



FosterlineBC

Celebrating 50 Years!



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foster and
adoptive parents

1-800-663-9999

BC Federation of
Foster Parent Assoc.

bcfosterparents.ca

Another branch of the family tree

Foster parents are needed in all BC communities

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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: 604-544-2223
office@bcfosterparents.ca • www.bcfosterparents.ca

Provincial Staff & Volunteers

Executive Director	Jayne Wilson jayne@bcfosterparents.ca
Community Network	Ronda Sweeney ronda@bcfosterparents.ca
Membership/Reception	TBA
Social Media/Marketing	TBA
Caregiver & Resource Social Worker Trainings	Dianne Swansburg dianne@bcfosterparents.ca
Fund Development	Anita Cymet anita@bcfosterparents.ca
Solutions Program	Russell Pohl solutionsfacilitator@bcfosterparents.ca

Board of Directors

President	Marcy Perron Interior
Vice President	Russell Pohl Coast Fraser
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Vancouver Coastal	Walter Aguilar/Victor Elkins
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For Board of Directors contact information, please call the Provincial office.

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

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

I'm writing this report and the sun is shining and the snow is gone. I'm hoping this means we can now say hello to Spring. Your BCFFPA provincial office has been very busy this winter trying to resolve most, if not all, of your Motions brought forward at our AGM.

We have had feedback from foster parents regarding additions to the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and the committee working on this hopes to have the changes finalized and the new Foster Parent Bill of Rights prepared for our AGM in October. As well, we have received applications from all regions from foster parents interested in participating on a committee to discuss the possibility of aligning with a union. The committee will be formed before the end of April.

We have been in talks with an insurance representative who has been trying to set up a plan for foster parents. This continues to be a very challenging task for a number of reasons—one being the fact that we are all contractors and another being that there isn't much of a spread between the ages of foster parents. The majority of foster parents fall into the 40-60 age group with a much smaller number in the 20-39 age group. We still have so many foster parents between the ages of 60-80 as well. We will, however, keep trying until we either have a plan to present or know for certain that there is no opportunity to create a plan at this time.

We are, at every opportunity, bringing the Ministry's attention to the need for more foster homes in most areas and the fact that the foster parents in BC have not had an increase in payments for 10 years.

Russell and the staff in the office continue to work hard planning and fundraising for our 50th anniversary celebration to be held at our AGM in Whistler this October. Russell has also graciously agreed to be our interim Vice President while still working as the advocate/solutions facilitator for foster parents in the lower mainland and across BC.

Your Executive Director, Jayne Wilson, and her staff along with our Vice President, your Regional Delegates and I continue to work hard for you and if we have not accomplished everything on the 2016 Motions list by our AGM, know it will not be from a lack of trying!

I wish you all good health and a wonderful spring!

Marcy Perron
President

Notes from the Office

Another fiscal year has ended and my annual report card (in the form of year end financial statements) will be handed to me soon by our bookkeeper and auditor. Every year I compete against myself to see what efficiencies can be put in place and to see how much money can be saved in each budget category. We EDs have to get our kicks somehow!

As Marcy reported, we are making headway on many of the Motions from this past AGM. In addition to this we continue to work on the new training for foster parents. The pre-service pilot has been completed and the brand new foster parents who were asked to participate in the pilot felt the training was very relevant and well presented. *See page 8 for a full update on the three trainings currently being developed!* Yes, I said three. Out-of-Care/Kinship families have never had a training program available to them. We're happy to say that, as we often provide support to these families, we will be able to direct them to further education.

Our Fund Development Coordinator has us speaking at community service groups and is busily networking with her many contacts. Happily we are seeing donations and grants come in as a result of her existing and newly established relationships with funders.

Russell Pohl has stepped into the role of Vice President to fill the position until the AGM following Tamara Smith's resignation from the role. Russell continues to be in the office regularly and is available to provide support to foster parents across the province. You can reach him through the toll free line at 1-800-663-9999.

We continue to request that BCFFPA be involved in MCFD's current discussions regarding restructuring of the payments for foster parents. All indications are that we will be brought in at some point. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you up to date.

BCFFPA has taken on a new project to arrange for the completion of SAFE home studies for potential fostering applicants who have been waiting. We are excited to be taking on this type of work and are hopeful that this project will result in an increased number of foster homes in the province!

BCFFPA has officially entered our 50th year of providing service to BC's foster parents and sector stakeholders. The [AGM registration package is now available](#) and the hotel block is filling up quickly! The event this year spans from Wednesday through to Saturday's banquet. The amazing hotel rate of \$169/night is available for a few days either side of the event, so we encourage you to make a mini-holiday of your time in Whistler! We think you will be pleased with the workshop lineup and we hope to see you there.

Jayne Wilson
Executive Director

Apply for the AGM Bursary by June 1, 2017

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is supporting this year's BCFFPA AGM in Whistler! Bursaries will be given to two foster parents in each of BC's service delivery areas which will cover the cost of your Conference and AGM registration fee (\$500).

If you would like to have an opportunity to receive one of the bursaries, please submit the following information to our office by June 1st, 2017. **Please note, bursaries for BCFFPA's AGM 2017 are open to all foster parents in BC regardless of BCFFPA membership.**

Instructions to Apply for AGM 2017 Bursary

Send us the following information by mail, e-mail or fax by June 1, 2017:

1. Your name, address, city, postal code and at least one phone number where we can contact you.
2. Provide your e-mail address.
3. The name of who you contract for as a foster parent? (MCFD, Delegated Aboriginal Agency or other agency)
4. If you have a current contract. (Applicant contract status will be verified.)
5. Send the above information to BCFFPA by e-mail, regular mail or fax:

E-mail: ronda@bcfosterparents.ca

*Address: BCFFPA
3rd Floor—131 Eighth Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 3P6*

Fax: 604-544-2223

Winners will be notified by phone and e-mail (if provided) by June 30, 2017.

We hope to see you in Whistler!

You may wonder why the AGM registration fee is a bit more this year? This year's event has an actual value of over \$2700 and provides:

- 1 national working group
- 2 full days of workshops
- 8 meals including 2 banquets
- 5 networking sessions
- entertainment
- and a wellness evening for foster parents

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations hosts the Canadian Foster Family Association in Whistler for our 50th Anniversary AGM & Conference!

The BCFFPA Provincial office is busy planning for the 2017 AGM and we have a lot of great events! The hotel block is now open for reservations and we encourage you to book your accommodations as soon as possible.

**Join us at the beautiful Fairmont Chateau Whistler!
October 4*, 5, 6 & 7, 2017**

**** SPECIAL RATE \$169.00/night****

Call today to make your reservation at the
Fairmont Chateau Whistler
1-800-606-8244

(Please quote "[BCFFPA – BC Federation of Foster Parents](#)" or group code [1017BCFF](#) when booking.)

*The Canadian Foster Family Association will be hosting a Working Group/World Café on Wednesday, October 4 in the afternoon. We encourage all BC foster parents and agencies to join in.



Insurance Basics and Updates

Insurance can be very confusing. Many perceive the purchase of insurance coverage as an unnecessary expense. We continue to hear from foster parents who believe that they will never need to submit a claim, and so they opt out of purchasing homeowner's or tenant insurance. While some of us can perhaps afford to pay for any significant losses to property and belongings, many (or maybe most) of us can't.

Insurance is a form of risk management. It allows individuals, businesses and other entities to protect themselves against a variety of *significant potential losses* and resulting hardship at a reasonably affordable rate. The word "significant" is important, because if the potential loss is small, then it doesn't make sense to pay a monthly or annual premium to protect against the loss. You wouldn't choose to pay a monthly premium to protect against a \$50 loss because it wouldn't be a financial hardship or significant *enough* loss to require insurance. A *significant potential loss* is something that would cost a great deal to replace or repair or that would have an impact on your ability to earn a living. This is where you will find that insurance coverage can protect you and your family.

Insurance can be purchased to cover a variety of losses including:

- Property and contents of your home
- Special items in your home with additional value such as artwork and jewelry
- Pet health and injury
- Your family's health
- Vehicles and trailers
- Disability (short and long term)
- Health and life

Insurance policies are intended to cover against risks such as:

- Weather and natural disasters (windstorms, hail, floods, forest fires, earthquakes)
- Accidental and intentional damages (theft, vandalism, house fires, other accidents)
- Loss of ability to work due to injury or health
- Loss of life

We occasionally hear of foster parents suffering through extreme losses of contents or health who, regrettably, have no insurance. From the situation of the foster mother who contracted a serious illness from her foster child and was unable to continue to care for children who then had no income and no home—to the foster parent who suffered a total loss of their home in a fire; without insurance we can suffer life-changing and irreplaceable losses.

BCFFPA is continuously pursuing avenues that would allow a group health insurance plan for foster caregivers to be feasible. There are several obstacles that we are seeking ways around. Until the day that this coverage is available, please look into securing your own health

insurance through a private provider or seek personal protection for your ability to work through WorksafeBC. WorksafeBC's plans are very affordable and invaluable for those who have needed to access their services.

We occasionally receive Rider Insurance claims that cannot be processed or triggered because the foster parent does not have a homeowner or tenant insurance policy in place. The Rider program has very clear guidelines regarding coverage and, like all other policies, there is no flexibility. If the criteria for coverage is not met, the policy will not be triggered.

Please ensure that your community members are aware that they are required to secure their insurance coverage as stated in the Family Care Home Agreement that they sign. The Rider Insurance mirrors the coverage foster parents secure for their own homes.

BCFFPA will be travelling in the Kootenays and Southern Interior in the first week of June 2017 with Emma Megson, from Megson FitzPatrick Insurance Services. We will be providing Rider Insurance information workshops for the following communities:

- Invermere
- Cranbrook
- Creston
- Nelson
- Castlegar
- Grand Forks
- Penticton
- Kelowna

For more information about specific dates or to request a Rider Workshop presentation in your area, please call 1-800-663-9999.

BCFFPA

Another branch of the family tree...

BCFFPA's foundation is our community of foster parents. For years we have referred to our community-level groups as "Locals". In keeping with our rebranding process, which began 5 years ago, we are changing things up a bit. Our logo along with our tag line, "another branch of the family tree", were chosen because trees reflect growth, strength, roots, resilience and endurance. The Board of Directors has decided to change the common usage of the word "Local" and replace it with "Branch". Here's to the many BCFFPA Branches across the province! Happy 50th Anniversary!



Message from Bernard Richard, Representative for Children and Youth

Hello everyone, and thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm Bernard Richard, B.C.'s new Representative for Children and Youth. I am truly honoured and grateful for the warm welcome I have received, and am so pleased to have the chance to build upon the important work of my predecessor, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond. It is a huge challenge and responsibility to work in support of some of society's most vulnerable people, and one that I feel passionate about professionally and personally.

Let me start by filling you in on the latest developments at RCY, and then tell you more about myself. First, as you may be aware, my Office recently released *Broken Promises: Alex's Story*, a troubling report about the suicide of a Métis youth who was soon to age out of care. In this report I make four recommendations, including that the Ministry of Children and Family Development provide the level of support necessary to support successful foster placements for youth with extended family or another adult with a positive connection to a child or youth; that MCFD significantly increase oversight and financial accountability for contracted residential services; and that it ensure Indigenous children in care are connected with their cultural background.

Ultimately, it is my hope that this report helps improve systems of care for B.C. youth and helps to ensure that nothing like this tragedy ever happens again. You can see the complete report and all the recommendations on our website at <https://www.rcybc.ca/brokenpromises>.

We also have four other reports planned over the coming year examining staffing levels at Delegated Aboriginal Agencies, education outcomes for children and youth in care, a report on a young man who died by suicide at a BC hospital and an update on adoptions in BC.

As for me, I know I am a new face to many readers, so let me tell you a bit about myself. I am a family man, with four children and eight grandchildren, some of whom live here in BC. I have a background in law and social work and am from the small fishing village of Cap Pelé in New Brunswick.

I also have a background in government. I served as a member of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly from 1991 until 2003 in both government and opposition. Along the way, I held several cabinet portfolios, including Education, Justice and Attorney General, and minister responsible for social policy renewal. In 2004, I was appointed New Brunswick Ombudsman and, in 2006, I was named New Brunswick's first Child and Youth Advocate. In this capacity, I worked alongside other provincial and territorial advocates and am familiar with the issues facing vulnerable children and youth nationally.

Volunteer work is important to me. I founded the First Nations Children's Futures Fund which supports the development of culture, language and leadership opportunities for First Nations children in New Brunswick, and I have worked in support of youth mental health through several groups and initiatives. I have supported children and youth in several countries, working to gain access to clean water, prevent violence against children and, in particular, seek opportunities for girls. I have also worked in support of children's rights in Francophone countries and chaired the board of directors of Plan Canada. Before I came to B.C., I was working with First Nations Chiefs in New Brunswick to restructure child and family services, with a focus on prevention and early intervention services.

A key issue for me is reducing the high number of Indigenous children and youth in care in B.C. The numbers are alarming, and I believe it is vitally important that children retain strong connections to their extended families, cultures and natural environments. This will take substantial investment in prevention services, as outlined in Grand Chief Ed John's November 2016 report on Indigenous child welfare in B.C., and I'm pleased to see that government has accepted his recommendations.

Other priority areas for me include child and youth mental health, the rights of children and youth, and better supports for youth aging out of care.

Finally, I would like to say a word about the advocacy services my Office offers. This is critical work for RCY, and that will not change. My Office has a full staff of advocates in all three of our locations whose work really forms the backbone of what we do here at RCY. Advocates are available to speak to children, youth and their families to help them navigate problems with government, get connected to programs and services they need, and discuss rights and how to speak up in ways that may solve the problem. We recognize that, for our callers, their issue may be the biggest they have ever faced, and we are here to help. I encourage you, or any youth or family you may know, to call us if you need our services. RCY advocates can be reached 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.

I am eager to meet as many of you as I can over the coming months. It's important to me to meet those in B.C. who are working towards the same goals. I know that you share my passion for supporting B.C.'s children and youth, and I am looking forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,
Bernard Richard
Representative for Children and Youth



Participating in BCFFPA Subcommittees

Did you know that BCFFPA's subcommittees are open to membership participation? Our subcommittees are lead by members of our Board of Directors or our Executive Director, but if are a BCFFPA member and you have interest in participating, you can join in. Currently we have openings on the following subcommittees:

- Fundraising and Development
- Membership and Branch Development

If you are interested in participating in a subcommittee, please contact the office at 1-800-663-9999.

New Supports Give Young Adults from Care a Technological Boost

Submitted by Adoptive Families Association of BC

Young adults leaving government care will be eligible for new technological supports, including cell phones and laptops, to help them successfully transition into adulthood and launch their post-secondary education.

Cell phones will be distributed starting this spring to up to 1,000 young adults thanks to a \$1.2-million investment between TELUS, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services (MTICS). First priority will go to young people who are enrolled in school or training through the Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) program.

The Moto 3G cell phones will include monthly phone and data plan credits for up to two years. Cell phone bills will be paid by TELUS in the youth's name to help them develop a positive credit rating and encourage responsible cell phone use. TELUS is also developing a cell phone app to advise youth about MCFD programs and relevant information. The initiative is part of TELUS's Mobile for Good, a pilot project with the B.C. and Alberta governments to reduce barriers to technology by providing families in need with affordable internet service, refurbished computers and training.

Youth leaving care who are attending post-secondary training will also be eligible to receive a new laptop computer thanks to a partnership between IBM, MCFD and MTICS. Under the \$150,000 funding agreement, 369 young adults will receive a laptop this spring, including 19 and 20-year-olds with an AYA agreement and 18 and 19-year-olds in government care who are pursuing post-secondary studies. In a recent pilot project, Reuse Tech BC provided refurbished computers to young adults enrolled in Tuition Waiver Programs.

As well, AgedOut.com, a website for young adults in and from care about relevant programs and services, features two new e-learning modules on Healthy Eating and Dollars and Sense to promote nutrition and financial management. The new modules were developed in partnership with the Adoptive Families Association of BC (AFABC), the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) and the Ministry of Health with input from former youth in care.

Government's goal is to ensure that young people leaving care have the appropriate supports in place as they move into adulthood. There is a cross government effort to create new programs and improve existing ones for this unique and vulnerable group who lack traditional family support. Our priority is that every young person leaving care understands and can access the best supports to meet their needs. B.C. will continue to lead other jurisdictions in the types of programs and services offered to young people leaving care.



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PRIDE pre-service online training for foster caregivers has begun with its first cohort of 55 participants. There is already a second cohort waiting in the wings. We are excited to hear real-time feedback from participants who are new to foster parent training.

The Resource Worker Training development is almost complete. The online presentation is engaging and features a blend of voice-overs and videos as well as practice-related exercises for the trainees. The training pilot will run in the coming months with a launch anticipated for early Fall 2017.

For more background information regarding all community consultation that has taken place and for progress reports, please check out BCFFPA's website under Training Project Updates—or [click on the PRIDE image below!](#)



Resilient Foster Parents = Empowered Children and Youth

We are hearing a lot about the opioid crisis on the news these days. Here is a little bit more information about what these substances are used for so that you are able to gauge the risks for the children and youth in your care.

There are side effects that include drowsiness, constipation, nausea, headaches, dizziness, breathing difficulties, itching and sweating and a feeling of euphoria (being "high"). Long term use of these drugs can lead to dependence and an increased tolerance to the drug resulting in an increased dosage to be effective. With dependence on the drug there would be associated withdrawal symptoms.

There are many dangerous and unpredictable effects associated with abusing prescription drugs that include addiction, overdose and death. Because they are known to produce a euphoric feeling, they are sometimes used for this reason alone rather than for their intended purpose. This is why they can be particularly dangerous.

- Slow or weak breathing
- Dizziness, confusion, drowsiness
- Cold, clammy skin
- Very small pupils, and
- Collapse and coma

Youth may have a misperception that prescription drugs are less dangerous when abused than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a health care physician. Youth are particularly vulnerable to abusing opioids and, as teens are still developing, the physical effects can be particularly harmful.

Opioid addiction is accompanied by important changes in the brain and body that can make it very difficult to stop using. Addiction treatment will likely be necessary in order to abstain from ongoing use.

If you suspect opioid abuse, seek addiction counseling and support.

Lower Mainland: 604-660-9382

Regional Delegate Reports

Coast Fraser Report—Walter Aguilar

Aboriginal training and information sessions for new caregivers has begun at the Coquitlam office as of March 28, 2017 and will continue April 4, 11, 18 and 25. Please call (604) 520-2900 for more information. There continues to be a need for new foster parents in not only this region but province wide. On the first Tuesday of every month there is an information meeting at the Coquitlam MCFD Resource office—200 Roderick Ave., Coquitlam, BC, 520-2900 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Just a reminder that when caregivers need to reach out for support on evenings and weekends, they can call the provincial Foster Parent Support Line: 1-888-495-4440. The phones are manned by MCFD staff or foster parents. "After Hours" should still be called if in crisis.

MCFD in Coquitlam have funding to add a limited number of behavioural assessments for children with complex needs in Burnaby, New West, Coquitlam, Pico, Port Moody, and Maple Ridge. This service will provide caregivers with more practical strategies for meeting the needs of children in their home. Assessments will be conducted by the Children's Foundation Assessment Team, composed of developmental pediatrician, Barb Fitzgerald M.D., Julie Desroches PhD (Psych), and Todd Mason, PhD (Psych). A written assessment will be provided as well as a consultation meeting with the assessment team, the caregiver and Family Counsellor to interpret and understand the results and present the caregiver with basic tools to meet the child's needs. There are still some assessments available and a decision to extend this project will be based on needs. For more information, please contact your resource worker.

North Regional Report—Tanya Tagmann

I am writing tonight and reflecting on the February Face to Face Board Meeting held in Burnaby BC. It was a privilege to be a part of the meeting and as usual, I learned a lot. As you all know we are revisiting the Foster Parent Rights document. Also, we are moving forward with the Foster Parent Union Committee. These are important steps forward that will benefit us all.

It was a pleasure to finally meet our new fund developer, Anita Cymet. Her work has the potential to make a big difference in both increasing the profile of the fostering community and raising much needed funds to take the BCFFPA to a new and exciting place. We have a strong vision of our future direction and goal for additional funding will help us reach our full potential.

BUT, why should I join BCFFPA??? This question comes up on a regular basis and this month we really had a good look at the WHY. Here are some very good reasons to become a member of BCFFPA: professional engagement, a unified voice to reach the provincial government, support-both through Locals and through our formal Solutions program, access to Camp for Kids bursaries

and education bursaries, discounts at stores, hotels and other services just for our members, and Jayne Wilson our Executive Director. She holds so much of our history and has the talent and vision for the future.

Also, Russell and Ronda really broke down the AGM 2017 costs for us. There is exceptional value to what is being offered this year in Whistler. The AGM is an opportunity for networking, training and the wellness evening will be back!

Locally, I spoke at a pre-service orientation in January, have had 2 support calls, and I have been working with our foster parent support program to relaunch our Prince George partnership meeting.

I never would have guessed that fostering would take so much: ketchup, scotch tape and band-aids!!!

Interior Report—Kevin Daniel (Interior Board Delegate)

It's the beginning of a new fiscal year and many of the areas in the Interior are looking at future training as we see courses like Safe Babies, Cost of Secondary Trauma, Impact of Trauma on Children, and Dr. Linda O'Neill presenting. Another event that will be coming in the end of May is the BCFFPA Rider Insurance road show. Russell, Ronda, Jayne and Emma Megson will be taking a swing through the Kootneys and possibly some stops in the Okanagan, depending on time constraints.

Struggles continue in many of our areas with the lack of homes. Some of our foster homes are even having to drive upwards of 2 hours to pick up kids from other communities. Other things that we have seen pop up is caring for kids who are in hospital and the support for the home as the parent is expected to be at the hospital all the time. This issue continues to be looked into.

One other set of people I would really like to thank are support agency staff who work on connecting foster parents with the appropriate resources. They also work on building the bridge between MCFD and the foster parent. One area that has recently benefitted from their efforts is Williams Lake who recently had their first partnership meeting in 4 years. Hopefully with everyone attempting to move forward we could see new Locals appear.

Finally I would just like to thank the regional board that meets once a month and brings forth the information about what is happening in their area. This makes my job much easier.

In closing I just want say thank you for the valuable work you do every day.

(Continued on page 10)

Vancouver Island Report—Tanya Hooker

Spring is in the air! With Spring comes change, and believe me, change is in the air.

Well, let's get right to it—here's what's happening on the Island: Activity across the Island is looking promising as we progress forward with communicating, networking, and bridging as BCFFPA representatives.

Speaking about change...it's time for a change in language. Yes you read that correctly, we're changing our terminology from "Local" to "Branch". No changes in structure or policy, but a change in the name only...our provincial regional bodies are now Branches. New is exciting!

With this exciting news at hand, it's now time to meet together and create a new "Branch" on Vancouver Island. This is an extremely anticipated move for the BCFFPA, and long overdue, I might add. It has been a long time since we've seen a BCFFPA Branch on VI, so if you're interested in being part of the planning and information session, please make sure to contact me ASAP.

Something you might be interested in...BCFFPA will be doing an "Island Tour", the week of May 8-12. Presently we'll be starting at the top of the Island in Port Hardy, working our way down. The star of the tour will be none other than, our very own Russel Pohl.

Working together with MCFD and FPSSS, a series of informative and exciting workshops are being offered to stimulate you to be a more affective foster parent. Make sure not to miss this Amazing opportunity to meet your BCFFPA Island representatives: Secretary—Chad Hooker, VI Delegate—Tanya Hooker, VP & Solutions Facilitator—Russel Pohl. If you're interested in taking part in one of these workshop events, please contact us or BCFFPA provincial office for the details of where our travels will take us.

The registration packages for the 2017 AGM in Whistler were sent out as of April 3rd. We will be celebrating 50 years of BCFFPA service here in BC. Please don't hesitate to get on board and take part in what will undoubtedly be the most incredible AGM ever. Not only do we have amazing workshops lined up for this event, we are hosting Canadian Foster Family Association's AGM immediately prior to our own—and you're invited! We will be holding the 2017 AGM at the famous Fairmont Chateau Whistler! The room block is filling up...so book your hotel rooms NOW!! Make sure not to miss this celebration of epic proportion. Look at it this way...when you book your rooms, you're not just booking for an ordinary AGM, you're booking an amazingly priced holiday. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time with questions, concerns, comments, or to receive support from a provincial perspective. Let's meet for coffee or go out for lunch!

Well, until next time...

BCFFPA Is Available to Deliver Workshops in Your Community

In the past 2 years MCFD has requested that BCFFPA deliver workshops to foster parents and Ministry staff jointly. To answer this need, we have 5 workshops available for delivery.

Half Day Sessions Currently Available

- Safeguarding for Caregivers and Children
- Permanency
- Communications in Partnership
- Solutions Program
- LGBTQ
- Integrated Care Team Meetings
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Working Together on Care Plans
- Grief and Loss for Caregivers

Two Day Session Currently Available

- Solutions Training (formerly "Support & Advocacy Training")

If your Local or community of caregivers would like us to come to your community, please connect with Jayne Wilson or Russell Pohl at the BCFFPA office on our toll free line (1-800-663-9999).



Important Reminder for Foster Parents

As a contractor providing services to the Province, you are obligated to know the policies and practice documents that govern the services that you are expected to provide.

Our Solutions program is being accessed daily with complex, unusual and sometimes ongoing situations. This is a reminder to all foster parents that the best self-advocates in our sector are armed with knowledge about both the practice of fostering and the governing policies. *(See page 13 for links to the documents)*

The expectations on foster parents are tremendous. As we feel more pressured, it is more important than ever that we have all the information we need.

It's That Time Again! **May 2017 Submissions for BCFFPA Bursaries**

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, 2017*

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, 2017*

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, 2017*

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, 2017*

BCFFPA Fine Arts for Kids Fund

BCFFPA has received two generous donations to support the establishment of the Fine Arts for Kids fund. This fund is available exclusively to BCFFPA member foster parents in order to assist them with the costs of involving their foster children in the arts. The fund will cover costs including (but not limited to) art supplies, paints, easels, canvas, paper, dance shoes, costumes, lessons of all varieties, musical instrument rentals and purchase, drum making, carving, fabric arts and regalia making supplies. This fund is for support of extracurricular programs and not available to support school district art program activities.

BCFFPA's Board of Directors will identify annual awards based on funding available.

Application Criteria: Child must be between the ages of 6-18, must be in your care at the time of application, and receipts for supplies must accompany the application. We will accept one application per year per family but new families will have priority.

Application Deadline: December 15th, 2017*

****All application forms for our bursaries are available through our website at www.bcfosterparents.ca.***



Your Agency or Business Can Gain Visibility Through Sponsorship of BCFFPA's 50th Anniversary AGM!

2017's Foster Family Month will be special for BC's foster Parents who will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary at our Annual General Meeting in Whistler. In support of our foster parent community, you can sponsor an education workshop or host a table at our banquet. All proceeds will ensure that our event provides foster parents with many opportunities to build on their knowledge to care for children and youth.

Leadership Sponsors Donation commitment: \$5,000+

Leadership sponsors support a workshop room or activity. Your donation includes:

- Introduction prior to the activity or a 3 minute company video can be featured
- 4 tickets to celebration banquet and dance in Whistler, BC
- Acknowledgement of your support for our event at the banquet
- Table at the banquet will have a banner with your company name and logo
- Company name and logo on our Sponsorship wall at the event
- Your company name and logo appears in our newsletter, annual report and social media
- Tax Receipt

Mentor Sponsors Donation commitment: \$3,000+

Mentor sponsors are supporting our general event.

Your donation includes:

- 2 tickets to celebration banquet and dance in Whistler, BC
- Acknowledgement of your support for our event at the banquet
- Table at the banquet will have a banner with your company name and logo
- Company name and logo on our Sponsorship wall at the event
- Your company name and logo appears in our newsletter, annual report and social media
- Tax Receipt

Community Sponsors Donation commitment: \$1,000+

Acknowledgement of your support at the banquet.

Your donation includes:

- Table at the banquet will have a banner with your company name and logo
- Company name and logo on our Sponsorship wall at the event
- Your company name and logo appears in our newsletter, annual report and social media
- Tax Receipt

Contact Ronda Sweeney for more details at 604-544-1114 or ronda@bcfosterparents.ca.

Discourse Media Tackles How the Child Welfare System is Represented

What questions do you have about BC's child welfare system? Do you think the media can do a better job of covering child welfare?

Discourse Media journalist, Brielle Morgan, is looking for your guidance. Your answers to a short survey will help her decide what to investigate. She'll also be sharing ideas for better media coverage with a network of BC journalists who are covering child welfare.

Brielle is asking as many system stakeholders (ie. youth in/from care, birth and foster parents, social workers, advocates, policy makers etc.) as she can for *your* questions about the child welfare system. Answers will guide their investigations and editorial decisions. They may even ask some of you to join them in further investigating your question about the system.

If you have 10 minutes to fill out the survey, she is curious about your perspective.

Click the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/lykWeB7FoTCMUTmO2>

Discourse Media is an independent journalism company dedicated to in-depth reporting on complex issues facing Canada and the world. They are building a home for new approaches to story-telling that looks beyond conflict-driven daily news cycles.

DISCOURSE
In-depth journalism with impact

FosterlineBC Newsletter Seeks Designer

Workloads in the BCFFPA provincial office mean that we will need to outsource the development of the FosterlineBC newsletter in the very near future. Are there any talented foster parents out there who have a history in layout and graphic design with interest in taking on this piece of work?

Please contact Jayne Wilson at jayne@bcfosterparents.ca for more information and details of the requirements for the newsletter.



Revised Fostering Policy In Effect as of March 1, 2017

Foster parents are contractors providing services to the Province of British Columbia. As such, it is important that all foster parents be aware of the policy and practice documents that govern and guide foster care services. A recent change took effect. The Caregiver Support Service Standards, which had been our guide over the past several years, has now been revised. It's new name is "**Resource Work Policies**" and came into effect on March 1st this year.

BCFFPA was invited to review the draft and to provide our thoughtful insight into the proposed changes. Several of our suggestions were incorporated.

The most notable change is that protocols have been replaced with a new process called "Family Care Home Investigation" and the "Quality of Care Review", which hadn't been used in many areas is now part of provincial policy. There is an official "dispute resolution for caregivers" section that BCFFPA is happy to work through with you, should you require assistance.

The full policy and other related documents are available on our website and here for you to review:

[Resource Work Policies](#)
[Summary Table of Changes](#)
[Foster Family Handbook \(5th Edition\)](#)
[Advocating for Children and Youth: Your Role as a Caregiver](#)

Have You Seen Us Around Town?

You may see this poster of our Vice President and his family at a bus shelter in your city. We received a very generous donation of 100 advertising spaces in bus shelters across our lovely province. If you see them, please take a picture or note the location and post it to Facebook or Twitter to let us know where you saw it. Every post raises awareness about the need for foster parents in BC. Don't forget to tag us in your post!



May is Planned Giving Month

by Anita Cymet, Fund Development Coordinator

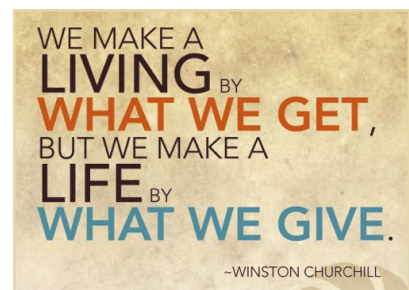
The month of May is International Planned Giving month. By definition, a "planned gift" is any major gift, made in one's lifetime or at the time of death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning.

Planned giving, is sometimes referred to as "legacy giving", and may be defined as a method of supporting non-profits and charities that enables philanthropic individuals or donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate.

There are a number of ways to make a charitable gift and each will have different benefits. While making a gift in a will is the most common way to support charities through your estate plan, there are other types of gifts that may suit your needs and financial situation.

Leaving a gift to your favorite charities is a wonderful way to ensure that your gift will make a profound impact for years to come. We don't always have to leave a gift to the charity of choice in our will. Sometimes donors choose to leave a gift to their charity of choice while they are here to enjoy seeing the impact that their gift makes.

We will be offering a free Legacy Giving workshop in November, for the community at large. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter. There will be community professionals taking part in the workshop to share important information on how YOU can leave a planned gift.



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



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
Indigenous Perspectives Society www.http://ipsociety.ca/foster-caregiving/	1.844.391.0007 (ext. 229)
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	1-800-345-9777
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
Foster Hub www.fosterhub.ca	1-877-926-1185
Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association	604-533-1924
South Vancouver Youth Centre www.milieu.ca/svyc	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)	250-390-9686
FPSSS (Campbell River)	250-286-0555

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	250-462-6907
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 www.communitybridge.ca	250-785-6021 (ext. 235)

Please submit your relevant regional or agency contacts to Jayne Wilson at: 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

