

Letter of Introduction

I am thrilled to introduce myself as BC Foster Parents Association's Director of Advocacy and Provincial Community Strategist. Originally from the UK I am a grateful settler to the unceded and traditional territories of the coast Salish people, specifically residing in Vancouver, the lands of the hə́n̓ q̓ əmíḥ əm̓ and Sk̓w̓x̓ wú7mesh speaking peoples, the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, who have occupied these lands since time immemorial.

An avid soccer (football) fan I have season's tickets for the Whitecaps and a local tier one team called the Rovers FC. I am mad about pugs. I've had 4 so far. Just last year we welcomed a sassy black pug puppy to our family. She is my "soul pug" and we call her Sydney. My spouse Sara and I have a 16-year-old son named Aidan.

Having been employed in a range of capacities as a social worker for the Ministry of Children and Family Development for over twenty-seven years, I bring a wealth of experience to my role having worked directly with and on behalf of foster caregivers for twenty-three of those years.

Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to improving outcomes in the fostering sector by actively training, supporting, and promoting best practice approaches for foster caregivers. I understand the challenges which foster caregivers face in meeting the complex needs of children and youth in their homes, while also facing the often-competing demands that our system of care imposes.

Over the years, I have developed many partnerships and ongoing positive relationships with MCFD leaders, agency stakeholders and others throughout our fostering community. I have engaged in provincial committees, regional strategic planning committees and local partnership groups across the Lower Mainland, working to harness creative ideas, pool resources and consolidate differences across practice.

In my new role as Director of Advocacy/Provincial Community Strategist, my focus is on working closely with MCFD and community partners on behalf of foster parents. At BCFPA, our mandate is to advocate for and provide support to foster caregivers and I care deeply about the work foster caregivers do supporting the children and youth which we all serve. By creating partnerships with all stakeholders, I aim to address the obstacles we see and to streamline practices directly impacting foster caregivers across the province.

Lastly, I wanted to say that I feel incredibly lucky to work in an agency which supports and celebrates the development of foster caregivers. There is so much we can achieve together, and I cannot wait to begin.

Sincerely,

Amanda Oliver
Director of Advocacy/Provincial Community Strategist