

fosterlineBC

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations



Summer 2016
Volume 14, Issue 2



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Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
3rd Floor
131 Eighth Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 3P6

E-mail: office@bcfosterparents.ca

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BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

Provincial Office—3rd Floor
131 Eighth Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 3P6

Toll Free: 1-800-663-9999
Fax: 604-544-1110
E-mail: office@bcfosterparents.ca
Website: www.bcfosterparents.ca

Provincial Staff

Executive Director	Jayne Wilson jayne@bcfosterparents.ca
Community Network	Ronda Sweeney ronda@bcfosterparents.ca
Support Coordinator/ Membership	Krissy Ramcharan krissy@bcfosterparents.ca
Caregiver Education/ Resource Worker Projects	Dianne Swansburg dianne@bcfosterparents.ca
Aboriginal Content Facilitator	Lenora Starr office@bcfosterparents.ca

Board of Directors

President	Russell Pohl Coast Fraser
Vice President	Tamara Smith Coast Fraser
Treasurer	Lance Bereck North
Secretary	Monica Buchanan Coast Fraser
Regional Delegates:	
Vancouver Coastal East	Victor Elkins
Vancouver Coastal Interior	Walter Aguilar
North	Kevin Daniel
Vancouver Island	Tanya Tagmann Chad Hooker

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 is a quarterly publication.

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

Well where has the time gone? Here we are 3 months out from our Foster Family Month AGM with so much to discuss and great anticipation for what lies ahead.

I have had the opportunity to attend some community meetings on Vancouver Island and attended the Kamloops Local Association AGM. I am glad to have met new foster parents and seasoned ones as well. I guess the first thing I want to say is how much I admire what you do. As a foster parent myself I know the challenges you face daily.

Be assured that we continue to record all your concerns and that we continue to work on the "to do list". We have many issues that lie before us that affect the entire province—including policy document changes, the ongoing disrespectful treatment of foster parents in some areas, home closures and lengthy investigation processes. Our Board is working hard to ensure that foster parents are informed and protected. We are continuously working on outreach within the fostering community. As new foster parents come on board and Ministry staff change, we have discovered that many caregivers aren't aware of all the foster support and information services available to them. We have and continue to make a priority of communicating with as many of foster parents as we can.

At AGM 2014 our members made a Motion to research the process and benefits of creating a foster parent union here in BC. There was continued interest in this topic was at AGM 2015. In response to this Motion, we continue our talks with a variety of sources on the pros, cons and logistics of unionizing and we will be hosting a union information workshop for our members and other participants at the upcoming AGM in Nanaimo. As we are a provincial organization that represents the foster parents of BC, we would be happy to hear from you about this or any other topic related to your fostering practice.

One large change that we are very excited about is that BCFFPA's Board of Directors has voted to bring the *Parent Resources for Information Development and Education (PRIDE)* training to BC's caregivers. (See page 9 for more details.) While at a recent Canadian Foster Families Association conference, I participated in several conversations with provinces and territories that utilize the PRIDE model to educate their caregivers. The feedback was very positive. It's notable that we are the 7th province to incorporate the PRIDE program.

With the AGM only a few months away, we are hoping that you come and share, network and relax with other foster parents. As it is hard for all of our Board members to travel through the province, this is a great way to have your voice heard.

As we head into summer, I want everyone to take some time for yourselves and your families. Make lifetime memories! For those of you travelling, have a safe trip; to all, have a great summer!!

Russell Pohl
President



Notes from the Office

Hello friends,

I can honestly say that the office has not been this busy in my 8 years at BCFFPA! While we are absorbed in development of the training projects there are still many other things that come up from day to day. All the staff have full workloads.

Most recently we are excited to share that we have signed a new contract with the Ministry that will allow us to provide services to our provincial community for several more years. This is very gratifying. It provides us with some stability, which is so rare in our sector, and it also gives us the opportunity to look ahead and plan for a longer period of time.

The President's summary and our delegate reports all reflect encouragement for foster parents to develop their networks, join in our community BCFFPA Local Foster Parent Associations' meetings, and to share your thoughts, successes and challenges. In order for BCFFPA to best advocate for the collective interests of BC's foster parents at our meetings with Ministry leaders, we need as much community-level information as possible. If you haven't been involved before, now is the time. Changes are coming and foster parents need to be informed and united. BCFFPA was created 49 years ago by foster parents such as yourselves for just this purpose.

We have had some changes with staff in the office and on the Board in recent months. Sheri Brown, who had taken on some project work has moved on to other exciting adventures. Lenora Starr from the Penticton area has joined us on contract to work with our Aboriginal Advisory Group to ensure that the trainings under development include necessary cultural information. Coast Fraser region's Victor Elkins has joined us recently as delegate for his area. And Monica Buchanan has taken on the Secretary role. Welcome to those of you who are new to BCFFPA!

As summer approaches we're gearing up for AGM season. We hope to see you all in Nanaimo for the launch of Foster Family Month 2016!

Jayne Wilson
Executive Director

BCFFPA AGM 2016
September 30 & October 1, 2016
in Nanaimo, BC

Join us in Nanaimo for our Annual General Meeting and Conference. We have negotiated very reasonable rates at the Coast Bastion Hotel.

We continue to mix things up a bit by spreading out our Camps for Kids fundraisers with a 50/50 draw during the workshop day lunch hour, the bucket draw on Friday night at the evening social event and we will be kicking off "Foster Family Month" by celebrating at the ever popular Banquet and Dance on Saturday.

Our room block is beginning to fill up. Book by August 29th to ensure you receive BCFFPA's foster parent rate!

*Superior One Queen Bed or Two Double Beds — \$129/night**
*Includes a 24 hour parking pass per night. Based on single or double occupancy.

*Please be sure to specify the group code "**CBI-GFC14599**" or "**BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations**" to access negotiated rates when reserving*
Phone: 250-753-6601 or toll free at 1-800-663-1144

Individual reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or advance deposit.



Tickets to Events for BC Foster Parents

BC foster parents can receive tickets to events through *Kids Up Front Foundation*. To be placed on the mailing list e-mail the Provincial office at office@bcfosterparents.ca or Debbie Drewitz at debbiedrewitz@gmail.com



What to look forward to at the AGM

Welcoming hospitality suite on Thursday evening

- ◆ Informative workshops on Friday
- ◆ Friday night social
- ◆ More fundraisers to send kids to camp! 50/50 draw
- ◆ Saturday night banquet dinner and dance
- ◆ A photo booth to create your own memories of the event
- ◆ Networking and learning with your colleagues and new friends

We hope to see you in Nanaimo!

IMPORTANT DATES

- July 8th** AGM Registration open [Registration package will be posted on website and e-mailed to members and stakeholders.]
- July 15th** Nominations and Special Resolutions must be received by BCFFPA Provincial office
- August 17th** Registration and Ballot packages mailed to members
- August 31st** Notification of AGM 2015
- September 16th** Deadline for BCFFPA office to receive mail-in votes

Winner of the Early Renewal Draw
Lee Lachmuth, Foster Parent in Kamloops

Congratulations!

You will receive a **complimentary registration at BCFFPA's 2016 AGM and 2 night stay at the Coast Bastion in Nanaimo** on September 30 & October 1, 2016
We look forward to seeing you there!

2016 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

BCFFPA will be holding the annual election for executive officer positions on our Board of Directors at our Annual General Meeting on October 1, 2016 at the Coast Bastion Hotel.

This year there are 2 positions for election on the BCFFPA Board of Directors Executive Committee:

- President
- Secretary

Each position has a two-year term. Nominations for each position **must** be received by the BCFFPA Provincial office by July 15th, 2016, for distribution to the membership for our mail voting process.

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

- Paid in full member as of January 31st of current year.
- Must be present at the AGM unless excused by the President for extraordinary reasons.
- Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
- Candidates and nominations for these officer positions shall be vetted by the Nominating Committee and are chosen for their knowledge and expertise in relation to these positions.
- If only one nominee's name is submitted for a posted position and they meet all eligibility criteria, the individual is considered to be elected by acclamation [Bylaw change 2014: Article 5, Section 2]
- 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.
- Candidates for Secretary position must have served for at least one year in the previous three years on a Local or Macro regional council, or on the BCFFPA Provincial Board of Directors.
- Nominees for President must have served on the Provincial Board of Directors for a least 2 years previously.
- Nominees require a nomination form duly moved and seconded by two BCFFPA members in good standing (ie. current membership as of January 31st of the present year).

**PLEASE FORWARD NOMINATIONS
TO THE FEDERATION PROVINCIAL OFFICE**

**BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
131 8th Street
New Westminster, BC
V3M 3P6**

Or by e-mail to: jayne@bcfosterparents.ca
(please request a response to your e-mail)
Or by fax: 604-544-2223

Dinner Menu

CFFA Fundraiser—October 22nd, 2016

Galbraith Conference Centre, New Westminster, BC

Join Mr. Mom for an all you can eat
Perogy Night

\$25 (includes one drink)

Choose from 5:00 or 7:00 seatings

Perogies * Kolbasa * Cabbage Rolls
Country Slaw

Limited liquor service available

50/50 draw held at event

For tickets contact:

russell.p@mrmomsworldcatering.com

604-782-7298



Coming to BC in Foster Family Month 2017

BCFFPA returns to Whistler

for our 50th Anniversary Celebrations
where we will host the

**Canadian Foster Family Association
AGM and Conference**

Join us for this exciting 4 day event!

***Nominations for Secretary and President
positions must be received by BCFFPA
provincial office no later than
July 15th, 2016***



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* _____

Message from Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Representative for Children and Youth

Hi everyone,

Let me start this update with a couple of good news developments. First, my Office held a forum this April at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo for former youth in care who have received tuition waivers at their post-secondary institutions. We gathered 30 youth together to find out what's working, what's not, and how their experience can be improved. We had great participation and got clear confirmation from the youth that their tuition waivers were the difference between getting an education or not. It's a real investment in our future, in case there was ever any doubt. So far, 12 out of 25 schools have taken up the challenge, and we're hopeful the remaining schools will follow suit.

Meantime, I have long advocated for extending the age of care past 19. Most youth are not ready to be on their own at 19, and sadly, many become homeless or find themselves otherwise marginalized after aging out. This issue has particular relevance to Aboriginal communities because Aboriginal youth are so drastically overrepresented in the government care system. That's why I was thrilled to participate in the Vancouver Foundation's Fostering Change campaign "Write the Future" launched in May, which is a petition campaign that aims to pressure government to extend the age of care to 25. Have you signed the petition yet? In this case, an act as simple as writing your name can really make a difference. Find the petition here <http://www.fosteringchange.ca/petition> and let's get the age of care extended!

In other news, I have released three reports recently:

- ◆ *A Review of Youth Substance Use Services in B.C.* examines publicly funded substance use treatment services for youth including how responsive services are to Aboriginal youth as well as systemic problems, and concludes that both prevention and treatment options in B.C. are spotty and piecemeal. In the report, I call on government to create a single point of leadership to focus on prevention and treatment.
- ◆ *Approach with Caution: Why the Story of One Vulnerable Youth Can't be Told* is a departure from my usual practice. The youth whose story is covered by this report continues to live in a high-risk situation, and to publish details of this person's life could increase the risk. For that reason, I provided only a basic description of my investigation. In this report, I have noted some things the ministry could improve upon, but I also acknowledge the efforts of MCFD staff.
- ◆ *Implementation of the Plecas Review, Part One: Decision Time* is a special report I issued in which I detail serious concerns I have with the *Plecas Review* and its complete lack of consultation with Aboriginal groups in the development of the report, inaccuracies in the report with respect to my Office, and government's steadfast refusal to permit me to examine the documents upon which Mr. Plecas apparently based his findings. My report calls on government to pause implementation of the *Plecas Review* and consult with Aboriginal groups, stakeholders and other communities of interest.

All of these reports are available on our website at www.rcybc.ca.

My Office has several other reports in varying stages of development which will be released in the coming weeks and months, including investigations into the tragic deaths of Alex Gervais and Nick Lang and a comprehensive report on educational outcomes for youth in care.

Our Social Media Youth Team continues to be busy working to raise awareness among youth about RCY's Advocacy services. Check out the video two of our youth wrote and produced called "We're here to help" and please do share it among your networks. We want all youth to know that RCY advocates are here for them. <https://youtube/2PMHAIjxOjM>

And finally, as I approach the end of my time as Representative I would like to thank you all for standing up for children and youth. As the Legislature will be reviewing the mandate and authority of the Representative's Office beginning in fall 2016, I hope you will speak up and encourage a strong level of oversight and accountability of services for children and youth. I also believe we need to make it explicit that advocacy for children and youth strengthens the rights they have and ensures that a rights focus is brought to this important area.

You can stay up to date on this and other news through our website (www.rcybc.ca), Facebook (facebook.com/rcybc and facebook.com/rcybcyouth), Twitter (@rcybc and @rcybcyouth) and Instagram (rcybcyouth).

Remember, our advocates are here for you – call us at 1-800-476-3933 or email us at rcy@rcybc.ca. And don't forget, if you are receiving or eligible to receive CLBC services, we can advocate for you until your 24th birthday. Don't hesitate to call!

Sincerely



Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
Representative for Children and Youth

**The Representative for Children and Youth
and her team are a Voice for Kids in BC**

The Representative for Children and Youth supports children, youth and families who need help in dealing with the child-serving system.

Reach beyond yourself

- Mother Teresa -

Special Resolutions

Whereas: (state circumstance)

Therefore: (state proposed special resolution)

Moved By: _____ Membership Number: _____
(name)

Seconded By: _____ Membership Number: _____
(name)

Proposals will be distributed for ballot voting by mail on August 17, 2016. Proposed Special Resolutions will be accepted from members in good standing (current members as of January 31, 2016). Please submit one form for each Special Resolution proposed.

“Special Resolutions”: 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—our 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 through a membership vote, the wording of the resolution is then submitted to the governmental authorities to become part of the Association’s permanent documentation.

BCFFPA Constitution and Bylaws document is available online at <http://bcfosterparents.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Constitution-and-Bylaws-2015.pdf>, or click on the image below if viewing online.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO Read Your Contracts Carefully Before Signing

We caution caregivers to CAREFULLY read and understand your contract or modifications to the contract before signing. Ask all your questions FIRST! Once you have signed it is difficult to have it changed, and you may find yourself out of pocket.

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

Constitution and Bylaws

(Revision 2015)



BCFFPA Project Updates

Caregiver Training

BCFFPA's Board of Directors is excited to announce to our foster community that, after much research, comparison and outline development done in partnership with BC's foster parent support agencies, delegated Aboriginal agencies and the Ministry, BCFFPA has chosen the Parent Resources for Information Development and Education (PRIDE) program for BC's new caregiver training. This program is used to educate foster caregivers and social workers in several other provinces across the country. The PRIDE community of practice ensures that the curriculum is reviewed and updated regularly. PRIDE offers a multi-modality curriculum that includes facilitated online training. Before we are ready to launch PRIDE across the province, the curriculum will be enhanced with information that is specific to BC's policy, practice and culture.

The implementation plan for our new education program will be defined by the Ministry in the coming months. We will be certain to keep you informed.

If you have questions about PRIDE, please contact BCFFPA directly (1-800-663-9999 or jayne@bcfosterparents.ca) so that we can be sure to answer your questions with the most up to date information.

Resource Social Worker Training

In consultation with Ministry resource social workers, leaders and in review of previous materials, BCFFPA's Board of Directors has selected the Justice Institute of BC to design and host the new resource social worker training curriculum. This will be the first official training of its kind in BC for resource social workers and we are expecting that this will be a core requirement after its development.

We are happy to be working with a strong committee of Team Leaders, other resource specialists and our Aboriginal Advisory Group who are lead by Lenora Starr, our content facilitator. With this gathering of community members, we will be able to address the required foundational topics that will enhance the skill set required of BC's resource social workers and foster caregivers alike.

If you have questions about the development of either of these trainings, please contact BCFFPA directly at 1-800-663-9999 or jayne@bcfosterparents.ca.

Advocacy & Community Outreach

For the first time in many years, BCFFPA has some funds available to apply to our support and advocacy program! These funds will allow us to host a training or two, to engage a much-needed part time coordinator and to reimburse expenses incurred by our peer support volunteers for travel and child care.

Every day we receive new requests from across the province to provide support in complex situations that include adoption placements with foster parents, transitions into other adoption placements, protocols and investigations, appeals, home closures, contract issues, reimbursement denials and often relationship breakdown between Ministry or delegated Aboriginal agency and foster caregivers. We are here if you need us. Currently working through 72 open support cases, we see all cases through to their conclusion.

In order to reintroduce ourselves to new Ministry staff, we will be taking advantage of all opportunities to meet with community Ministry leads and front line staff. If you have an abundance of new Ministry staff in your region, please let the office know so that we can connect with them when we are next in your area.

Recent Changes to the Family Care Home Agreement

If you have recently signed a Family Care Home Agreement, you may have noticed some changes in the wording. BCFFPA was not consulted prior to these changes taking effect and we have been in discussions with the Ministry regarding some concerning deletions and additions to the contract. Largely the changes were for the purpose of clarification—to ensure that processes and reference policy documents were most accurately represented.

After receiving our lawyer's assessment of the new version of the contract, we have requested the changes we felt would better reflect the best interests of foster parents. Most notably you may notice in Schedule C, point 5 states that foster parents are responsible for the payment of the deductible amounts associated with all insurance policies. While this is true for the majority of insurance coverage, it is not the case for the Rider Insurance program.

We have received verbal confirmation that the intention of the Ministry is to follow the process outlined in Appendix D of the Caregiver Support Service Standards (CSSS) which states that the Ministry will be responsible for Rider Insurance deductible payments for property damage claims that are submitted after the maintenance amount is expended. Please be aware of this, regardless of the new statement on your Care Home Agreement. If you feel it is necessary, you can print out Appendix D of the CSSS and request that it be added to your contract.

Once our requested changes have been implemented, this additional step should be unnecessary.

Please call the office if you have questions.



FosterlineBC at BCFFPA
1-800-663-9999

...for information, support and referral

Regional Delegate Reports

Coast Fraser Region—Walter Aguilar

The north Fraser region recently provided its second Safe Babies training. We had 12 participants who successfully completed and another 18 successfully complete an earlier training. The resource team plans to offer this training twice a year.

Foster Parent Aboriginal Cultural training is offered in the Fraser region; next scheduled is in September 2016. These courses discuss practical ways to help you make family, cultural and community connection for Aboriginal children in care. Please come and share an evening meal and learn. You can call your resource liaison for more details. Invitations to foster parents will be sent in the mail.

Fraser region is in the process of gathering information to provide Naloxone training to youth and their caregivers—foster parents and staffed homes. Naloxone is an emergency treatment for opiate overdose. This training will be rolled out in 3 phases. Stay tuned for additional information.

Pre-service training is being delivered for the general public who have applied to become foster parents. This is mandatory training. Please contact the resource team at 604-520-2900 for further information.

North Fraser provides ongoing information to the general public regarding fostering. These sessions are held twice a month—one during the day and one in the evening. The next information session will be held on June 14, 10 am to noon at 200-906 Roderick Avenue, Coquitlam. Please call 604-520-2900 to register.

Interior Region—Kevin Daniel

Another year has come and gone; changes abound in the Interior. We have seen changes on the regional level with Gerri Burleigh taking the president role on the Regional Board. Long time MCFD Executive Director of Service David Hall, in the Thompson-Cariboo Region, retired with Teresa Dobmaier stepping into the position.

On the provincial level, we saw our biggest change with loss of our dear friend and mentor of the Regional Board, Heather Bayes. Heather passed away in March after a battle with cancer. When I last met with Heather back in early February, she was eager to talk about what was affecting foster parents in the Interior as well as provincial issues, and the best ways to deal with them. Heather's vast knowledge and enthusiasm for fostering will be missed.

Lack of foster homes in the Interior is a concern. Experienced foster caregivers are needed to replace the foster homes that are retiring. The lack of homes is creating overages and therefore is leading to the burnout of caregivers. This also creates scenarios where foster parents are unable to further necessary education. Area such as William Lake, Kamloops, Kelowna and Cranbrook are now down to a third of the homes from 7 years ago.

The Interior is seeing a loss of Locals in the smaller towns due to lack of foster parents. There has been some effect on more active Locals as fresh new faces are not participating.

I encourage all caregivers to participate in partnership meetings as well as connect with your regional delegates on the Regional and Provincial Boards to communicate the successes and areas in which there can be improvement in your region.

As a member of both the Provincial and Regional Boards, I continue to look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Vancouver Island Region—Chad Hooker

Hello Vancouver Island,

Since committing to the Board of Directors with the BCFFPA, and accepting the honour of Vancouver Island Delegate, I have had the privilege to network with so many amazing foster parents and connect with a great deal of MCFD staff. The challenge for me on Vancouver Island has been the simple task of exposing and creating awareness regarding the BCFFPA.

As the membership is well aware, the BC Federation of Foster Parents have been around for almost 50 years! WOW! Here on the Island, we want to extend our hand of praise to ALL foster parents, for your incredible hard working dedication towards the children and youth in your care—without you many children and youth would go without the love and support they so desperately need. Thank you! You, as foster parents, also need support, care, and a voice, and for that, we are here for you!

We are a healthy, committed, passionate, and dedicated working Board across this incredible province. As members of BCFFPA we should be excited to be part of an organization that has such a long term history as the provincial voice for foster parents. Let's continue to work together as a team to make this Island and this province a better environment for children and youth in care. The BCFFPA is "all ears" when it comes to your questions, needs, or concerns. Please don't hesitate to call or email the BCFFPA office or myself as your Vancouver Island Delegate.

You will be happy to know that the VI Regional Partnership Meeting in Nanaimo in February was a huge success, seeing a packed boardroom of more than 40 foster parents and MCFD staff. Our President, Russell Pohl, as well as myself (and my wife Tanya, haha), were in attendance for this communicative meeting. For those interested, the development of a Vancouver Island Local for the BCFFPA is well underway. The first Local in many years is being put together in the Courtenay community, to much pleasure of the fostering community. As changes to the fostering system begin to filter down the line, foster parents are understanding the importance of being a BCFFPA member with an active Local. This is a great opportunity to get involved in a support network of like minded foster parents with access to all MCFD leaders.

We are seeing a great deal of individuals on the North end of the Island interested in becoming members of the BCFFPA—some new, some returning. Stay tuned in...or call for more details if you yourself are interested in being part of this provincial voice and joining this Vancouver Island Local.

Coming this September, just in time for Foster Parent Appreciation Month...The BCFFPA AGM!! HURRAY!! Join us September 30 and October 1, 2016 @ the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo!

Call the office for more details on the GREAT deal for hotel rooms. I strongly encourage Vancouver Island dwellers, and every other region across BC, to take advantage of this year's AGM. This will be an amazing opportunity to connect with other foster parents, get informed, have fun, and meet new people in your own and other fostering communities from all over BC...not to mention, meet the dedicated staff and Board members of the BCFFPA.

North Region—Tanya Tagmann

Tonight as I sit down to write and reflect, I am struck by the scope of our fostering lives.

Today I renewed my contract—the new contract version that I have concerns about but signed anyway. Today my resource worker was in for my overcapacity home visit and we got to reflect on about 2 years of advocacy to make a big change in someone's life. Today I had a planning meeting for the summer BBQ; a great exchange of information and inspiration with another foster parent. Today my best foster parent buddy has kids coming from after-hours. I am hoping she calls me to go to Walmart with her so I can meet the kids. Today I did a major shop for our Child and Youth in Care Week event...door prizes galore! Yeah, today. I am guessing we all had a day like today—jam packed and a bit of a blur.

Over the past few months I have: attended an event called Leadercast—a presentation on leadership, mixed with fresh ideas. I attended our partnership meetings. The foster parent support group had a presentation from the SCAN Clinic—Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect, which was informative and very worthwhile attending. I attended 3 meetings as a support/advocate. I also attended an information meeting regarding 54.1 and adoption. I now have a clearer understanding of these two permanency options and what the differences are.

The Prince George Local Board of Directors will be looking for 2 new volunteers in September. Amber, our secretary, will be moving on. Thank you for your service Amber! Candida, our member at large and tech person, will also be moving to Kamloops this summer. Candida was the Local president for many years and her contribution to the local fostering community has been deeply felt. She has been the go-to person for questions regarding policy and best practice. She has also been deeply committed to our partnership meetings. Candida has been a mentor and friend to many of us. All the best Candida on your new adventure! Kamloops, you guys are lucky. Ask her out for a coffee! She is great!

The BCFFPA AGM is quickly approaching and I am really excited. I love being in a room full of people who are filled with the wisdom and experience I need to draw from. I can ask an expert or read a book but you folks really have what I need to improve and grow as a foster parent. I look forward to meeting you as we come together to learn, share, and support one another.

A project I am working on is the foster parent survey. I have many questions about our work and how people are impacted by fostering. It is important to have real data to communicate to our agency and Ministry partners.

I am having regular conversations about maintenance payments and how the annual allotments are falling short.

In the morning as the kids head off to school I always say "I am cheering for you". I want to share that sentiment with you as well. I am cheering for the foster parents of BC who are moving through yet more changes and doing more with less.

No phone call for the Walmart run so I guess it's time to pack it in for today. Best wishes to you and your foster family.

Seeking Additional Donations—Fine Arts for Kids

Are you skilled with Fine Arts or do you know someone who has these skills? In order to support our [Fine Arts for Kids Fund](#), we're seeking individuals who would be able to donate some time to provide lessons to foster children. Whether it's music lessons, sewing, painting or pottery—knitting, fabric arts, drum making or stained glass, please let us know if

you or someone you know would be available to assist BC's children and youth in care to develop these valuable skills.

BCFFPA is seeking additional donations from art and music supply stores so that we can further support the program. Please forward any information for contacts you may have to ronda@bcfosterparents.ca. Thank you!

Extended Health Care Packages by Canada Financial

Canada Financial's Ian Bideshi is available to put together individual extended health benefit insurance packages for foster parents. Currently he is offering a 10% discount for foster parents who utilize Canada Financial's services.

Ian has helped over 110 foster parents and has saved them thousands of dollars over the past 15 years. Canada Financial also offers segregated funds which have some guarantees for your investments.

Contact Ian at 604-862-4262 for more information.

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

BCFFPA's AGM 2016 in Nanaimo hosts: *Building Bridges Through Understanding "The Village"*

During this **experiential** workshop we will explore our personal role in supporting the revival of the values that worked so beautifully in indigenous villages for thousands of years. We will also explore in-depth the affects of Residential Schools and Canada's Policy of Assimilation. This workshop is geared to solutions rather than recrimination and is a great forum in which to ask questions. Participants who participate in these often emotion provoking workshop experiences comment that while they understood a bit about the issue on a cognitive level, after participation in *Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village* they understand on a deep emotional level as well. The workshop is done from a non-blame and non-shame perspective and invites all participants to become a part of the healing that IS already happening. Kathi's work has been inspired by Jann Derrick's teachings of 'The Circle and The Box' and by many Elders' teachings.

Kathi Camilleri is an Aboriginal woman who has coordinated healing programs in the Aboriginal Community for 19 years. She has a Master's Degree in Leadership Studies. Kathi works with Aboriginal Mental Health and has her own consulting business. She facilitates strategic planning sessions and experiential workshops regarding Canada's Policy of Assimilation and Colonization with social workers, foster parents, health care workers, church groups, students and educators, frontline workers in communities across Canada. The healing power and personal impact of this work elicits rave reviews. One participant wrote: *"Kathi uses humour, kindness and wisdom to hold the space safely for us while we change how we see the world and*



how we forever interact with those who have Aboriginal Heritage. It is easy to learn because of her gentle ways, and her respect for all people."

Learning outcomes:

- ◆ A cognitive and emotional understanding of traditional First Nations values,
- ◆ A deep and emotional insight into the depth and intergenerational effects of Colonization,
- ◆ Methods for creating supportive relationships in a positive way.

Co-facilitation and Mental Health support provided by Meredith Martin.



Meredith is of Coast Salish ancestry. Her people are of the Sneymuxw Nation in Nanaimo. She has a Masters Degree in Counselling Psychology. Meredith works with Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health and has her own private practice. She has assisted Kathi Camilleri in her workshops for the past seven years. Meredith is passionate about increasing understanding of the impact of Residential School on Aboriginal Peoples.

A NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THIS WORKSHOP

The course will be addressing Residential School and its affects in an in-depth way. Participation may trigger unresolved grief and loss issues for some. It is imperative that participants know this in advance and have an understanding that coming to the workshop is not mandatory—you are invited to attend should you choose to. Support will be accessible during and after the workshop.

CANADA'S 2nd LARGEST

B.C.'S HIGHEST

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foster parents
British Columbia
BCFFPA

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Foster Parents teach kids to shoot for the stars

Summer Fun Bucket List

44 FUN THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS

- Go swimming.
- Walk to the neighborhood park.
- Play in the splash pad.
- Visit the bookstore.
- Go on a movie date.
- Make an art craft.
- Play basketball.
- Paint a canvas.
- Play soccer.
- Ride bikes.
- Play hopscotch.
- Play board games.
- Build puzzles.
- Cook something yummy.
- Make popsicles.
- Organize toys.
- Visit the zoo.
- Go to the museum.
- Visit a new park.
- Go on a picnic.
- Check out books from the library.
- Dress up in costume.
- Build a blanket fort inside.
- Play in the sprinklers.
- Make water balloons.
- Plant flowers.
- Play cards.
- Play hide & seek.
- Draw with sidewalk chalk.
- Go berry picking.
- Attend a workshop.
- Go bowling.
- Play miniature golf.
- Make 'Frozen' paint.
- Fly a kite.
- Make s'mores.
- Make a treat for neighbors.
- No TV day(s).
- Get dressed up for lunch date.
- Pay for car behind at Starbuck's.
- Nature scavenger hunt.
- Try a new food.
- Wash bikes.
- Write & send a letter to Grandparents.

Foster Community Resources

Provincial Resources

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

Coastal Fraser

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

Hollyburn Family Services www.hollyburn.ca	604-987-8211
Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society www.vacfss.com	778-331-4500
Family Services of Greater Vancouver www.fosterhub.ca	604-279-7100
Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association	604-533-1924
Abbotsford Community Services Foster Parent Caregiver Support	604-859-2165
South Vancouver Youth Centre 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.

Foster Parent Support Services Society	1-888-922-8437
FPSSS (Victoria)	778-430-5459
FPSSS (Nanaimo)	250-619-6553
FPSSS (Campbell River)	250-286-0555
Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (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.

Okanagan Foster Parent Association www.okfosterparents.ca	
Central Okanagan	250-870-8991
North Okanagan	250-558-0939
South Okanagan	250-488-0561
Shuswap	250-253-4499
Okanagan Metis Children & Family Services	250-868-0351
Interior Community Services 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.

AXIS Family Resources (24/7 support) www.axis.bc.ca (satellite office locations online)	1-877-392-1003 Press 205
Community Bridge Fort St. John	250-785-6021 (ext. 235)

We are in the process of developing our Community Resources page. Please submit your relevant contacts to jayne@bcfosterparents.ca.

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
- Business card ~ 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 - 131 Eighth Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 3P6**

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

131 Eighth Street
New Westminster, BC V3M

