

AGM 2014 Motions—Activity Update

MOTION (06/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA contact Cranbrook CSM to establish a quarterly partnership meeting.

Directive given by MCFD provincial office to the EDS group to ensure that partnership meetings are taking place. Discussed after AGM 2014.

MOTION (07/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA establish why numbers are dropping in foster homes and children in care.

This information is being compiled as part of the Residential Redesign process and we are waiting for a summary document.

MOTION (08/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA obtain information on the numbers of foster homes and how many are active.

As of the end of January 2015, there were 3500 care homes. 2994 active contracts, including 4 DAAs (does not include data from all DAAs).

MOTION (09/AGM/2014) that BCFFPA seek a copy of the “foster parent evaluation form” used by social workers when children leave a home.

This form was officially retired from common use some time ago. We will have a copy in our office for those who are interested in viewing it.

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.

Preliminary consultation by committee members took place throughout the year with representatives from the Washington foster parent agency who have recently become unionized, the Quebec association who kindly provided their Collective Agreement for our review, and 3 BC union representatives.

The majority agreed that a foster parent union would provide a streamline effect on services, structure and a predictability that is currently a challenge using the present system.

One of the drawbacks to pursuing a unionized service delivery model would be that currently our monthly funding is considered “tax free income”, which of course, is more a consideration for those foster parents who receive Level 1-3 and Specialized service payments. This situation would change with a union, however, so would the rates and structure of compensation. We would also be required to pay union dues and would be subject to the same grid pay system as other lines of social service delivery positions.

Presently foster parents have no dental, extended health benefits, job security, or retirement preparation. Being unionized would bring these important considerations to our community. Foster parent rights would be legitimized and enforceable. Foster parents could rely on a structured and fair review/investigation process with strong union support and transparent communications. We would be actively involved in the process of child care and protection and it would limit the province-wide fluctuation in how the governing body manages our homes and contracts. It would also provide the provincial body with assistance in establishing its levels assessments and justifications for certain homes being certified and maintaining its level within the established grid.

Quebec was the first province to become unionized and all indications are that their attempt to streamline child care and protective services has proven successful to this date.

Our next step, should the fostering community desire, is to invite a union representative to address our membership and participate in a working session to establish whether union is the best option for the caregivers in this province and if so, how best to move forward.

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.

Directive given by MCFD provincial office to the EDS group to ensure that partnership meetings are taking place. Discussed after AGM 2014. Partnership is strong in some regions while in others it is still lagging.

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.

This was discussed with EDS Ed Berry, and is currently being discussed with the committee reviewing the Provincial Protocol.