

FosterlineBC

~ Fostering Awareness ~



January 2011
Volume 9, Issue 1



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IFCO Delegate	Melanie Filiatrault

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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 published 4 times per year (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 New Year! I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the Christmas season and have not been too busy to stop and savor the moments. I know around my home we were going non-stop.

This is a new year and a chance to look back on last and plan for the new. At the BCFFPA we are continuing to work towards the best for the foster parents of BC. In the administrative front Jayne Wilson is doing a great job of developing our relationships with other agencies and the Ministry of Child and Family Development.

The Board has undergone some changes. Louise Dol, a long time member of the Board and most recently Secretary, has stepped down. She will be missed; Louise is very aware of Policy and Procedure and always put the foster parents first. Marcy Perron has stepped forward from her Regional Delegate position for the Interior to take the position of Secretary and also to chair the P&P Committee until our next elections. Kevin Daniel, the president of the Interior Region Board, has agreed to be the Interior Delegate. I am looking forward to working with Kevin again.

In November the Board met in Nanaimo and as always happens no matter how much time we think we have given ourselves, it runs out. Peter Dueck and Russell Pohl will now be the CFFA reps and will do a fantastic job of it.

Chuck Eamer and Sobhana Daniel from MCFD joined us and listened to our concerns, particularly around contracts and protocols. The conversation was open and we feel that we will be able to work together to assist foster parents.

I would like to send out my congratulations to Ed and Debbie Dubecki for winning the membership draw in December. I am sure that they will enjoy that iPod Touch! All they had to do was renew or start a membership with the BCFFPA between September and December to have their name in the draw. It is not too late to renew! To maintain your membership in good standing, renew prior to January 31, 2011. You can join anytime and enjoy the privileges of membership.

I am looking forward to IFCO in Victoria this July. Check it out at [www.ifco2011.com](http://www.ifco2011.com) - you'll find something for every foster parent there!

Heather Bayes  
President, BCFFPA Board of Directors

### 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

The staff at the Provincial office wish you all a happy and very prosperous 2011! It seems as though 2010 was gone in a blink.

With the beginning of a new year, it's time to review our strategic plan, check in with each other and tweak our goals. First on the list is the upcoming MCFD contract renewal. In the next couple of months we'll also be taking a look at our fund development and membership appreciation processes and programs. By mid-2011 we hope to be well underway with a comprehensive fund development initiative. We are also developing a membership appreciation program to ensure that our members are enjoying an increased sense of appreciation and benefit from their membership in BCFFPA.

Our in-office Foster Parent Appreciation Day was well received. Lea Ann and I enjoyed speaking with those who attended and providing some support one-on-one to foster parents. We hope to make it an annual event!

Over the past few months Heather and I have spent some time in Victoria with MCFD staff and the Minister and we both travelled to Kamloops for the soul-enriching experience of the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents Annual General Meeting weekend. In November I met with the Executive Directors from provincial foster parent organizations across Canada. There was a wealth of information brought forward for discussion and we are all excited about our plans to work as a team to research issues that are relevant both provincially and federally—to bring possible solutions to the table for all to benefit from. The EDs are a dynamic group of people with a great deal of insight and experience to share with each other.

It has been a busy Fall and Winter so far with many meetings, much travel and plenty of opportunities to (re)connect with people who work with and for foster parents and children. Thank you all again for the warm welcome and your willingness to embrace new ideas.

I'm looking forward to continued success and change in 2011!

Jayne Wilson  
Executive Director



call us!

fosterlineBC

1-800-663-9999

we're here for you



## Important Reminder That Privacy is Necessary for Children in Care

With the holiday season upon us, shutter-bugs will be taking pictures. We would like to remind all foster parents that the foster children in your care are entitled to privacy. Ministry policy prohibits the publication of any identifying information regarding children in care. This extends to all social media sites.

Please ensure that all well-meaning friends, neighbors and family are aware that pictures of your foster children are not to be posted in public domains or social media or in any other way identified. Be mindful that this seemingly harmless activity—the online sharing of pictures with those from other areas of the world—can have serious consequences for children in foster care and their responsible caregivers.

*MCFD Quote directly from the "Policy Shop"*

**"...non-identification of a CIC in foster care applies to social media sites such as Facebook, MySpace, etc., [and] identifying information of any kind violates current policy..."**



**Cloverdale Paint**

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## Ensure You Have The Information You Need. Don't Forget to Ask!

Foster Parents often wish they had asked more questions before accepting a child into their home. The list of questions below are designed to assist you in your discussions regarding placements. Of course, during emergency placements, some of these questions will not apply.

1. Why is the child being placed?
2. What previous placement experiences has the child had?
3. What is the child's legal status?
4. Are there 2 parents on the child's file? What are the parent's names and where are they located?
5. Will the parents visit? How often and where?
6. Does this child have siblings? Where are they living and what are their names?
7. What is the expected length of the placement and is there a Plan of Care in place?
8. Will there be pre-placement visits?
9. What is the child's understanding of why he/she is being moved or separated from parents or present foster parents?
10. When will the social worker visit or call?
11. What is the child's health status? Allergies, immunizations, medications, dental care? When were the last dental and physical check-ups?
12. What is the child's medical number?
13. Is religion an important aspect of the child's life, and if so, what is their religion?
14. What grade and school does the child attend?
15. Are there any problems at school?
16. Does the child have any special behavior problems or unusual habits? Any special abilities?
17. Is there a history of sexual abuse, and if so, does the child pose a danger to other children in the home?
18. Does the child have sufficient clothing, and if not, is there a clothing allowance?
19. What will make the child feel most at home (food likes and dislikes, favorite toys etc.)?
20. What is the maintenance rate and when are payments made?
21. What is the after-hours emergency number?
22. Does the child need to be transported to school or home visits?
23. Are bed wetting or bowel control an issue?

## Getting to Know Our Service Partners

We live in a vast province with community identities and needs that are as unique and diverse as the landscape of British Columbia. While many organizations take care of children's health, development and activity, BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations is fortunate to partner with other Provincial non-profit organizations who focus their efforts on ensuring our province's children have a home to grow up in. We work together with the hope of ensuring that the children who spend some portion of their young lives in the child welfare system experience family, stability, support, friendship and community.

We have unique ties to our partners and blend our services to support each others mandate.

For those who are unfamiliar with our partners, I'd like to introduce you to the valuable work they do and invite you to contact them with your questions, should you require more information.

### Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

*Mission: [FAFP] recognizes and affirms that Aboriginal children have the right to grow up within their own communities and cultures*

FAFP represents the foster parents providing quality care for Aboriginal children in a nurturing, culturally appropriate environment. They recognize and affirm that Aboriginal children have the right to grow up within their own culture and are committed to providing the support and services needed to help ensure this fundamental right is respected.

### Adoptive Families Association of BC

*Vision: A Family for Every Child*

*Mission: To promote and support adoption*

AFABC provides province-wide support and advice for those who are beginning to think about adoption, if you have decided to adopt, and/or if you have already had a child or children join your family. AFABC also plays a significant role in promoting awareness of the thousands of BC children in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, who are waiting to be placed in a "forever family" through adoption.

### Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks

*Mission: [FBCYICN] is a youth-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of youth in and from care between the ages of 14 and 24 in BC.*

FBCYICN is youth driven—which means that the voice of the young people is at the heart and soul of the organization. Program development is informed by the needs, issues, ideas and recommendations of the young people in BC. The programs include advocacy, networking and empowering youth through skills development and supportive connections.

#### 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.



**FEDERATION OF  
ABORIGINAL  
FOSTER PARENTS**

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

Contact: 1-800-291-7091

Local: 604-291-7091

**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

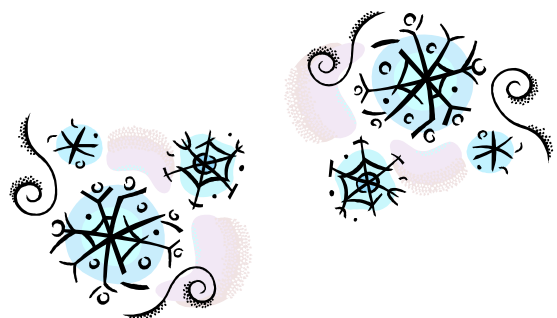


**Federation of BC  
Youth In Care Networks**

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

Contact: 1-800-565-8055

Local: 604-527-7762





# What *Exactly* is Insurance? (And How Does the Rider work?)

*Insurance* is a policy purchased through a company that offers a person, company, or other entity reimbursement or financial protection against possible future losses or damages. Insurance is a hedging instrument used as a precautionary measure against possible future losses. This is a mode of financially ensuring that if such an incident of loss does happen, then the loss does not affect the present well-being of the person or the property which is covered under the insurance policy. Thus, through insurance, a person purchases a form of security and protection.

The Ministry of Children & Family Development provides 2 kinds of insurance for foster parents who take care of children placed in their home by the Ministry or through a Delegated agency:

1. General Liability Insurance (often called "Indemnity Insurance") which covers the foster parent should claims arise due to loss or injury while in the foster parent or designated alternate's care, and

2. Rider Insurance—a policy covering home and property belonging to foster parents against *willful* damage done by a foster child.

Foster parents are expected to have their own home insurance. The Rider Insurance mirrors the home insurance policy, providing coverage for losses that the average insurance company will not cover due to the nature of the damage caused by foster children.

To process General Liability (Indemnity) Insurance claims, contact AON Reed Stenhouse at 250-388-7577.

To process claims for damage through the Rider Insurance, please contact BCFFPA Provincial office at 1-800-663-9999.

In order to process your claim we will require:

1. Statement of circumstance of loss with pictures (if available)
2. Copy of Letter of Denial from foster parent's insurance company
3. Copy of signature page of Home Care Agreement (usually the last page of the Agreement)
4. Copy of the cover page of foster parent's home insurance policy showing coverage details

BCs Youth Justice Caregivers have just been approved to receive the Rider coverage through the same premium-free program and BCs foster parents. Insurance can be a strange new world so please feel free to call us with your questions!

## This month's insurance tidbit...

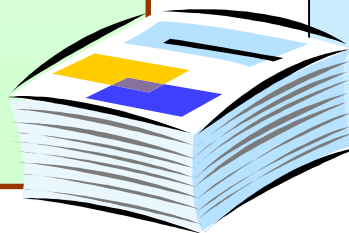
In case you didn't know, your processed/approved respite and relief workers are covered under your Indemnity (Liability) insurance through MCFD. Your volunteers and babysitters are also covered for short term care.

Your Indemnity policy should be in the name of all potential guardians who live in your residence.

## What is the BCFFPA doing for YOU?

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

- 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
- Upcoming contract renewal



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# Regional Delegate Reports

## Vancouver Coastal Report by Peter Dueck

Christmas is almost here and with it comes the joy and activities of the season. Consider: most of us are expecting and find joy in that perfect gift—it's a holiday season which is often complicated by family visits and too many activities. It's a time when extra time with our children is a joy and a source of frustration. Sometimes it is a time of comforting those who miss loved ones and better times. On a lighter side, it is a time of excess followed by resolutions to change our lifestyles. It's a time where there is no time to write a report!

Christmas continues to be the main winter celebration in our culture and while it is difficult to get away from the noise and excitement, more and more of us come from other lands and celebrate differently.

You may recall that for last year's winter edition, I summarized the winter observances and celebrations now common in Canada. My conclusion was "Just maybe the great poet, Leonard Cohen, is right: "there is a crack in everything to let the light in". Certainly it appears that a common thread in many winter solstice celebrations is the recognition that the shortest and darkest time of the year is waved good-bye, but not without merriment and reflection.

Celebrations tend to erase the darkness and welcome a new year with candles, lights and light ceremonies. The exchange of gifts and greetings is also common in many cultures and religions. And while on the surface this is a joyous time of year, there are the symbolic observances of more somber themes and memories.

Happy winter solstice/Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

## Fraser Report by Russell Pohl

Lots going on in the Fraser Region over the holidays....

Langley meetings are still happening on the last Tuesday of every month at the ABC restaurant on 192<sup>nd</sup> Street and Highway 10, near the border of Langley/Surrey.

The Surrey meeting is the third Wednesday of every month at the Ricky's Restaurant on 152<sup>nd</sup> Street and Fraser Highway.

New mandatory support meetings for new foster parents are going well on both sides.

We cannot tell you how important it is to continue updating your knowledge. A variety of associations and service agencies hold a variety of workshops on a variety of topics. Many of these are free or little cost to you the foster parent. Keep in mind if you wish to be considered a professional then we must continue to enhance our knowledge. The Fraser Valley Foster Parents Association put on several workshops; one on emergency, two on financials, one on reactive attachment

disorder and a life book workshop. These are well attended and new information is always brought to the table.

Change for Change is a great way the FVFPA has fundraised. They have invited their members to bring all those pesky pennies (and any other unwanted coins) to the meetings. They do the rolling and so far this year have rolled almost \$,1000!

Emergency kits have been sold as another service.

The AGM for the FVFPA is to be February 22, 2011. As in past years, it will be at the ABC Restaurant on 192<sup>nd</sup> and Highway 10, weather permitting. For times please call Betty at 604-534-1092.

A new local will be starting up in Mission. Initial meetings will begin in January. Call the BCFFPA Provincial office and speak to Lea Ann for contact information.

A foster parent contacted said that it has been relatively quiet lately.

From all of us here in the Fraser Region we wish you the very best over the holidays.

## Interior Report by Marcy Perron

The Interior Region has been busy this Fall with different courses being offered through the locals and through OFPA. They have also been busy fundraising through different activities and events in each community. Partnership meetings continue in most districts and Kelowna held their third Town Hall Meeting the end of November.

Kamloops and Kelowna are still working with the University, setting up a course where social work students would be able to do a practicum in foster homes observing the family dynamics and gaining a better understanding of how special and unique foster families really are. We are all looking forward to an interesting and challenging 2011, especially with IFCO coming to Victoria in July.

I would like to welcome Kevin Daniel to the Board as the temporary Director for the Interior Region as I will be filling the position of Secretary temporarily until July, when the elections take place at our annual AGM.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!



## Regional Delegate Reports Cont.

### Northern Regional Report by Sherrie Jones

I hope that all have schedules and routines now firmly in place and are preparing to enjoy The Holiday Season. This time of year is often hard for our children that are in care. They miss their family, friends and the traditions that they shared during the Holiday Season.

As a foster parent I remember getting the call at 3:30 am Christmas morning to ask if we would be willing to take a placement! The mad dash started to try and find presents under the tree that we could change the name tags on to ensure that this child had a Christmas to remember.

I often think about our own children and how fostering has enabled us to teach them to be flexible, non judgmental and appreciate what we have in life because others are not so fortunate. We also are very thankful for our role as Foster Parents because it has enabled us to expand our family by adopting 3 beautiful children that we would of never met, had we not fostered.

I hope that all Foster Parents take time to reflect on their time as Foster Parents, the impact that you have had on the children that have gone through your home, and that you were able to be a part of a child's future!!!

With the new CAPP program being implemented, Foster Parents need to stay connected to each other and be prepared for new expectations that we are going to be asked to be a part of. There are going to be times that support from other Foster Parents and the BCFFPA will be helpful to ensure a smooth transition into the new MCFD system.

In closing I wish all a very Merry Christmas, and hope that everyone will look back on this Holiday Season and have a few fond memories that will remain for years to come!!

### Our New Interior Delegate, Kevin Daniel

Hi my name is Kevin Daniel; I am the new Interior Region delegate.

I've been fostering teens in a one on one setting in my home since 2004 before finally getting involved with the Williams Lake Foster Parents Association in 2006.

Since then I've increased my involvement with the BCFFPA, getting involved by representing the Cariboo area on the Interior Macro Board in which I sit currently as chairperson. My other involvement is with the group Limesauce. It's a youth group of FASD kids ages 15 to 18 learning about FASD and how the brain works. I enjoy the strong team aspect of the job and working with others for a positive outcome for our kid's, parents and foster parents.

In closing, I hope to meet many of you in Victoria in July as we have the AGM and the IFCO conference happening.

### 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 Lea Ann at the Provincial office at [leaann@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:leaann@bcfosterparents.ca) or Debbie Drewitz at [ddrewitz@telus.net](mailto:ddrewitz@telus.net)





## 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. 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 Lea Ann or Jayne at 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!

## CAPP—Coming to an MCFD Office Near You!

CAPP, which stands for **C**hild & Family Support, **A**ssessment, **P**lanning and **P**ractice, is a service delivery model that is currently in various stages of development at MCFD.

CAPP is based on the document called *Strong, Safe and Supported*, distributed by MCFD in 2006.

CAPP is based on a holistic, team-oriented approach to child and family service delivery.

CAPP's foundation philosophies are: prevention, early intervention, intervention and support, the Aboriginal approach and quality assurance.

CAPP's framework is completed but the service delivery and assessment pieces are still being developed. MCFD is seeking input from MCFD regional offices. *[BCFFPA will ensure that we are able to put forward the input we receive from foster parents regarding CAPP's practical application as it affects foster parents and the children in their care.]*

CAPP will first be implemented in 5 test sites—one in each BC Region. The implementation cities are: Dawson Creek, Penticton, Abbotsford, Richmond and Nanaimo.

CAPP's Practice Principles Are:

- All aspects of practice seek to identify and build on the individual and collective strengths of children, youth, families and communities
- CAPP recognizes the rights of children and youth
- Children, youth and families will receive services that are holistic and directly address their assessed individual needs.
- All practice is directed at the child or youth within the context of the family and community.
- Practice at all levels of the child and family service system will be transparent and accountable.
- Principles within the Aboriginal Service Delivery Change Conceptual Framework for Ministry Staff are supported.

Along with CAPP, a new client records system is being developed that will allow all members of a care team to access relevant areas of the client files for plan reference and record keeping.

Team consultation will be a key component of CAPP.

Through the CAPP practice model, workers and service providers will *first* ensure that client basic needs are met (food, shelter, safety, clothing, health/medical needs) before moving along to more complex needs (social, emotional, cultural, physical).

CAPP's service model will include comprehensive planning for individuals and families:

- Identifying assessed needs, measurable goals, and work to be undertaken with the child and family
- Timelines established
- A key worker will monitor progress
- Each plan will be specific to each child, youth or family

CAPP's practical application will ensure:

- Professional quality of work
- Building on existing and similar strengths-based practices
- An integrated service system
- Integration of program areas and policy development
- Ongoing resolution of human resources issues
- Outcome-based standards and quality assurance
- Opportunities for staff and partners to contribute to further development of CAPP
- Emphasis on clinical supervision; ongoing professional development for task/job-related specialties

Our Executive Director attended a recent CAPP Orientation, along with several other community service partners and MCFD social workers. We are not alone in our answer-seeking.

Over the next few months our staff and Board members will be undertaking to ensure that those foster parents who live within the implementation site boundaries will receive information regarding CAPP's philosophies, practical application of the program and how this will affect foster families province-wide.

Please feel free to forward your questions and experiences to BCFFPA's provincial office so that we can stay on top of any issues and create an open dialogue between BCFFPA and MCFD regarding the CAPP program.

If you are fostering within one of the implementation sites, call BCFFPA with information about your experiences or thoughts about CAPP.



# Effects on Me of Being a Member of a Foster Family

By Chelsea-Fay Bateman (Winner of the 2010 Natural Child Bursary)

I grew up in a foster home as a birth child of a foster parent. My mom has been a foster parent for twenty years and it is all I have ever known. It hasn't been too bad though. When I was younger I always had somebody to play with and it was amazing because I was a very shy child. As I got older it was like having more siblings to confide in and to fight with and both happened a lot.

We have had over three hundred kids through our house, and we never knew how long they would stay. For some it was a few hours and for others a year or more. It was like a revolving door. I never knew who would be there when I got home from school. Then there were those kids who worked themselves so far into our family that they became family. My "little sister" came into care when she was twelve years old, and even given the opportunity she never left. She moved back to Alberta with her dad after she graduated but we are still her family.

In the past twenty years I have learned how to share. I have shared everything from my toys to my space to my parents. And let me tell you, it was not always easy. But it was a sacrifice I was willing to make so that my mom was able to be at home with my brothers and myself. I have also learned how to cook for large groups of people because, at times, there were twelve to fourteen people for dinner. On top of that I come from a large family and we had a family dinner every week, so there were often twenty-five to thirty people. So cooking for a large group is no problem, cooking for three or four, on the other hand, is darn near impossible without leftovers for a week.

Another thing that I have learned is tolerance and patience. Children who come into care have baggage and that baggage is not easily forgotten. It affects their everyday life. This can be very annoying and frustrating. But this must be dealt with so these kids can have a chance at feeling wanted.

Most of the kids who were in our house when I was younger are my age or older so sometimes I see some of them out and about. I always get a warm hello. They ask about my parents and how things are going. Most say that they miss our home and that

being with us taught them important life lessons. My favorite is one day I ran into a child from my past and he said, "You know, before I came to your house I never knew I was supposed to brush my teeth every night." It had always amazed me that some kids didn't know that they need to brush their teeth, and I am glad that my family got to help teach them that kind of thing.

I have been there throughout all the excitement of getting to go home as well as all the disappointment when they couldn't. But the one thing that was always appreciated was the promise that was made when each child came into our house. We would never lie to them. It was a simple promise and it meant everything. It was not always appreciated at the time, but it was as an adult.

Sometimes it felt like I never got to spend any time with my mom so I became a night-owl so I could spend a few minutes with her one to one. Once the kids were in bed was that precious time I got where we could talk about each other's day and how things were going in our lives. I gave up sleep for a few precious moments with my mom. And before I was old enough to stay up late my mom would pull me out of school so we could spend the day together. That didn't happen very often, but it always felt like a special treat when it did.

I come from a family of caregivers. On my mom's side I have an aunt and uncle who were foster parents and from that they have another daughter, and I have another cousin. On my dad's side I have three aunts who are caregivers. One is a foster parent, one manages numerous group homes and the third is a care-aide. While not all are foster parents, each has had an important role in influencing me in becoming a caregiver. I have chosen to become a doctor rather than a foster parent, or any of the other professions of my family.

Growing up in a foster home for the past twenty years has had its ups and downs. I have stuck with it, with my mom, through thick and thin. And all this has made me the person I have grown up to be.

## Winners of the Early Membership Renewal Draw

Congratulations to Ed and Debbie Dubecki of Penticton who won the *Apple iPod Touch* in this year's Early Membership Renewal Draw!

Thank you to all who renewed your memberships early! This year we had 52 names in the draw.



## 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.

# My Life as a Foster Mom

by Sydnie Crockett (Printed with permission, original publication in October 8, 2010 Globe and Mail)

I live with three boys all under the age of 10 and one teenage girl. Every day I listen to them say, "Look at me," "Watch me," "Watch this," "Are you watching?" I put up with eye-rolling and short shorts. I nag about homework. I go to school plays, swimming lessons and the principal's office. I am 57 years old and no, I'm not a late bloomer or a grandma. I foster.

They come and they go. Sometimes they come in the middle of the night. Sometimes I am given notice they are on their way, sometimes not. They can act tough or they can be crying, but they all come with the same expression—confused and scared.

If they come in the night I stay up and play Monopoly or Sorry! With them until the sun comes up. You would be surprised how much some kids have to say after a glass of milk and a snack, and I can still be surprised how long some go saying nothing.

Over the six years I've been fostering I've had about 20 children, some for a few months, some for years. We usually have three to four kids at a time.

They go to supervised visits with their families and often come back so sad it would break your heart. On occasion they come back happy to be with me again, and that's an even bigger heart-breaker.

To say fostering is different than raising your own kids is an understatement. I don't know who their friends are, who has had chicken pox, who has had vaccinations. I do know it is now my responsibility to get them to the dentist and doctor, to buy new clothes and shoes, all without making things scary or overwhelming for them. It's my responsibility to figure out who wants a goodnight hug and who doesn't, who wants to be rocked and who is scared for me to go near them. I have learned not to sweat the small stuff.

Once in a while, the kids eat sugary cereal or hot dogs—food I was reluctant to give my own daughters. These children have more important things on their plate than arguing with me about what is a healthy food choice.

If they arrive wearing a raggedy shirt, I wash it and let them wear it every day for a week, if they want. As long as it's clean, it's fine.

I am filling a need in our society that I truly wish didn't exist. I often find myself trying to understand how it can be that I'm up in the night with a child who isn't my own who is missing his mother or father or guardian. They come with so much baggage. Most of it, I will never know. Why does someone cry in the middle of the night? Why is someone terrified of the dishwasher? Why does someone hide food under the bed? Most of the time only the family knows and they aren't likely to tell anyone.

People say, "You're a saint for doing what you do," or "You took another kid?" The truth is that I like kids. I'm not a saint, nor is there something wrong with me for wanting to help out.

Our friends are well past the age of having to find a babysitter, so at times we are left out of social groups. A few of our friends have drifted away completely. They are uncomfortable with this job of mine and think we are leaving ourselves open to lawsuits. They question what motivates my desire to foster children.

It might be easy to throw up my hands and get out of fostering, but then I would miss taking a group of kids to the fair or watching the excitement on their faces when we go to the drive-in for the first time.

This "job" lets me indulge my inner kid while being a responsible grown-up at the same time. It has also taught me a lot. One day a few years ago, the saddest face I had ever seen was dropped off at my door. She was only 3. On the third night she was here, still with her sad, scared face, I said to her, "Honey, what is it you're afraid of?" She looked at me with the most forlorn expression and pointed her finger right at me. She was way more afraid of me, this stranger she didn't know, than her familiar but abusive home.

That's the biggest lesson—when you are little, family is love and comfort, no matter what. Everyone just wants to be with their family, to be home.

I am lucky to have a husband who understands and is willing to help me make good citizens of kids who otherwise might be in the system forever. My family is compassionate and caring, but we were raised with opportunities that are often lacking for these children.

They need this system that will help them get home. A system that, while certainly not perfect, helps their families learn a few lessons while they've been away. Lessons such as how to feed them, send them to school, stop hitting them, stop doing drugs.

Fostering is tough and sometimes I can't remember why I do it. Then I experience a day that reminds me. Coming home from the beach this summer, we were all eating ice cream, tired and excited.

"Life is good, isn't it boys?" I said.

The five-year-old looked up at me with his big, brown eyes. "No Cindy," he said, mispronouncing my name, "life is good with you."



# 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    | 1-800-291-7091 |
| <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 |
| Schuswap                                                            | 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).*



# IFCO 2011 is Coming to Canada!

## *And You're All Invited!*



## XVII Biennial 2011 IFCO World Conference

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
July 10th through 15th, 2011

Theme: Fostering Hope ...  
Together, we can make a difference.

What you can expect:

- An Exciting Youth Program* ♣
- An Outstanding Adult Program* ♣
- Excellent Networking Opportunities* ♣
- A Warm Welcome in Beautiful Victoria* ♣
- and a Truly Memorable Experience* ♣

Website & Contact Information:

<http://www.ifco2011.com> ♣ email to [info@ifco2011.com](mailto:info@ifco2011.com)

### REGISTRATION FEES:

Adult Program: **\$599** EARLY BIRD, **10% discount** on Early Bird for IFCO members, **\$699** after 3-31-11

Youth Program: **\$349** EARLY BIRD, **\$399** after 3-31-11

**Includes Conference Fee, Gala Dinner & Much More!**

**CALL FOR PAPERS—NOW OPEN!**

Please go to <http://www.ifco2011.com>

Haa Huu Pa by aa aats'ik Ray Sim, Sr:

The original Aboriginal Artwork proudly displayed here was created by Gitksan/Musqueam artist, Ray Sim Sr., especially for IFCO 2011. It is titled "Haa Huu Pa" which is a Nuu chah nulth term for "teaching". Ray's traditional name is aa-aats'-ik.

The Eagle is a very important spiritual animal to the First Nations people of the Northwest Coast; it is generally a symbol of power, intelligence and loyalty. Eagle down represents peace and friendship.

IFCO 2011 FOUNDING FUNDER: Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund / Victoria Foundation



IFCO 2011 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE © 2010

**'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: \_\_\_\_\_ P/C: \_\_\_\_\_

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