



**Annual General Meeting
May 24, 2014
Ramada Hotel
Prince George, BC**

In Attendance

Heather Bayes, President
Russell Pohl, Vice President
Marcy Perron, Treasurer
Tamara Smith, Secretary
Rocky Hindmarch, North Delegate
Yvonne Langlois, Interior
Monica Buchanan, Coast Fraser Delegate
Jayne Wilson, Executive Director

43 voting members present

Guest Speaker

Charles (Chuck) and Tina Fraser
- Retired Prince George Foster Parents

A quorum being present, the meeting commenced at 9:35 a.m.

***M/S/C (Moved/Seconded/Carried)**

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
1. Welcome and Introductions	<p>The President called the meeting to order, thanked everyone for attending and introduced the Board of Directors, staff members, and the life and honorary members in attendance. The President asked MCFD and Agency staff members to stand.</p> <p>The President noted that we had attempted to contact an Elder to open the meeting. She acknowledged the traditional territories of the L'heidl T'enneh.</p>	
2. Guest Speaker	<p>Guest Speakers Chuck and Tina Fraser, retired Prince George foster parents and award winners for their pursuits and the work they have done, gave an engaging presentation about the difference foster parents make.</p>	
3. Housekeeping	<p>The President turned the meeting over to the Parliamentarian who reviewed the housekeeping items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notice of annual meeting was provided in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notice provided in the February (Winter) 2013 issue of FosterlineBC newsletter ➤ Notice provided on the BCFFPA website ➤ Notice provided by e-mail b. A quorum of at least 25 voting members were present (43 voting members in assembly) c. The Agenda was passed by the assembly. d. The Standing Rules (Rules of Order) were adopted by the assembly. e. The Tellers Committee members were assigned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ronda Sweeney, BCFFPA ➤ Gaye Smith, MCFD ➤ Brian Tipper, Brian Tipper Inc. f. The Minutes of AGM 2013 were accepted as circulated. 	<p>MOTION (01/AGM/14) to approve the Agenda as presented. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (02/AGM/14) to approve the Standing Rules (Rules of Order). Carried</p> <p>MOTION (03/AGM/14) to accept the Minutes of AGM 2013 as circulated. Carried</p>

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
4. Reports	<p><i>President's Report – Heather Bayes</i> The President noted a very busy last year of her term. The office move was a final goal of her presidency and was achieved over the winter. Meetings were held this year with the Minister, the Opposition Critic, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare and the ADM of Service Delivery. The President offered her thanks to staff and Board members for their work and support of BCFFPA. Thanks as well to the Vice President and Secretary for their ongoing efforts in the Support and Advocacy program.</p> <p>The President summarized the activities and outcomes from AGM 2013 Motions from the floor. (Appendix A)</p> <p><i>Auditor's Report – Brian Tipper</i> The Auditor presented his report noting a new grant for BCFFPA's video project.</p> <p>The Parliamentarian presented Motions to accept the Audited Financial Statements as provided and to appoint the Auditor for next year.</p>	<p>MOTION (04/AGM/14) to accept the 2013-2014 fiscal Audited Financial Statements as provided by Brian Tipper Inc. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (05/AGM/14) that Brian Tipper Inc. be appointed auditor for BCFFPA for the fiscal year 2014-2015 and that the Board of Directors be authorized to fix the remuneration for these services. Carried</p>
5. Special Resolutions	<p>The proposed Special Resolutions were read to the assembly. The proposed Special Resolutions were sent to voting members on April 4th, 2014 for review and mail-in voting.</p>	
6. Elections	<p>The Parliamentarian noted that the Nominations Committee Report stated that all was in order with nominations; memberships of all were in good standing.</p> <p>The single nominee for the President position, Russell Pohl, spoke briefly regarding his commitment to foster parents in BC.</p> <p>Nominees for Vice President, Tamara Smith and Heather Bayes addressed the members regarding their credentials for the role.</p> <p>**VOTING and COFFEE BREAK**</p>	
7. New Business	<p>Y. Langlois put a motion forwarded.</p>	<p>MOTION (06/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA contact Cranbrook CSM to establish a quarterly partnership meeting. Carried</p>

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
	<p>Y. Langlois put a motion forward.</p> <p>Y. Langlois put a motion forward.</p> <p>It was noted that the form filled out when a child leaves a placement should be reviewed with the foster parent. This is common practice on Vancouver Island. Y. Langlois put a motion forwarded.</p> <p>F. Hetherington put a motion forward.</p> <p>R. Hindmarch proposed a Motion to contact Prince George Community Service Manager (CSM) to reinforce the need for quarterly partnership meetings. J. Dyer requested an amendment to the Motion to include all areas of BC.</p> <p>R. Nelson spoke on the need for BCFFPA to have a member sit on provincial or regional Quality Assurance committees.</p>	<p>MOTION (07/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA establish why numbers are dropping in foster homes and children in care. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (08/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA obtain information on the numbers of foster homes and how many are active. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (09/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA seek a copy of the “foster parent evaluation form” used by social workers when children leave a home. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (10/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA form a committee to further research the possibilities of a foster parent union. That BCFFPA contact unions and have representatives attend next year’s AGM to discuss the benefits of a foster parent union. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (11/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA contact all Community Service Managers at the Ministry to reinforce the importance and need for their attendance at all quarterly partnership meetings. Carried</p> <p>MOTION (12/AGM/2014) that, as a provincial body, BCFFPA pursue inclusion on the Provincial Quality Assurance committee (or its equivalent) as well as participation on any regional Quality Assurance committees. Carried</p>

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
8. Election Results	<p>Special Resolution – Bylaw Amendment 2014B-1 <i>Article IV: General Meetings; Section 6 – Mail-In Votes</i> c) The ballots will be returned to the Federation Provincial Office, via mail, ten (10) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p> <p>Special Resolution – Bylaw Amendment 2014B-2 <i>Article IV: General Meetings; Section 6 – Mail-In Votes</i> d) An independent third party with no vested interest in the results will scrutinize the counting of ballots for Special Resolutions and elections.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p> <p>Special Resolution – Bylaw Amendment 2014B-3 <i>Article V: Board of Directors; Section 3 – Appointment and Removal of Directors</i> a) i. The President and Secretary shall be elected for a two (2) year term beginning at the Annual General Meeting, in even numbered years. ii. The Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected for a two (2) year term beginning at the Annual General Meeting, in the odd numbered years.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p> <p>Special Resolution – Bylaw Amendment 2014B-4 <i>Article V: Board of Directors; Section 2 – Officers</i> a) The Officers of the Federation shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Candidates for these officer positions shall be selected by the Nominating Committee from a pool of foster parents and associate members. They will be chosen for their knowledge and expertise in relation to these positions. The Officer Candidates will be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. They will be elected through a combination of mail-in votes and the votes of those attending the Annual General Meeting. When only one nomination for a position is received and if the incumbent meets all eligibility criteria, the incumbent will be considered elected by acclamation and no vote will take place.</p> <p>The Regional Delegates shall be elected or appointed within their regions and will represent the foster parents of those regions at the provincial table. Associate Members, selected to hold positions on the Federation Board of Directors, shall have full voting privileges during their term of office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Passed</p>	

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
	<p><i>Election for President</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominee: Russell Pohl 98 votes cast: 90 votes in favor, 8 votes against; 50 votes necessary for election. <p style="text-align: right;">Elected</p> <p><i>Election for Vice President</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominee: Tamara Smith 93 votes cast: 59 votes in favor, 34 votes against. - Nominee: Heather Bayes 94 votes cast: 54 votes in favor, 40 votes against. - 57 votes necessary for election. Tamara Smith elected to Vice President position. <p>The Parliamentarian proposed a Motion to destroy the election ballots.</p>	<p>MOTION to destroy the election ballots.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
<p>9. Announcements and Adjournment</p>	<p>The President invited all to attend the World Cafe after the AGM business meeting and thanked volunteers and staff. The President announced the location of AGM 2015 will be Whistler, BC on May 22-23, 2015.</p> <p>AGM 2014 Meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.</p>	

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APPENDIX A

AGM 2013 Motions—Activity Update

01/AGM/13 (F. Hetherington/G. Burleigh)

MOTION to investigate the process, pros and cons of a foster parent union.

Status Update: Currently, the only foster parent union in Canada operates in Quebec. We have experienced challenges in communication and contact—but we will continue to pursue an opportunity to discuss their structure. Other provinces have expressed interest in finding out how a foster parent union would be structured as well.

02/AGM/13 (G. Burleigh/F. Hetherington)

MOTION that BCFFPA advocate with MCFD for increased mileage amounts to foster parents that are more reflective of mileage paid to MCFD staff.

Status Update: BCFFPA has continued to lobby for increased mileage amounts for caregivers in the province. We have had no indication from MCFD Provincial Office when a change will be considered.

03/AGM/13 (L. Lachmuth/T. Smith)

MOTION that BCFFPA advocate with MCFD to revisit the need for and provision of safe spaces for children and youth.

Status Update: The Representative for Children and Youth and some MCFD staff have acknowledged that safe spaces are necessary for some youth, but BCFFPA has not been informed of any current work plans for this initiative.

04/AGM/13 (Y. Langlois/G. Burleigh)

MOTION that BCFFPA advocate with MCFD to create an insurance or other program for foster parents who contract critical or serious illness from a foster child. (eg. Hep C or AIDS)

Status Update: BCFFPA has requested discussions on this initiative in the past and once again following the 2013 AGM. The topic was also brought up on a Residential Redesign call with longterm caregivers. BCFFPA's insurance contact has looked into a possible insurance program. Our concern has been noted by MCFD but BCFFPA has not yet been invited to discuss the topic further.

05/AGM/13 (L. Lachmuth/T. Smith)

MOTION that BCFFPA advocate with MCFD that safety and security measures for foster parents be created in policy to protect against the results of high risk behaviors of children and youth in care.

Status Update: Discussions regarding an existing program that protects government employees (Targeted Threat of Violence and Threat Assessment Program) revealed that it would be inadequate for the needs of foster parents who are concerned for safety. At present, threats of a nature that would create concern for foster parent safety would be referred to local law enforcement. A comprehensive multi-discipline program would need to be developed in order to respond to perceived and actual threats to foster parents.

06/AGM/13 (A. Manuel/J. Dyer)

MOTION that BCFFPA advocate with MCFD to involve foster parents with assessments or decisions regarding the children and youth in their care. Foster parents who know the child(ren) should have the most input.

Status Update: The new Care Plan process is intended to involve foster parents in every aspect of planning for the child(ren) in their care. Since the new Care Plan process was put in place, we have only received two calls regarding foster parents being excluded from the process—these appear to be regional variations based on local leadership directives.

07/AGM/13 (Y. Langlois/C. Lacombe)

MOTION that BCFFPA look at the medical/dental plan options so that a plan is in place for foster parents.

Status Update: BCFFPA discussed this initiative at length with our insurance company. Though plans are technically possible for a large and varied group, the fact that foster parents operate as contractors, not employees, is the main stumbling block. The Summer 2013 issue of FosterlineBC (page 6—available through our website) has a thorough response to this Motion.

08/AGM/13 (F. Hetherington/C. Lacombe)

MOTION that BCFFPA pursue the creation of a program for retirement benefits for foster parents.

Status Update: Similar to the challenges above in Motion 07, BC's foster caregivers are contractors and therefore ineligible for any employee retirement programs. This topic is frequently a focus of foster parent retention discussions and was most recently revisited during a Residential Redesign meeting in April. MCFD is aware that foster parents are working well past the age where they would otherwise have retired and most have few resources to retire on. BCFFPA will continue to seek alternative programs suitable for foster parents.

09/AGM/13 (L. Lachmuth/C. Lacombe)

MOTION that BCFFPA investigate and discuss with the Ministry the ramifications of Chuck Geddes' CCI program on the smooth functioning of a foster home.

Status Update: Some community MCFD offices continue to utilize the CCI program in spite of negative feedback from foster parents. In the meantime BCFFPA is documenting the effects of the CCI program as they are reported.

10/AGM/13 (J. Dyer/L. Toth)

MOTION that BCFFPA advocate with MCFD for cost of living increases for foster parents.

Status Update: BCFFPA has continued to lobby for cost of living increases for caregivers in the province. As a component of the Residential Redesign process and the development of Caregiver Support Networks in the province, the Ministry plans to review the current system of Levels and rates for caregivers.