

*BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations*

# FosterlineBC



Introducing BCFFPA's new logo...

*Foster Families ... another branch of the family tree.*

Our new design symbolizes  
strength ~ balance ~ grounding  
roots ~ commonality ~ diversity  
being an integrated part of the whole

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## BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

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Vancouver Coastal Interior	Kathrynne Coxon Kevin Daniel
North	Lee Lachmuth
Vancouver Island	Vacant

For Board of Directors contact information, please call the Provincial office.

~ ~ ~

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

This is the first chance I have had this year to wish all the foster parents of BC a Happy New Year. I hope that this year is shaping up to be one of your best.

As always life gets ever more complicated and busier by the moment. As foster parents we continue to balance the needs of our own families and the children in our care as well as outside careers and community obligations. Somewhere in there we need to scratch out a small piece of time for ourselves. In this economic and political environment we are being squeezed tighter than ever.

We are seeing more instances where foster parents are expected to use their own resources to support the children in their care. In some offices, MCFD is not paying mileage and will not pay more than maintenance for overages. Our frontline workers are getting squeezed as well and are often just the messenger.

This does not mean you just have to settle for this treatment. As a foster parent you always can say no if you disagree with the details of a proposed placement in your home. Get *everything* you agree to in writing *first!* Whether it's an agreement for additional support, routine mileage over 325 or an unforeseen expense, ensure that the agreement is reflected in writing before committing your own finances.

If you routinely ask for one time only payments, it is imperative that you keep your books up to date to reflect that you have used all of the maintenance. MCFD has the right to see how you are spending this money. One of the mantras of fostering is "Document, Document, Document". If you have your books and paperwork up to date it makes your life easier. Keep a mileage log, routinely keep receipts and note the name of the CIC on each. If you choose to not keep track of your accounting, it will be more difficult to access one time only payments.

At the BCFFPA we are here to help you. If you feel that you are being asked to do something for your CIC that does not feel right, please contact us. You have lots of options: there is your Local Association, your Regional Delegate and the BCFFPA office. We are here to support you.

Foster parents are some of the most giving people I have ever met, and you must remember to take care of yourself and your home so you can better care and advocate for the children and youth placed in your care.

Our Vancouver Island Delegate for the past 2 years, Jo Axe, has resigned from her position due to work demands. We will miss her wisdom and thoughtful perspective. We look forward to working together with Jo over the coming months on our joint project connecting foster parents in remote regions to community and education!

Just a reminder—if you are not a member of BCFFPA, become a member. Your membership supports the other foster parents in your region. One voice alone is quiet and can be ignored. All our voices raised in unity is clear and loud.

Heather Bayes  
President

## Notes from the Office

It's a new year and we have a new logo to go with it! Officially launched a couple of months ago, our new logo reflects our vision and future direction. The image symbolizes strength, balance, grounding, roots, commonality, diversity and being an integrated part of the whole. The logo was created by a BC designer and is based on the belief that foster families are a branch of the family tree. We hope you love it as much as we do!

Have you see the video yet? BCFFPA recently completed a short video called "Stories from Foster Care"; a compilation of reflections from foster parents and yours truly, about the valuable work of fostering. We've posted it on YouTube so it's free to watch and easy to send to others who may be interested. Search for "BCFFPA YouTube" to have a look.

Since our last issue we have been busy coordinating two Support and Advocacy Trainings and, for the first time in anyone's memory at BCFFPA, we responded to a request for proposals posted by the Ministry to provide direct services to foster parents in the northeast region. Though we didn't have the successful proposal, we feel strongly that BCFFPA should be vying for regional contracts along with the other agencies in the province. Our mandate is to serve BC's foster parents to provide quality in-home care and we will do this in any way we possibly can.

In November I attended the Canadian Foster Family Association national executive directors meeting. We gathered for a day to compare and brainstorm about provincial issues and to push forward on research topics that affect all of us. We search the foster care systems across the globe in order to find different (and sometimes more effective) programs and solutions to our joint concerns. I look forward to these informative meetings and I always return with very useful insights and a very full to-do list!

BCFFPA's staff are gearing up for May's AGM in Richmond. We hope to see many of you there to take advantage of the varied conference topics and to make some new friends in the larger fostering community! Watch your mailbox for more info.

Jayne Wilson  
Executive Director





*Message from Doug Hughes, Provincial Director of Child Welfare*

The New Year is upon us, and with it comes a reflection on our past year and a review of our planning for the year ahead of us both in our personal and professional lives. As the Provincial Director of Child Welfare I also take time to review the Ministries past accomplishments and the future direction to be taken.

One of the highlights of the past year was the release of the *Residential Review Project Final Report* (found at: <http://www.fcssbc.ca/corebc/projects/residential-review>). The report was the culmination of a joint MCFD and Federation of Community Social Services of BC project that began in 2010. The report identified opportunities to improve the experience and outcomes of children and youth, who, for some reason, must live for a period of time in MCFD operated or funded residential care placements and the final report makes recommendations for MCFD and service providers to take actions that will support more positive life outcomes for the children and youth served. The Ministry is taking steps to develop plans to implement the recommendations contained in the report through the 3 year Operational and Strategic Directional Plan.

One of the key areas that the report looks at is the need to realign and strengthen foster care services and supports to better achieve permanency and stability for the children and youth served. Recommendations for this include the need to consider recruitment, assessment, training, support, relief and classification and compensation for foster caregivers. The BCFFPA and FAFP will be involved in the planning for this important work.

As you may be aware, Aboriginal children and youth continue to be over represented in our child in care population - making up 9% of the BC under 19 population but comprise over half of the children in care under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. Services to Aboriginal children and youth will be critical to our planning.

The New Year will bring challenges and there is much work ahead of us. I am pleased that the BCFFPA and its members are part of this.

I look forward to our continued work together and want to commend you for the valuable work you do every day to better the lives of our most vulnerable children and youth.

Wishing you all health and happiness in the year to come,



***Doug Hughes***

Provincial Director of Child Welfare  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

## Rider Insurance Processing Change Affects BC Foster Parents

by Jayne Wilson

In the past two years there was a change to the BC Insurance Amendment Act (2009) which is being interpreted in such a way as to affect the processing of foster parent Rider insurance claims. The changes [Recovery By Innocent Persons, Section 28.6] went into effect in June 2011 and were intended to protect an innocent co-insured party against loss of coverage for damages done by another co-insured. For example, a divorcing couple owns a home which is insured in both their names (ie. the spouses are co-insured). In a fit of anger, one party does purposeful damage to the home. Previously, homeowner insurance would not cover the damages in this situation. Under these new provisions, the insurance would still honor the coverage for the insured spouse who did not cause the damage.

Though the intention of the change had nothing to do with damages done by foster children to a foster home, insurance agencies are applying their interpretation of the new clause to foster parent claims. Many insurance agents are now willing to cover damages done by foster children, resulting, unfortunately, in increasing insurance rates for foster parents. As you can imagine, this now causes challenges for foster parents. Many are not receiving the expected denial letters for damages done by foster kids.

Due to this change, the Rider insurance providers have decided to amend the process of submitting a claim through the Extended Property Damage (Rider) Insurance program. *Going forward, foster parents do not need to submit the claim to their home insurance first in order to receive a denial letter.* Though some insurance companies are still providing the denial letters, this step is being omitted from our process to avoid further confusion.

Foster parents still require home insurance as the Rider "mirrors" their own coverage. The requirement for home insurance is covered in the Foster Family Handbook, the Caregiver Support Service Standards and, in many regions, the caregiver contracts that are signed between caregiver and the Ministry.

Should the Rider claims adjustors feel that the damages in any foster parent claim were not intentional or malicious, or, based on evidence provided, that the child was not able to form intent, the foster parent will be consulted and then the claim will be redirected to the home insurance provider for review.

We will be adding a supplement page to our information booklets but in the interim, please keep this in mind when processing your own claims or advising other foster parents regarding insurance claims. At this time, all damage claims can be forwarded directly to BCFFPA with the usual supplementary information minus the denial letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the office. We're always happy to talk to you!

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

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

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

1. January 2013 begins the process of the creation of one standard Provincial protocol document.
2. BCFFPA is still keeping tabs on the babysitting/relief concerns in the Interior and Fraser regions. We have been told that there is a policy being drafted and that we will be consulted.
3. Delivery of regional supports—BCFFPA has asked for a review of the regional support contracts as there continues to be a demand for our support and advocacy services.

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

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



# 2013 Annual General Meeting and Call for Nominations

## 2013 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

BCFFPA will be holding elections for executive officer positions on the Board of Directors at our Annual General Meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Richmond, BC at the Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel.

There are 2 positions for election on the Executive Committee:

- Secretary
- Treasurer

Each position has a two-year term. Nominations for each position **must** be received by the BCFFPA Provincial office by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, for distribution to the membership.

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

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

### PLEASE FORWARD NOMINATIONS TO THE FEDERATION PROVINCIAL OFFICE

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

***Nominations must be received  
no later than March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013***



## Join us at AGM 2013 in Richmond, BC

### BCFFPA's Conference and AGM 2013

will take place on May 24-25, 2013 at the

**Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel** in

Richmond. Based on double occupancy the room rates will be:

- \$129—1 bedroom suite
- \$139—Two queen bed room (there are a limited number of 2-queen rooms)

***Please reserve your room by April 20, 2013  
to receive the discounted room rate!***

***Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel  
604-276-2112 or 1-877-323-8888***

***(Please book your room under our reserved  
block of rooms. Quote "BC Foster Parent  
Association—2013 Annual General Meeting")***

Watch your mailbox for more information  
regarding AGM workshops and activities.



### Noteworthy Dates...

- March 25<sup>th</sup>: Nominations and Special Resolutions must be received by BCFFPA Provincial office
- April 10<sup>th</sup>: AGM and Ballot packages sent to members. AGM Registration Open.
- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Notification of AGM
- May 15<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for Mail-In Voting

# BCFFPA Provincial Officer Nomination Form

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

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

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

## Candidate Information

Fostering Experience

BCFFPA Experience

Related Volunteer or Employment Experience

Views and Objectives to Offer this Position

Other Comments

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

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

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



**To propose a special resolution for the AGM,  
please use the form on page 9.**

## Today's Foster Care Statistics in BC

by Jayne Wilson

A piece of paper came across my desk last month that I thought the caregivers in BC might be interested in. How often do you see the statistics associated with foster care in your province? Maybe some of you have access to this on a regular basis, but my bet is that most of you aren't aware of how many children and youth are in care in BC, never mind how many foster homes are presently open in the province.

Following are the current statistics. The numbers do fluctuate somewhat, but on average, this is a good representation of how the sector has looked over the past few years.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>MCFD</b>	<b>DAA</b>
Children in Care (CIC)	8,132	6,166	1,966
CICs placed with family	1,218	989	229
CICs in Regular Family Care	416	375	41
CICs in Level 1 Care	804	588	216
CICs in Level 2 Care	1,719	1,393	326
CICs in Level 3 Care	1,435	1,230	205
CICs in Contracted Resources	802	715	87
Living Independently	205	160	45
Adoption Residency Period	263	263	0
Aboriginal Resources (through DAA)	801	100	701
Other <sup>1</sup>	466	351	115

<sup>1</sup> includes CICs placed with friends and in hospital/medical or correctional facility

	<b>Total</b>	<b>MCFD</b>	<b>DAA</b>
Number of Foster Parents	3,212	2,780	432

	<b>Number of Locations</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
Contracted Resources	427	802
Level 1 Care	345	804
Level 2 Care	803	1,719
Level 3 Care	843	1,435
Regular Family Care	242	416
Restricted Family Care	591	827
Total	3,251	6,003

## Work With Us to Develop Solutions!

Are you a foster parent living in a remote region of BC? Would you like to work with us on a research project?

We are fortunate to have among our foster parent membership, a faculty member of Royal Roads University who is conducting a research project about online strategies to provide foster parent support and education.

### Research Description

Establishing a support network of friends and colleagues who understand the complexities of foster parenting, as well as receiving appropriate education and training, is vital for the health and well-being of foster parents. In urban areas this can be challenging given the busy lives of those who care for vulnerable children and youth. However, in remote areas, developing a network of support and finding appropriate opportunities to take part in education can be even harder to achieve.

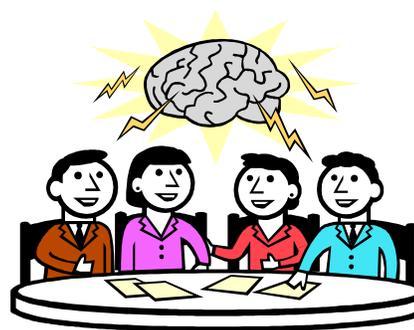
We will explore the challenges of fostering in remote areas and to find online tools that could be used to develop support structures and to educate foster parents.

The research will be conducted through surveys done with a focus group of approximately 20 participants. The time commitment is expected to be about 2 hours per participant over the next several months. The focus group will meet via conference call and, for those who are able to attend, at BCFFPA's 2013 AGM.

Participants will likely benefit by engaging in meaningful dialogue during the survey process and we hope they will create new connections with others in remote regions.

Our overall goal is, not only to improve supports for and education of foster parents, but to see less attrition of foster parents. This would ultimately result in fewer changes in homes for the children in care as well ensuring that caregivers are better supported in the care they provide to the children in their homes.

Please contact Jayne Wilson at 1-800-663-9999, if you are interested in participating in this focus group. We look forward to working with you!



## Special Resolutions

Whereas: (state circumstance)

Therefore: (state proposed special resolution)

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

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

*Proposals will be received, formatted and distributed for ballot voting by mail on April 11, 2012. Proposed Special Resolutions will be accepted from members in good standing (current members as of January 31, 2012).*

*Please submit one form for each Special Resolution proposed.*



### 2013 Early Membership Renewal Draw Winner!

Congratulations to Micheline  
Tremblay of Sparwood! Micheline  
won this year's Early Membership  
Renewal Draw has been a member  
since 2006. She received a  
preloaded Visa card worth \$250.

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

#### 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.

## A Message to Foster Parents from BC'S Representative for Children and Youth

by Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond

Hello and a very happy new year to all. Thank you for giving me space in your newsletter to bring you up to date on some of the activities in the Office for the Representative for Children and Youth.

In mid November, I released *Trauma, Turmoil and Tragedy: Understanding the Needs of Children and Youth at Risk of Suicide and Self-Harm* an aggregate review of 89 suicide and self-harm incidents reported to my Office between June 1, 2007 and May 31, 2010.

Included are 15 youth who died as a result of suicide and 74 youth who engaged in self-injury. Each of these youth had received services from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and/or a delegated Aboriginal Agency.

*Trauma, Turmoil and Tragedy* identifies a number of common circumstances in the lives of many of these children and youth. Instability was a significant factor in this report. Of the 89 youth whose files were reviewed, 58 were in care at the time of the incident reported to my office. Those 58 youth experienced a combined total of 776 moves while in care. Five of them had each been moved more than 30 times.

This level of disruption in the lives of vulnerable youth contributes to the inability to form positive social attachments and meaningful relationships necessary to thrive. I recommended in this report that MCFD and its delegated Aboriginal Agencies develop clear strategies to reduce the number of moves and disruptions experienced by children in care.

Mental health concerns were identified for nearly 70 per cent of the youth in this review, and lack of attachment to school was another common finding, as less than half the youth attended school regularly.

Despite domestic violence being a factor in more than half the files reviewed for this report, it does not appear that issues such as grief, loss, or recovery from violence are a primary consideration when children first come into care or receive services. The report recommends that MCFD take steps to address trauma experienced by these children, including conducting a thorough assessment whenever a child is taken into care in order to identify past trauma and plan services to address its effects.

Additionally, we found what is best described as varying degrees of compliance with practice standards in these cases.

There is no question that more could have been done for the children and youth in this report. Once in care or receiving services, little was done to assess the extent of their mental health needs or provide necessary trauma support.

On another front, I'd like you to know about the review of Child and Youth Mental Health services underway in my office. Over the past year and more, my office received an increasing number of calls from the public regarding the responsiveness of the youth mental health system of services. The nature of the concerns raised, the experiences of my advocacy team and the findings from the work of my investigations and review team all led me to decide that a review of these services for youth was necessary.

The project seeks to better understand how mental health services for youth ages 16 to 18 are delivered, and how well services are communicated and coordinated when youth are transitioning between different services.

Over the past year, information has been gathered through surveys, focus groups and interviews with practitioners, youth, parents and caregivers. Literature and jurisdictional research has been conducted to understand recent developments in child and youth mental health. I will be releasing a report on B.C.'s youth mental health system of services early in 2013.

The office has also launched a formal review of the Ministry of Children and Family Development's adoption program. The review of the adoption program is being undertaken within the broader context of permanency planning and how well the adoption program is meeting the goal of seeking permanency for children in care.

Adoption is an important outcome in child welfare – a permanent family home for those children who would otherwise remain in care until they reach adulthood. In my role as the Representative for Children and Youth, I have frequently spoken about the negative outcomes for children who "age out" of foster care. My office has also been concerned about the fact that fewer and fewer kids are being adopted every year and we have been wondering just how effective the government's adoption program is at creating "forever families" for our most vulnerable children and youth.

Over the past year, my office reviewed ministry policies and standards as well as adoption data. We partnered with the Adoptive Families Association of BC to seek the input of youth about their perspective and experience with the MCFD adoption program, and implemented an on-line youth survey. We are currently reviewing all of this information and I'm pleased to say that a report on government's adoption services will be completed and released in the coming months. It will include concrete suggestions for positive change.

And finally, in late November, I had the pleasure of hosting a luncheon for the recipients of the Representative's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Awards of Excellence, honouring those working on behalf of B.C.'s vulnerable children and youth. The Service Provider Award winner for 2012 is Mitchel du Plessis of Victoria, a foster parent and youth and family counselor who believes that building communities and empowering relationships are crucial elements when it comes to positive change for children and youth.

To learn more about Mitchel and the other amazing award winners and their contributions, I invite you to visit our website at [www.rcybc.ca](http://www.rcybc.ca) where we have posted videos and stories about them.

Thank you again for providing space for me in your newsletter. Remember, if you or those you work with would like to talk to one of my advocates, please contact my office. You can reach us from anywhere in the province at 1-800-476-3933 or email us at [rcy@rcybc.ca](mailto:rcy@rcybc.ca) You can also keep up to date with my office's activities by following us now on Facebook.

## Regional Delegate Reports

### Coast Fraser Region by Kathrynne Coxon

2013 has started off with a bang in the Coast Fraser region with an influx of support requests. We've received 42 calls to the office since October. Our volunteer supporters in the region are run off their feet! One volunteer logged 1125 hours of support in this region alone through 2012.

Amid the busy holiday planning the Abbotsford Local Association managed to coordinate a few Christmas family activities, which were enjoyed by all.

Chilliwack continues to proceed with monthly meetings 1st Monday of every month. In January a general discussion was held about how to reach Xyolhemeylh foster parents.

Abbotsford has a "Valentine's Family Gathering" coming up in February. This social format is proving to be successful in getting the foster parents and the children out to our community. It is a good platform to pass on information and for the foster parents to bond at the same time. Abbotsford will host a Support and Advocacy training in March. There is a Mental Health Forum being offered to foster parents in Abbotsford.

For those in the Surrey and Langley areas, remember that Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association still holds 2 meetings monthly—one in Surrey and another in Langley. Fraser Valley Foster Parent Associations will be hosting a workshop in PTSD in March. Contact Betty at 604-533-1924 to register.

Surrey Foster Local is ready to go. The Coast Fraser Delegate and other BCFFPA representatives will attend a start-up meeting soon.

Ridge Meadows Local Association extends an invitation to all Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows foster parents to join them at their meetings. It's been a while since they've seen some new faces. Please contact the BCFFPA office and ask for more information

The Tricities Local reports that they have received calls from over 20 foster parents in the region stating that only one bed is being filled in Level 2 and 3 homes. MCFD has indicated to the local foster parents that the Kith and Kin program is going to be very active. The Tricities local is planning ahead for a potluck to take place later in the year. The event will include music and dancing for teens and games for the younger children. For more information, please contact Jan Chapman at 604-444-4176.

#### *Report from the Sunshine Coast Local by Claude Cuff*

Generally speaking this Winter has been quieter than usual with regards to the Christmas holiday season and the completion of the first school term, both of which influence the behaviour of children and youth in our care. Foster parents here are doing a good job trailblazing.

Another round of the In-Service training has been completed and hopefully we'll have several new homes approved over the

next couple of months. Recruitment as we all know is becoming more difficult each year, and the economic climate is not helpful. Maybe the time has come again for foster parents and supporting agencies to bring maintenance and service fees back to the MCFD table.

There are currently 22 'foster homes', and 23 restricted homes in the Gibsons to Pender Harbour corridor. The foster home number is about 30% lower than it has been for several years. It should also be noted that the increase in restricted homes is practice becoming standardized round the province, and which is impacting existing foster homes in a variety of ways. Topic for serious conversation!

There is a presentation by the Legal Services Society (of BC) scheduled at the end of January to review/discuss changes to the *Family Relations Act*. Foster parents should have representation at these (provincial) meetings to be clear on how the changes will impact MCFD policies on how children/youth come into care, how community resources may be affected, how families will be directed through mediation etc. In small communities such as ours, community's resources are very limited, and so any increase in demand will eventually trickle down to foster parents. Food for thought.

### Vancouver Island Region by Jo Axe

At the start of another New Year our thoughts may turn back to review the things we have accomplished and forward to the things yet to come. Over the past year, there have been a number of activities in which BCFFPA has taken part, both on the Island and further afield. To name a few, we have been involved in ongoing foster parent support, rider insurance training, and Foster Family Month celebrations. In the year to come, I hope many of you will attend the May 2013 AGM in Vancouver. It is an excellent opportunity to connect with other foster parents and discuss issues of interest to all.

For me, this is the time for another change as I shift my focus. I am stepping down from the role of Island Delegate and moving into a less formal relationship with BCFFPA. As a faculty member at a university on Vancouver Island, I am about to embark on a research project with the BCFFPA executive director that we are hopeful will result in positive outcomes for foster parents – if you are interested, please read the article in the newsletter on page 8, titled "Work With Us to Develop Solutions".

We can all take pride in our commitment to providing quality care for the children in our lives. As always, I wish you and your families all the best, please let us know if there is anything that we can do for you at BCFFPA – the number to call is 1 800 663 9999.

### Interior Region by Kevin Daniel

First off I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

The last few months has brought some changes to the Interior Region to the way funding is being done for training and the way exceptional resource and guardianship payments are being dealt

## Regional Delegate Reports cont.

with. MCFD has recently completed a Financial and Policy Review, which has made apparent that they have varying interpretation within practice in the policy area. The larger centres have already received letter of upcoming meeting to discuss these practice changes. These will be taking place over the next few weeks. Some of the smaller centres are planning to send out letters before the end of January informing foster parents of these changes.

Each MCFD area will set up a committee to assess requests for exceptional payments based on the children in care and their needs, as well available resources. These exception payments would apply such things as additional relief, mileage, daycare, and other things. For more information please talk with your local MCFD, Local Association, or foster parent support worker. Please feel free to me or one of your area reps on the Interior Macro Board, or BCFFPA if you have any concerns to bring forward.

Over the last few months we have seen changes in how training dollars are applied in some of the outlying areas. It is difficult to entice foster parents to come training. There is also concern regarding the cost of going to a larger center to receive training and how this affects the children in care and budgets. The larger centres continue to host the bulk of the training opportunities (traumatic stress disorder, Support and Advocacy, Safe Babies). In spite of financial limits being imposed we have seen our share of success with a great turnout at Support and Advocacy Training in Vernon, Foster Parent Appreciation events, and Christmas parties that took place.

In closing, I feel concerned as only a small part of this report is positive, and I wonder what the next few months will bring to a system that is already stretch to the limit. The one thing that I believe will play a huge part is communication. Foster parents will need to express their concerns anyone who will listen. This year's AGM offer a good venue for foster parent to voice their concerns to those who have a key role in planning our youths' futures.

### North Region by Lee Lachmuth

Northern foster parents and their community partners are busy planning a Northern Conference for the year 2015. Keep watching for updates. We are also looking forward and making plans to be able to have as many Northern foster parents as possible attend BCFFPA's AGM in May 2013 in Richmond, BC.

We now have a real possibility of a Support and Advocacy Training in Prince George (open to all Northern foster parents) in April 2013 and plans are being made to facilitate this event. April 23 & 24 there will be a presentation from our Provincial office on the Rider Insurance. It's a great opportunity for introductions and questions. We are hoping to take advantage of this opportunity and have a speaker or two from our area give a presentation also. We welcome people from all our Northern communities to attend this event.

Partnership meetings are being held in several communities and good work and progress is happening at these meetings.

The formation of BCFFPA Locals remains a key goal for the North region. It is through communication with Locals (community gatherings of foster parents who meet regularly) that we can become stronger in our efforts to offer support to foster parents and negotiate with Ministry and Agencies to better serve the children in care and their families. Every foster parent is an important and valued member of our organization and community of practice.

It is a new year and Membership purchases and renewals need to be processed. If you have not yet renewed or purchased a BCFFPA membership, now is the time to follow through and get this done. The majority of your membership funds are returned into your region to support the activities of your Local Associations. Through your individual memberships we can host guest speakers on topics you need to know more about, offer training to build your skills and better meet our community's needs. Foster parents members also have a vote at our Annual General Meetings held in May of each year. Your voice and your vote are important to us.

In an attempt to provide information and service and an opportunity to network for Northern foster parents I will be sending out a date and time for a dial-in conference telephone call for foster parents in various Northern communities. I hope to have another member of our BCFFPA Board on the call also to help answer your questions and give information.

Thank you to all of you who have supported The BCFFPA and myself this past year and I look forward to speaking with you via conference calls or seeing you at the BCFFPA AGM in May.

### Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

In March 2012, the BC government established the Provincial office of Domestic Violence. The office is the permanent lead for the BC government in coordinating and strengthening services for children and families affected by domestic violence and is accountable for ensuring all provincial policies, programs and services related to domestic violence are effective and delivered in a comprehensive and coordinated manner across government. The office is part of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. More information is available at: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/podv/index.htm>

Domestic violence and abuse do not discriminate, but they can escalate. Violent acts can be physical, emotional, sexual or verbal and are often used as weapons of control and intimidation. Victims may suffer in silence and could be family members, friends or neighbors. If you or somebody you know is being abused, help is available.

Domestic violence is never ok and is not a private matter. More information is available at: <http://www.domesticviolencebc.ca>

VictimLink BC	1.800.563.0808
Kids Help Phone	1.800.668.6868
Helpline for Children in BC	310.1234

## It's That Time Again!

### Watch for the Deadline to Submit Applications for these BCFFPA Bursaries

#### Maurice Graydon Bursaries (4)

Maurice Graydon, a local Maple Ridge author and retired businessman, generously provides annual donations for these scholarships. The Maurice Graydon Bursaries will be awarded to youth currently or formerly in care who wish to continue their education.

Application Criteria: 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.

Application Deadline: May 31st, 2013\*

#### William Curtis Memorial Fund

The William Curtis Memorial Fund was established in January 1979 for foster children who have reached the age of majority and wish to continue with their education. It is awarded annually.

Application Criteria: Former foster children residing in BC, aged 19 who show an interest in continuing their education (whether to complete high school, attend a business/vocational school, college or university). High marks, though considered, will not be the only determining factor in awarding this bursary.

Application Deadline: May 31st, 2013\*

#### Merv Davis Bursary

The Merv Davis Bursary was established for foster children residing in the Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody or Pitt Meadows areas who have reached the age of 19 years old and wish to continue their education.

Application Criteria: Any youth who has been in care of the Ministry, residing in the Fraser River corridor (noted above), who has reached the age of 19 years, who intends to further his/her education, whether to finish high school, attend business or vocational school, college or university, and where other funds available are inadequate, is eligible to apply. The highest marks, although considered, will not be the only determining factor in the allocation of the bursary.

Application Deadline: May 31st, 2013\*

***\*All application forms for our bursaries are available through our website at [www.bcfofosterparents.ca](http://www.bcfofosterparents.ca).***



#### Natural Child Bursary

The Natural Child Bursary was founded in 1991 and is intended to be accessed by children born or adopted into a family providing foster care in BC.

Application Criteria: The eligible youth must be the child by birth or adoption, as stated above, to a foster family who are members of BCFFPA for three consecutive years since 1990. This can also apply to the child of an individual who is an Honorary Life Member. The youth must reside in BC, have graduated from high school and is interested in extending his/her education in any field of study. High grades, though considered, will not be the only determining factor in the allocation of bursary funds.

Application Deadline: May 31, 2013\*

#### **\*NEW\***

#### **BCFFPA General Scholarship Fund**

BCFFPA occasionally receives funds from donors that they request be put toward scholarships for children and youth who were formerly in care. The Board of Directors has outlined a General Scholarship Fund into which we can place donations from these generous donors. Unless directed to do otherwise, scholarships will be distributed under the name of the donor(s) until the funds are expended.

The General Scholarship Fund was established in 2013. One bursary will be distributed annually.

Application Criteria: Former foster children residing in BC, aged 19 who show an interest in continuing their education (whether to complete high school, attend a business/vocational school, college or university). High marks, though considered, will not be the only determining factor in awarding this bursary.

Application Deadline: May 31st, 2013\*

#### Camp For Kids 2013

Camp For Kids is an annual program that provides up to \$250 per child per eligible applicant (maximum 20 bursaries) to attend summer camp. Each year BCFFPA raises funds to help send foster kids to camp. Total funds available fluctuate from year to year. Please spread the word to your community business people and personal contacts regarding the benefits of providing this much needed support to foster families.

The application form can be found on our website and are accepted from February to the end of May each year.

# Community Resources

## Provincial Resources

<b>BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations</b> www.bcfosterparents.ca	1-800-663-9999
<b>Foster Parent Support Line</b>	1-888-495-4440
<b>Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents</b> www.fafp.ca	1-866-291-7091
<b>Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks</b> www.fbcyicn.ca	1-800-565-8055
<b>Adoptive Families Association</b> www.bcadoption.com	1-877-236-7807
<b>Pacific Post Partum Support Society</b> 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> www.parentsupport.bc.ca	1-800-665-6880
<b>Representative for Children &amp; Youth</b> 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> www.hollyburn.ca	604-987-8211
<b>Vancouver Aboriginal Child &amp; Family Services Society</b> www.vacfss.com	778-331-4500
<b>Family Services of Greater Vancouver</b> 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> www.svyc.ca (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> (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> (Westbank office)	250-768-4229
<b>Okanagan Foster Parent Association</b> 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> 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> (24/7 support) www.axis.bc.ca (satellite office locations online)	1-877-392-1003 Press 205
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*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: 500-625 Agnes Street,  
New Westminster, BC V3M 5Y4

Contact: 1-800-565-8055  
Local: 604-527-7762

**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