discard all treats that have open wrappers, are damaged or that seem suspicious in any way. Cut candy bars in half to expose any foreign objects.

**Hazard #7: Kidnapping.** Kids should always trick-or-treat in groups or be accompanied by an adult. Ensure they only visit well lit homes of neighborhoods that are familiar to them and not to accept rides from strangers. Halloween is a good time to reiterate the rules around "Stranger Danger".

**Hazard #8: Pet Fright.** Cats and dogs are often sensitive to loud noises such as fireworks and are on high-alert with strangers coming to the door. It's likely not the best time to introduce your youngster to a strange dog or to let strangers pet your household cat.

**Hazard #9: Choking.** Fake teeth and vampire capes—2 Halloween favorites! Make sure teeth fit securely and that your child understands how to pop them out quickly. Ensure that costume capes do not drag on the ground. Someone may step on a cape and cause choking or a fall. Avoid costumes with attachments that young children could put in their mouths.

**Hazard #10: Aerosol Sprays.** Avoid using aerosol sprays to create your costume or décor. They are usually flammable, the contents are often toxic if mixed with another aerosol and they pollute our delicate environment.

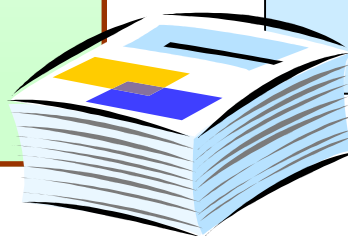
Stay safe and have a truly spooky Halloween!

*For information about extended health, dental, life and critical illness insurance for foster parents, please call Ian Bideshi at 604-862-4262*

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

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

1. Ongoing discussions regarding compensation for foster parents who contract illnesses from children in their care.
2. Provincial and Regional discussions with MCFD teams regarding current issues.
3. Proposal for BC Foster Parent ID cards in process.



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)



## Donations to BCFFPA Support Foster Families

There are many kinds of donations—time, gifts-in-kind, resources, supplies, bequeathments and of course, the gift of money through one-time, monthly or annual programs. In tough economic times family finances are stretched to the limit. Foster parents feel the burden of rising prices, increasing taxes and of course their children's needs are always foremost in their minds. Our regional delegates and executive members of our Board of Directors are frequently being called upon to offer support within their areas, often driving long distances to meet with foster parents and social workers. We are hearing that, among other challenges in the lives of today's foster parents, they are using their savings to support the activities that foster children take part in because the Ministry contracts simply cannot be stretched far enough to cover the costs.

Please put the word out in your communities, to individuals and businesses, that BCFFPA is seeking donations to support foster parent services and programs such as education workshop development and delivery, bursaries to assist foster parents with attending events and meetings and to support foster children's attendance at summer camp. Our community's support is gratefully acknowledged.



### Thank you to our Funders and Donors

|                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| Ministry of Children & Family Development |            |
| Estate of M. MacLean                      | M. Graydon |
| Mr. Mom's World                           | L. Prouty  |
| The Fairmont Empress Hotel                | K. Tellier |
| Costco                                    | D. Tellier |
| Save-On Foods                             | L. Walker  |
| Canadian Tire                             |            |
| Boulevard Skateshop Ltd.                  |            |
| The Fox—99.9 FM                           |            |
| CKNW Orphan's Fund                        |            |

*...thank you for making a difference in the lives of BC's foster parents and children ...*



You can donate to BCFFPA through CanadaHelps!

## Halloween Laughs for Kids

Q: Why didn't the skeleton go to the Halloween Party?  
A: Because he had no body to go with!

Q: What's a vampire's favorite sport?  
A: Batminton!

Q: If a wizard was knocked out by Dracula in a fight, what would he be?  
A: Down for the Count!

Q: What's evil and ugly on the inside and green on the outside?  
A: A witch dressed as a cucumber!

Q: Why does Dracula have no friends?  
A: Because he's a pain in the neck!

Q: Why did the boy carry a clock and a bird on Halloween?  
A: It was for 'tick or tweet'.

Q: What do vampires have at 11:00 every day?  
A: A COFFIN BREAK!



**Federal Education Bursary Available** ... for young people who have been in care. Storwell Self Storage in Ontario is offering an annual, non-renewable, \$2000 bursary to one successful candidate who demonstrates financial need and excellence in academic and extracurricular activities.

Find out more and see the application at:  
<http://www.storwell.com/bursary-application/>

### 2011 Early Membership Renewal Draw

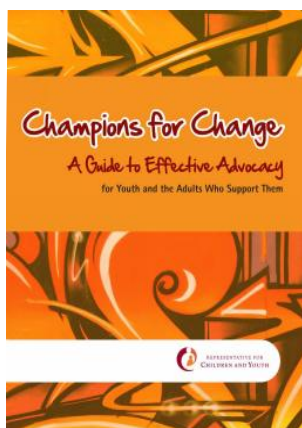
**Send in your membership renewal to BCFFPA Provincial office dated on or before November 30th, 2010 and you will be entered into a draw for this year's gift, a digital camera!**

## A Message to Foster Parents from BC'S Representative for Children and Youth —Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond

Hello, and thank you once again for the opportunity to speak to you through your newsletter. It gives me a chance to express my genuine admiration for the people involved in the important work of foster parenting, and to share with you some of the work that has been done recently at the Representative's Office.

I want to use this space to tell you about a new publication we released in the summer that I think you may find useful, and a report that we issued in September.

One of the responsibilities of my office is to advocate on behalf of vulnerable children and youth, including those with special needs, in foster care, involved with youth justice, or receiving other designated government services. These children and youth need to know that they have rights, specifically the right to be heard and supported in matters that affect their lives.



A publication out this summer helps teach children, youth and caregivers about advocacy, and how to do it for themselves. *Champions for Change* is intended to give youth the power to speak up and to provide them or the adult supporters who might be advocating on their behalf the necessary information and tools to do it.

As adults, we have a duty and legal responsibility to ensure that children's rights are protected and upheld. The advocacy support

provided by adults is necessary to ensure that the voices of children and youth are heard.

However it is just as important for children and youth to learn how to do their own advocacy, often with the assistance of an adult. The *Champions for Change* guide is on my website [www.rcybc.ca](http://www.rcybc.ca). If you or your children need to talk to an advocate personally, I encourage you to contact my Office (see the end of this article).

In September we released a report into the chaotic life and unexpected death of a four-month-old Aboriginal child. *So Many Plans, So Little Stability: A Child's Need for Security* identifies inadequacies in planning, case management and decision-making, and makes recommendations to address gaps in how government and delegated Aboriginal agencies work together, and in how courts assess potential caregivers.

Eleven different placement plans for the infant's care were made, ranging from the infant being cared for by various different relatives to the infant being brought into the legal care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Sixteen social workers touched this case before the infant's death, as did lawyers and the family court. The infant's file was transferred five times between the ministry and the delegated Aboriginal Agency.

It was not possible to conclude in this case whether the infant's death was preventable, or to link the death to the care he received. But we do know that case management was chaotic and this child's best interests were not considered. Living arrangements must be stable with consistent caregivers for the children whose lives are placed in their hands.

The report includes three recommendations that point to directly improving the child-serving system:


- Understandable accountabilities for Aboriginal child-serving services, with each regional director of child welfare responsible for the delegated agencies in the region
- Clearer expectations and actions when good case management is put at risk because of frequent changes in custody arrangements, locations, child protection offices or workers
- Amendments to the *Family Relations Act* so that court decisions regarding guardianship of a child are made with the benefit of key information about the capacity and background of any proposed non-parent guardian. Currently, the *Act* does not require information be given to the court about the non-parent caregiver's capacity to provide adequate care in the child's best interests, including if that person has a criminal record or a history of child abuse or neglect.

My goal is to see the child-serving system function at its best even when increasingly challenging issues appear in the life of a vulnerable child.

As we change seasons, I wish you all a happy fall. I continue to be grateful for the work you do on behalf of children and youth. Please contact my Office for assistance in any way. We can be reached by phone at 1-800-476-3933 or by email at [rcy@rcybc.ca](mailto:rcy@rcybc.ca).

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond  
B.C.'s Representative for Children and Youth



**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.

## Regional Delegate Reports

### Vancouver Coastal Region by Peter Dueck

The much deserved warm weather has lingered and our children (except for the keen ones) would have wanted the start of school to be delayed. No such luck. Teachers too, may have wanted a delay in school start to allow more time to conclude contract talks. For those of us with children who are dependent on working IEP's and having had the benefit of extra consultation time with teachers, may experience delays or inconvenience. Our role as IEP co-authors is even more important at this time. To all our students and their teachers we say "good luck". Remember—"luck" is when opportunity knocks and you answer. (author unknown)

It does not appear that the amalgamation of Fraser and Vancouver into a mega region will change the way the Ministry does things at the local level. Time will tell whether this administrative streamlining will ultimately serve our children better. I am optimistic that it will. With respect to BCFFPA, the Ministry reorganization means that the Federation will need to decide whether we want to continue with two representatives or one. This decision may also impact planned discussions in our region concerning our own structure. Would a 'macro' work or should we look at some other structure to bring the varied needs and interests of this very large region together?

The Vancouver Local will have met on September 20th after many months of not meeting. There is much to talk about and will likely be more to report next time.

The need for BCFFPA to have more advocacy capacity was again high-lighted this summer. I received several calls from foster parents who are frustrated with the system. A repeating theme seems to centre around the transitioning of youth to greater independence. Foster parents sometimes hold on to their kids too long and sometimes social workers exert too much influence or control. What is evident is that 'pushing kids out of the nest' (or not) is difficult for all. To that end CLBC is organizing an all day Fair for youth with disabilities and their parents in Surrey. (check with CLBC for details)

The Fifth National Biennial Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Social Justice - Moving Forward) is scheduled for April 18-21, 2012. This much anticipated conference will focus on the needs and rights of this large group. Why do so many end up in the criminal justice system? How can our social and justice system serve this group better?

### Fraser Region by Russell Pohl

I hope everyone had a great summer! The "New" Coast Fraser Region is as busy as ever.

We have an over-abundance of support cases going on as well as some protocols and numerous continuing issues. I am not sure whether these are happening because of the changes or just simply timing.

As we move into the fall we will start attending meetings with the Ministry. There will be meetings on how these new regions will work and we will hopefully have a better or clearer understanding of the new teams in place.

During Foster Family Appreciation Month we should remember to take care of ourselves first.

### Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association—Betty Davis

There are concerns in some instances where people are being interviewed by just one person. This leads to some concerns as to interpretation of the interviewer. This is normal procedure according to the Ministry.

You may also get your Husky/Mohawk rebate card. Proceeds to go to the FVFPA. Call Betty at 604 534 1092.

It is my advice to make sure you document, document, document! Make sure you validate everything you are being told. If agreements for funding have been made make sure you get it in writing before proceeding with spending any funds.

Meetings are still going on monthly at the ABC Restaurant in Langley at Highway 10 and 192 Street, and Ricky's Restaurants at 88th Avenue and 152nd Street.

This region remembers Mr. Dennis Mustchin, who recently passed. A long time caregiver, he will sadly be missed.

### Abbotsford Local —Tamara Smith

Since the Board formed we have been working very hard at putting in a solid foundation, and have almost completed the transition to becoming a non-profit organization. We are working closely with the Federation and the Ministry to provide our caregivers with support and appropriate training opportunities in the months to come as well as an exciting debut event in the new year!!!

We are encouraged with the growing number of BCFFPA members in our area and anticipate those numbers to continue to increase as we move forward.

### Ridge Meadows Local — Jayne Wilson for Dorothy McDowell

Over the past several months, Ridge Meadows local has been feeling the pinch. Low membership numbers in the area are a concern for the Local and we are working together with the Federation to reinvigorate membership and funding sources for the Local.

### Canadian Foster Parent Association—Russell Pohl

The fall retreat was held in Alberta. The Canadian Child Welfare League was present to discuss new projects and initiatives. The Board worked on policy and procedure updates and the provincial members provided summary briefs regarding activities in each province.



## Regional Delegate Reports Continued

### Interior Region by Kevin Daniel

It's been a busy summer for many in the interior region with the AGM and IFCO starting the summer off for many. As well as the BCFFPA AGM, there was the region macro AGM that took place. We had just over 20 foster parents and service providers attend and bring up issues that affect the interior region as a whole as well as the province.

Some of the issues are:

- 1) Clarification on the playpen issue.
- 2) To reduce or mileage built into our contract to a fair amount.
- 3) That all visitation sites should meet up to health standards.

A total of 10 motions were drawn up and handed in.

After our AGM ended, many of the foster parents attended the International Foster Care Organization Conference that took place in Victoria as well from July 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Foster parents took part in workshops that had presenters from around the world attend and share their wealth of information with us.

Here is a list of some of the great workshops that were offered.

- I will never give up—Derek Clarke
- Better understanding our children—Dr. Karen Purvis
- fostering independence—Debbie Verkirk

These were just some of the great courses that were offered by our foster parents who attended this great networking event.

In the coming month we have several events coming up. Our Foster Parent Appreciation event is coming up in October. Check with your area association to see what will be happening near you. Also taking place in October, the region macro board will be meeting the interior CSM to discuss issues that affect our area.

In closing I want to thank all those foster parents who took part and offered ideas and ways to work on issues that directly involve foster parents and our kids.

### Vancouver Island Region by Jo Axe

While the summer weather seemed to take longer than usual to visit the Island, the sun ultimately shone giving us some beautiful sunny September skies. Let's hope we have a lovely autumn so we can enjoy pumpkin rides, Thanksgiving sunshine, and a clear, bright Halloween night. Either way, there is a lot to keep us busy, with children returning to school and all the after-school activities that quickly fill up the calendar.

Looking back over the summer activities, it would be hard not to mention the International Foster Care Organization (IFCO) conference held on July 10 to 15 in Victoria. What a resounding success. Delegates came from all over the world to learn from each other by sharing their research, stories, and insights. None of this could have been possible without the volunteers, which numbered upwards of 70. The complex scheduling, organization, and management of this event was a major feat – so a huge thank you to all those volunteers who give so willingly of their time.

Also, with great appreciation to the support of Island foster parents as well as the South Island Foster Parent Association and the Foster Parent Support Services Society, many successful events have been held on the Island. These events include workshops, training sessions, pot luck lunches, summer park play dates, peer support events, and coffee mornings. What a fantastic array of activities – if you haven't had time over the summer to take part, take a look at upcoming events put forward by the SIFPA and FPSSS in your local area. Update your knowledge and engage in training activities, enjoy the company of other foster parents by attending social events – contribute to building a strong community of foster parents. Share your experiences, and when you have something you are curious about or need help with, don't be afraid to ask for support.

Please do not hesitate to contact BCFFPA, at 1 800 663 9999, if you have any questions or concerns. If you'd like to contact me personally, send me an email at [joaxe@shaw.ca](mailto:joaxe@shaw.ca).

### North Region by Sherrie Jones

I hope that everyone had a good summer and are now enjoying having regular routines and schedules back in place with the start of school.

It has been a very quiet summer with few calls so I take this as a good sign that most Foster Homes are running smoothly! The number of children coming into care seems to fluctuate greatly from area to area. Some communities have numerous openings for placements while other communities are having to place children outside their home community.

There are no protocol or Quality of Care issues occurring at this time that I am aware of. Dawson Creek continues to do foster parent orientation on an ongoing basis but the number of people taking this program is down.

Axis continue to provide support services to foster parents in the North, although the position is vacant at this time. It is anticipated that this position will be filled in the next couple of weeks.

Team building meetings continue to happen in the North and this certainly helps with relationship building and concerns are addressed at these meetings before they become issues. The North is currently in the process of restructuring their staff and with a team building meeting set for next week I am sure that we will be made more aware of these changes at this meeting.

MCFD is working on plans for Foster Parent Appreciation Events within the various regions. I encourage Foster Parents to attend the events in their region and accept the well deserved Appreciation for all their work and dedication they give to the children and youth in our Province.

I hope that all enjoy a beautiful Fall and I look forward to hearing from foster parents in the future.

## Maurice Graydon Bursaries!

Calling for bursary applications for 4 new bursary opportunities.

The Maurice Graydon Bursaries will be awarded to youth currently or formerly in care who wish to continue their education. The successful incumbents will provide proof of registration with a business or vocational institution and demonstrate financial need. Bursaries will be awarded to those who demonstrate the highest marks.

4 bursaries of \$500 are available:

- Maurice and Maureen Graydon Bursary
- Maurice and Carson Graydon, Navy Vets Bursary
- Maurice Graydon, Author (2 bursaries)

Please see our website for the bursary application and criteria. Alternatively, send an e-mail to [office@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca) or fax to 604-466-7490 requesting more information on the Maurice Graydon Bursaries.

Thank you Maurice, for your ongoing support, kindness and consideration for BC's kids in care!



### 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

## Join us at AGM 2012 in Vernon

BCFFPA's AGM 2012 will take place on May 25-26, 2012  
at the Prestige Hotel and Conference Centre in Vernon.  
We're just beginning to plan the event now so send us  
your workshop topic requests! E-mail the Provincial  
office at [office@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca).



### 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)

### An 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!



# Community Resources

## Provincial Resources

|                                                                                                        |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations</b><br>www.bcfosterparents.ca                           | 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 (also supporting adoption placements) | 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   |

## Coastal Fraser

*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 |
| <b>Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association</b>                                                         | 604-865-1924 |
| <b>Abbotsford Community Services Foster Parent Caregiver Support</b>                                   | 604-859-2165 |
| <b>South Vancouver Youth Centre</b><br>www.svyc.ca<br>(Ask about their foster parent support workers!) | 604-325-2004 |

## 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