

FosterlineBC

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

Celebrating 50 Years!



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Front Cover Photos: BCFFPA meeting circa 1970 and BCFFPA AGM 2016 (Gaye Smith, Indigenous Perspectives Society (left), Dianne Swansburg, BCFFPA (middle), Wanda Smith, MCFD Resources Team Lead)

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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.

Welcome to summer!

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to our 50th Anniversary AGM. We are very excited to be celebrating 50 years of service to the fostering community in British Columbia and in acknowledgement of this we have planned a very special week in Whistler this October.

We will be accepting nominations for Vice President and Treasurer Board position this year. All active members are able to vote at the AGM or by mail if you are not able to attend. I am hoping the majority of you will be joining us in person and have an opportunity to meet other foster parents from across your province and also delegates from the Canadian Foster Family Association representing the provinces right across Canada.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter we are all working hard to address the membership Motions from our last AGM. We have an active committee working to bring our members information and a choice of recommendations regarding aligning foster parents with a union.

I'm thrilled to announce that **we have finally secured a flexible and accessible extended health care program for foster parents**. Many who have worked on our local, regional and provincial Boards of Directors know that we've been working on this for *years*! Please turn the page to page 4 and read all about the GSC Health Assist program. There is a personal contact for questions over the phone and a handy link to our website where you can compare the plan options and choose which one will work best for you and your family. The program is now live, so should you want to sign up right away, you can do exactly that!

With a new government in place we will be certain to meet with the new Minister at the earliest possible opportunity. We have much to discuss and many important initiatives that our members want to see some action on.

I wish you all good health and hope to meet as many of you as possible at our AGM!

Marcy Perron  
President

The NDP will be forming a new government very soon. I think I can safely say that those of us with an interest in provincial politics and with an investment in the welfare of children and foster families, are cautiously optimistic. We are hoping to see a change in direction for government so that our foster families are receiving the funding and services they need to do the best job for the young people in their homes.

BCFFPA has been busy with ongoing projects including the foster parent trainings, the resource worker training, kinship/out of care training and a new project to complete a backlog of home studies for potential foster homes. Caregiver pre-service training is well underway with a good rotation of brand new caregivers and resource workers. We are really excited to hear such a positive response from new prospective foster parents!

The Annual General Meeting is going to be quite a production this year. There will be an additional day and a half for people to enjoy meeting their colleagues from across the country. The conference line-up is jam packed with great topics and evening events. The only risk is that you might be so busy that you won't take the time to visit Whistler Village! It's our hope that you will all be able to stay an additional night or two to take advantage of the special hotel rate.

In order for us to meet the contract obligations for the AGM venue, **the deadline to have your registrations sent into the office is Friday, September 8th**. Room block, workshop choices and each evening event are filling very quickly. In order to be placed in your first choice of workshops, you'll want to have your names in as soon as possible.

You can now join or renew your membership with BCFFPA through our website! We may have taken some time to catch up to the others, but we hope you'll find that this new more accessible option was worth the wait. See page 13 for more information.

Jayne Wilson  
Executive Director





**After years of enquiries and searching for affordable personal extended health benefit plans, we are excited to present...**



## Health Insurance for Foster Parents!

Brought to you by  
**Green Shield Canada** and **BCFFPA**

Not covered by a group health plan? Concerned about health and dental expenses?  
Find the coverage that's right for you and your family  
with a Health Assist plan from Green Shield Canada.

As independent contractors, foster parents experience challenges accessing extended health benefit plans that are affordable.

Health Assist provides a variety of health plan options with varying levels of benefits and coverage to choose from. Many offer guaranteed acceptance\* whereas for other plans, GSC asks that you complete a medical questionnaire. Each plan is competitively priced. It's all about you, your health and the financial protection you need.

### Getting the coverage that's right for you can be really simple!

For more information or to take advantage of the benefits Health Assist plans provide, contact:

#### Candace Dodson-Willis, GBA

A Strategic alliance with Group One Planning Solutions

Email: [candace\\_dodson@icloud.com](mailto:candace_dodson@icloud.com)

Phone: 250-299-2768

OR click on the image below for instant access to coverage options!



(or copy and paste this link) <https://mygscadvantage.ca/Quote/AllProducts?mgaid=1598&oid=HA329&aid=N7597>

Plans Provided by **Green Shield Canada (GSC)**

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### Health Assist plans are easy to use...

- ✓ **No waiting period**—with all Health Assist plans, your coverage starts the first of the month following approval of your application.
- ✓ **Benefits for life**—Once your application is approved, you have coverage as long as you need it (as long as your monthly payments are made, of course).
- ✓ **Hassle-free claiming**—Most of your prescription drug, dental, extended health care and vision claims can be processed instantly using your GSC ID card. Other claims can be reimbursed quickly with direct deposit to your bank account. (Kiss waiting for a cheque in the mail goodbye!)
- ✓ **Mobile info on the GO**—GSC's fully mobile-friendly website and GSC on the Go® app and online services make sure you stay connected by giving you quick, easy access to your benefits, claims status, history, health care providers, and much more on your desktop, laptop, tablet or smart phone.

### And easy to love...

- ✓ **Rewards for living well**—Change4Life is a free online portal that's designed to support (and encourage!) healthy life choices by providing tools, resources and health information tailored to your specific needs. You'll earn points for your activity that can be used for chances to win great rewards, including gift cards from major retailers.
- ✓ **Legal assistance**—As a GSC customer, you'll have access to a free legal advice service in Canada 24/7 via toll-free telephone to help guide you through most major types of law. The legal advice service can also give referrals to experienced local lawyers at preferred rates.
- ✓ **Travel Coverage**—Emergency medical travel benefits and out of country assistance are included in all LINK plans

\*Acceptance is guaranteed for select plans as long as GSC receives the initial payment, other plans require completion of a health questionnaire and medical underwriting. Any other eligibility requirements? Just easy ones. To be eligible to apply for Health Assist plans, you must be a Canadian resident with valid provincial health insurance coverage; for Health Assist ZONE, you must be under 75 years of age; for Health Assist LINK you must be under 80 years of age and GSC must receive your application within 90 days of your group coverage end date.

# Achieving a Healthy Transition from Foster Custody to Legal Adoption

by Dr. John DeGarmo

The last name on your newly adopted child's certificate of adoption may read the same as yours. However, there will still be many questions and concerns awaiting your child—now and in the future. To achieve a healthy and successful transition from foster custody to legal adoption, there are a number of strategies you can use as an adoptive parent.

## Do discuss the process with your child

Discuss the step-by-step process and encourage your child to ask questions and share any concerns he/she might have with you about the process.

He will most likely have concerns about never seeing his birth family again. It is important for you to remember that even though he now has your last name, he will still have very strong feelings about his biological family and background.

The older he is, the stronger these binds to his biological family will be. It is very dangerous for adoptive families to discount this background and feelings towards them. Instead, recognize them as an important part of who he is, and try to incorporate them into his life.

## Do consider open adoption

If possible, and if everyone feels comfortable with the idea, consider having an open adoption. An open adoption allows an open contact between the biological parents and the foster child, allowing for the potential of a one-on-one relationship between both sides, as they interact directly with each other.

Communication may consist of letters, emails, social networking sites, phone calls, and even visits. Open adoption benefits both sides—especially the child—as it permits him to resolve any feelings of loss and relationship, and gives him access to information that he might seek later on in life. These types of adoptions also allow the child to maintain relationships and connections with people who are important in his life.

Open adoptions are not for everyone, and serious consideration needs to be made before making a decision either way. Adoptions that are open with biological parents and children need to be made on an individual basis—as each adoption situation is unique.

## Do think about throwing a party

Adoption day parties are a wonderful way to celebrate as your foster child officially joins your family. Invite friends and family members over on the day that you legally adopt your child. Celebrate the event with cake, ice cream, balloons, and present, making it similar to a birthday party.

Let him know that this is a very special day for not only him—but for your entire family—as it grows officially by one more with his adoption into your family.

## Insurance Programs we are still researching are:

- ⇒ Short Term and Long Term Disability Insurance
- ⇒ Critical Illness Insurance
- ⇒ Life Insurance

...and a pension program for foster parents.

## Do not ignore the grief

The adoption of your foster child is indeed a joyous and happy one. Yet, the internal process for all involved can be a challenging one, especially for your child.

Children may have a difficult time accepting the fact that they will never return to live with their biological parents or birth family members again. It is necessary for you, as an adoptive parent, to allow your child time to grieve the loss of connection with his birth family.

Your children may very well need time to experience the stages of grief before they fully transfer attachment from their birth family to yours. Adoption can be an emotionally difficult time for a foster child. No longer will kids be able to hope for possible reunification with their biological parents, or even with other members of their birth family.

Instead, the termination of rights by birth parents might produce feelings of grief and loss within them, fears they had kept bottled within themselves during the length of their stay in foster care. Kids may even feel that they have betrayed their biological family as they legally take the adoptive parents' last name, as well as becoming a permanent member of the family.

You may find that the child revisits the stages of grief again, both during and after the adoption process. Indeed, it can be an emotionally traumatic time for all involved.

## Do not ignore the questions

Even though your child may have lived in your home for some time as a foster child, he will likely re-experience feelings of loss during the adoption process.

Allow him to discuss his feelings of grief and loss with you as you listen attentively to him, validating his feelings and emotions. If he should ask any questions about his biological parents or birth family, answer them as honestly as you can. His questions are very important to him, for both his well being and his future.

## Do not treat your child differently than the other kids in your home

Help your child transfer attachment from his birth family to yours by ensuring that he is included in all aspects of your family, and when possible, incorporate parts of his previous family's traditions into your own. This will help him feel more comfortable. After all, his birth family gave him his appearance and gender, his intelligence, his temperament, talents, and of course, his life. These will never change.

He needs to know that his past is important, and that he is now a full fledged member of your family and is loved just the same as all the others in the house.

## Summary

There will be difficult times during the adoption process and after. At times, it may seem that your relationship is going backwards. Yet, with time, love and patience, adoptions are often one of the greatest gifts of love you can offer a child. This is a gift that will forever bless your family.

## 2017 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 7, 2017 at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler.

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

- Vice President
- Treasurer

Each position has a two-year term. Nominations for each position **must** be received by the BCFFPA Provincial office by July 31, 2017, 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 both positions 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 require a nomination form duly moved and seconded by two BCFFPA members in good standing (ie. current membership as of January 31<sup>st</sup> of the present year).

### PLEASE FORWARD NOMINATIONS TO THE FEDERATION PROVINCIAL OFFICE

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

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

# ATTENTION!

*Nominations for Vice President and  
Treasurer positions must be received  
by BCFFPA provincial office no later  
than July 31, 2017*

### What to look forward to at the AGM

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
- 2 banquets
- 3 breakfasts and lunches
- 5 networking sessions
- entertainment
- a wellness evening for foster parents
- a chance to bid on amazing prizes in our fundraising initiatives to support BC kids

*We hope to see you in Whistler!*



|                     |                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>April 3</i>      | AGM Registration open [registration package is posted on website and was emailed to members and stakeholders] |
| <i>July 31</i>      | Nominations and Special Resolutions must be received by BCFFPA Provincial office                              |
| <i>August 18</i>    | Registration and Ballot packages mailed to members                                                            |
| <i>September 7</i>  | Notification of AGM 2017 [email and posted on website]                                                        |
| <i>September 27</i> | Deadline for BCFFPA office to receive mail-in votes                                                           |

## Welcome to BCFFPA, Michelle!

Michelle comes from a healthcare and nonprofit background and has always had the passion for various social causes. Determined to build a career in the charitable sector, Michelle is currently working towards a certificate in Fundraising/Nonprofit Management at BCIT. Michelle thinks that the best part of her job at BCFFPA is that she gets to work for an organization that opens doors to all willing individuals to transform a child's life and to support them throughout their foster care journey.

She is also incredibly grateful to be surrounded by dedicated people who wake up every day with a commitment to provide the best service to foster parents and children.



### AGM Fundraising for Camps for Kids

Anita has been working hard on gathering many donations for the AGM fundraiser events. Here is a sample of donations to bid on...

**Kingfisher Resort and Spa in Nanaimo**—1 night stay for 2 with hydropath

**Waterway Houseboat Vacations**—2 day weekend or 4 day midweek houseboat trip

**Blackhills Estate Winery**—3 night stay on residence with winetasting for 8

**Hilton Whistler Resort and Spa**—2 nights in premier room

**Summerland Waterfront Resort and Spa**—2 nights with a lake view

**BC Ferries**—2 1-way car and driver vouchers

**Adventuress Sea Kayaking Adventure**—2 hour kayaking tour for 2

**Adrenaline Adventure Tours**—2 passes for zip lining in Sooke

**Land Yachts**—long board

### BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

#### 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

## BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations hosts the Canadian Foster Family Association in Whistler for our 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

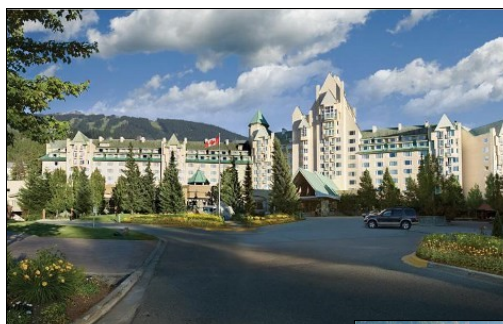
**Join us at the beautiful Fairmont Chateau Whistler!  
October 4\*, 5, 6 & 7, 2017**

**\*\* 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.





# BCFFPA's 50 Years of Fostering

## FOSTER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting: May 25th, 1967 8:00 p.m. Community Centre.

The first organizational meeting of the Foster Parents' Association of New Westminster was held on this date in the city's Community Centre.

Initial response to this organization was very heartening as 24 foster mothers and fathers attended the meeting and a great deal of enthusiasm was shown for the establishment of a Foster Parents' Association in New Westminster. A small nucleus of foster parents was especially enthusiastic for the formation of such a group and were able to generate their excitement to others.

Mr. R.I. Murray, District Supervisor, opened the meeting with a few general remarks about the possible formation of an association in New Westminster but left the enlargement of the who, what, how and why of Foster Parents' Associations to Mrs. LAURA KIRKHAM of CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, VANCOUVER.

Miss Kirkham's remarks dealt largely with the history of Foster Parents' Associations in British Columbia and particularly with the establishment of the Pioneer Foster Parents' Association as sponsored by the Children's Aid Society of Vancouver. The information given by Mrs. Kirkham laid the groundwork for the reasons of establishing an F.P.A. group in this area and the benefits which could be derived from such an association.

Miss Kirkham pointed out that other foster parents have given the following three reasons for having Foster Parents' Associations in existence:

1. to get to know each other
2. to learn to understand foster children better and
3. to learn more about the Child Welfare agency.

Miss Kirkham stated that the success of other F.P.A. groups is extremely encouraging and the results tremendously satisfying. Foster parents have been able to help each other, learn more of the workings of the welfare department and have been able to preserve existing foster homes through the establishment of foster parent groups.

The meeting was then given to general discussion from the floor and everyone seemed to take part in this opportunity to verbalize their opinions. The prevailing opinion was that this was an excellent idea and should be followed through.

A temporary executive was elected, selected and volunteered. A temporary elected consultant to act as a liaison between the association and the welfare department. Coffee and tea was then served and the meeting adjourned.

June 22nd, 1967 was selected as the date for the first meeting of the Foster Parents' Association.



The Optimist (Delta, B.C.)

-5 DEC. 1979

## Foster parent shortage is "critical"

A meeting to help resolve the "critical" shortage of foster parents is slated for Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ladner Health Unit, 1000 Clarence Taylor Crescent.

Ewa Caldwell, a foster home recruiter for the Ministry of Human Resources, said the meeting will explain the need for foster homes, what foster parenting involves and how people can become foster parents.

Human Resources staff will be available to answer questions, she added.

Caldwell explained that foster parents can be either married or single with or without children of their own. Foster children can range in age from infancy to young adults.

The most important requirement is an ability to parent, which includes enjoying and understanding children. "The most important thing is parenting rather than material possessions," she pointed out.

She invites anyone interested to attend the meeting.

"There is a critical shortage of foster homes," she said.



Top right: past presidents Frank Hetherington (left) and Sheila Durnford (middle). Middle: past presidents Heather Bayes (left), Russell Pohl (front) and current president, Marcy Perron (second from left). Bottom left past president Melanie Filiatrault.





## BCFFPA Provincial Officer Nomination Form 2017

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* \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Resolutions 2017

Whereas: (state circumstance)

Therefore: (state proposed special resolution)

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

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

*Packages will be distributed for ballot voting by mail by August 18, 2017. Proposed Special Resolutions will be accepted from members in good standing (current members as of January 31, 2017). Please submit one form for each Special Resolution proposed.*

**“Special Resolutions”:** Prior to the BCFFPA’s Annual General Meeting, we receive proposals from members in good standing for **special resolutions**. A special resolution is a proposed change to our Constitution and Bylaws. The proposed changes are 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 BCFFPA’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** are our formal documents that contain BCFFPA’s fundamental objectives and principles. Click on the image for further information.

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations

Constitution and Bylaws

(Revision 2015)





## BCFFPA Projects and Working Groups in Process

**PRIDE Pre-service** training has started with a combination of 50 brand new fostering applicants and existing Resource staff. A second cohort started training this month with a third group waiting in the wings for a start date!

**PRIDE In-service** is under development and we anticipate completion of the content well before the end of the year.

The **Resource Worker Training** pilot began in early June and we are working through the feedback from participants. After the pilot is completed, any necessary changes will be incorporated and the final product will be ready sometime in the coming few weeks.

Our team is currently vetting existing training modules for use by BC's **Kinship/Out of Care** families. Target dates haven't yet been identified.

A new project for BCFFPA is to engage SAFE qualified workers through licenced agencies **to complete home studies for fostering** applicants that have been waiting in the queue. We are excited to be taking on this new activity!

The **Union Working Group** has been formed and has a large task list ahead of them. Guided by the member Motions passed at AGM 2016 to evaluate the feasibility of union representation for foster parents, the goal of the group is to present their findings and recommendations at AGM 2017.



CANADA'S  
2nd LARGEST



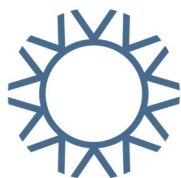
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## FosterlineBC Newsletter Seeks Designer

Workloads in the BCFFPA provincial office have increased such 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](mailto:jayne@bcfosterparents.ca) for more information and details of the requirements for the newsletter.

## 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.

## Winner of the Early Renewal Draw

Alfredo Delupio, Foster Parent in Vancouver

Congratulations!

You will receive a **complimentary registration at BCFFPA's 2017 AGM and 4 night stay at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler**

We look forward to seeing you there!

## 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](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca) or Debbie Drewitz at [debbiedrewitz@gmail.com](mailto:debbiedrewitz@gmail.com)



## Update from the Acting Representative for Children and Youth—Bernard Richard

Hello everyone,

I hope you are enjoying warm and sunny weather wherever you are. Thank you for this opportunity to update you on what has been happening at my Office since I last wrote in the winter.

On March 30, I released my second report, *Delegated Aboriginal Agencies: How resourcing affects service delivery*. This report delivered the perspective of staff from B.C.'s Delegated Aboriginal Agencies (DAAs), and the findings were bleak. I found that under-funding of DAAs – both provincially and federally – is leading to Indigenous children being removed from their homes and placed in care simply because the funds are not there to provide support services to their families. I also found that despite the landmark Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling in January 2016 that federal funding of Indigenous child welfare is discriminatory, the federal government has not yet addressed the issue.

In addition, although there were signs that the previous provincial government intended to address many of the issues identified in the report, new resources are not yet in place and, at the time of this writing in early June, I have no clear indication as to what provincial priorities in this area will be. It remains to be seen whether promised resources will be sufficient to meet the enormous challenge.

Ultimately, the purpose of this report is to establish a benchmark against which future improvements can be assessed. The report can be found on our website at [www.rcybc.ca/daareport](http://www.rcybc.ca/daareport).

I have three other reports currently planned for the coming months, including one that examines education outcomes for children and youth in care, one about a young man who died by suicide while staying at a B.C. hospital and an update on adoptions in B.C.

Another team that has been busy at my Office this year is our Social Media Youth Team which consists of three dynamic and diverse members. One of our members, Louis, has just launched a podcast. Louis is a Métis youth with primarily high-functioning Autism-Asperger's Syndrome, as well as other disabilities. His podcast provides an authentic glimpse of life from the point of view of a person living with developmental disabilities. Check out his new podcast on our website <http://www.rcybc.ca/louis-world-podcast> or our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts. You can also find Welcome to My World on iTunes and SoundCloud. Louis will be updating regularly.

Another project our Social Media Youth Team members have recently completed is their *Meet the Advocates* video, featuring five of our advocates from all three of our office locations. The video is meant to show who our advocates are and help make it less scary for a youth to call an advocate. Check it out and let us know what you think! [https://youtu.be/3IkExnGo\\_OY](https://youtu.be/3IkExnGo_OY)

In other news, it was my very great pleasure on April 12 to be able to present the Janusz Korczak Medal for Children's Rights Advocacy to Dr. Cindy Blackstock in Vancouver. The medal is awarded for outstanding contributions to the promotion of the rights of children in ways that encourage love for children, listening to children, fostering healthy children's lives and building capacities in children in the spirit of Dr. Korczak, a Polish-Jewish author and physician who sacrificed his own life to protect orphans under his care during World War II. Like Dr. Korczak, Cindy Blackstock is a determined

and fierce advocate for children, and a deserving recipient of the medal. It was a moving ceremony.

Finally, since my appointment, I have been very much enjoying meeting as many of you as I can. It is inspiring to meet so many dedicated British Columbians who are working to improve the lives of vulnerable children and youth, and I continue to be humbled and honoured by the warm welcome you have given me.

Remember, if you or any youth or family you know need help dealing with government, getting connected to programs or services or speaking up, call us. RCY advocates are available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-476-3933. 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,



Bernard Richard  
Acting Representative for Children and Youth



REPRESENTATIVE FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH





## Will an NDP Government Mean Positive Change for BC's Foster Families?



The NDP election platform indicates that they are very aware of the challenges that have been faced by the children and youth in care over the past several years. They are aware of the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal children and youth in the foster care system and the funding gap experienced by Delegated Aboriginal Agencies. Expect the NDP to focus on maintaining cultural and community connections for children of Aboriginal heritage. Their campaign platform outlines the following goals:

- ⇒ They will increase funding for Agreements with Young Adults by an additional \$10 million in order to offer supports to all youth aging out of care who need it, not just a few.
- ⇒ They will ensure the K-12 system has the resources to help youth in care graduate with their peers.
- ⇒ They will work with universities and colleges to expand the fee waiver program and provide enhanced supports for former youth in care who pursue post-secondary education.

In the coming weeks, a new Minister for Children and Family Development will be appointed and we can promise that our request for a meeting will be among the first they receive.

## Renew Your BCFFPA Membership Online!

You can now join and renew your BCFFPA membership online through our website link. Our secure online renewal system allows for updates to contact information and payments.

Click "Login" or "Join"

Add or update your information

The screenshot shows the BCFFPA website with a navigation bar at the top. Below the navigation bar, there are two buttons: 'Login' and 'Join'. An arrow points from the text 'Click Login or Join' to these buttons. Below the buttons, there is a 'Registration' section. An arrow points from the text 'Add or update your information' to this section. The registration form includes fields for 'Account Details' (Username, Email Address, Choose a Password, Confirm Password), 'Membership Details' (Type/Who am I?, Region/Where am I?, Membership Fee, Type of Service), and 'Profile Details' (First Name, Last Name, Member 2 First Name, Address, City, Province, Postal Code, Work Phone, Fax Number). There are 'Next' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom of the form.

## 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.

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.

## 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!



Family isn't about blood or relations.  
It's about the care that goes between one person to another and I can honestly call Chail and Richard my family, not my foster carers.



# Foster Community Resources

## Provincial Resources

|                                                          |                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations</b>       | 1-800-663-9999            |
| www.bcfosterparents.ca                                   |                           |
| <b>After Hours Foster Parent Support Line</b>            | 1-888-495-4440            |
| <b>Indigenous Perspectives Society</b>                   | 1.844.391.0007 (ext. 229) |
| www.http://ipsociety.ca/foster-caregiving/               |                           |
| <b>Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks</b>           | 1-800-565-8055            |
| www.fbcyicn.ca                                           |                           |
| <b>Adoptive Families Association</b>                     | 1-877-236-7807            |
| www.bcadoption.com                                       |                           |
| <b>Pacific Post Partum Support Society</b>               | 604-255-7999              |
| www.postpartum.org (also supporting adoption placements) |                           |
| <b>Parent Help Line</b>                                  | 1-888-603-9100            |
| <b>Parents Together</b>                                  | 604-325-0511              |
| <b>Parent Support Services of BC</b>                     | 1-800-345-9777            |
| www.parentsupport.bc.ca                                  |                           |
| <b>Representative for Children &amp; Youth</b>           | 1-800-476-3933            |
| www.rcybc.ca                                             |                           |
| <b>FAE/S Support Network</b>                             | 604-507-6675              |

## Coastal Fraser

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

|                                                                 |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Hollyburn Family Services</b>                                | 604-987-8211   |
| www.hollyburn.ca                                                |                |
| <b>Vancouver Aboriginal Child &amp; Family Services Society</b> | 778-331-4500   |
| www.vacfss.com                                                  |                |
| <b>Foster Hub</b>                                               | 1-877-926-1185 |
| www.fosterhub.ca                                                |                |
| <b>Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association</b>                  | 604-533-1924   |
| <b>South Vancouver Youth Centre</b>                             | 604-325-2004   |
| www.milieu.ca/svyc                                              |                |

## Island

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

## Foster Parent Support

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Services Society</b> | 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

1-877-376-3660

www.interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca

## North

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

## AXIS Family Resources

1-877-392-1003

(24/7 support)

Press 205

www.axis.bc.ca (satellite office locations online)

## Community Bridge

250-785-6021

Fort St. John

(ext. 235)

www.communitybridge.ca

*Please submit your relevant regional or agency contacts to Jayne Wilson at: [jayne@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto: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** or **join or renew via our website at [www.bcfosterparents.ca](http://www.bcfosterparents.ca)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Association (BCFFPA Branch) \_\_\_\_\_

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 regional board 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 BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations, I/we agree to abide by the Bylaws, 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 3P6

