

# FosterlineBC

BC Foster Parents Association



**New Approach  
to Children &  
Family Welfare**

**Provincial  
Strategy  
Initiative**



**Happy Foster  
Family  
Month**

**FREE Early Child  
Development  
Programs**

## BC FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION (BCFPA)

208 - 20641 Logan Avenue  
Langley, BC V3A 7R3

We are located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui and Semiahmoo peoples.

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# President's Report



Happy Foster Family Month!

This is the month when foster parents and their families are recognized, honoured, and appreciated. The work you do in the community is truly amazing and valuable. You all need to know that even on those hardest days, even though the road looks long, your love and the effort that you pour into the children and youth in care in this province are making a huge difference.

I love hearing stories where the children and youth have triumphed over obstacles with love, help, and support from a foster family. Enjoy these times with these children and youth – and know that it matters!

We have added a new position to the Board of Directors and we are pleased to share that we have appointed Tony Adolph, a foster parent from Lillooet, as our Board Representative for Indigenous Interests. This position compliments the staff role held by April Reeve who is both a staff Representative for Indigenous Interests and Solutions Support Liaison. Tony is eager to get connected with foster parents in the province and bring concerns to the table for discussion and resolution.

Soon we will be posting three Board positions that will need to be filled. We will be seeking representatives from the North, Fraser, and Interior regions. To be eligible you, need to live in one of these regions, have a solid foster parent network, are a member of BCFPA, and would like to be involved and bring concerns from your region. Our board members are all involved in the evolution of fostering in BC and help to direct our agency's priorities. Please consider putting your name forward for consideration. Watch your email for a Call for Nominations in the coming months.

Once again, I hope you have a wonderful Foster Family Month, and I wish you and your family a wonderful Autumn!

Julie Holmlund  
President

## Renew Your BCFPA Membership for 2025

It's that time of year again! Renew your BCFPA membership for the upcoming calendar year. Complete your renewal from now through January 31st, 2025 to remain a member in good standing and maintain your access to exclusive membership perks, engagement opportunities, bursaries, and more.

Memberships made between October and December roll into the next calendar year and all memberships paid for prior to January 31st, 2025 are eligible for entry in our early bird AGM bursary draw.



## OUR MISSION

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To represent and support all foster parents who provide quality in-home family care in BC.



## OUR BELIEF

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Supported and resilient caregivers raise empowered children and youth.



## OUR VISION

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Supporting children and youth to reach their full potential through exceptional care.



BC Foster Parents Association (BCFPA) is a provincial organization for foster parents, run by foster parents. We are a registered non-profit charity which aims to bring together foster parents, social workers and other stakeholders who are working to continuously improve the standard of care for children and youth in our province.

We provide information to the general public about fostering and recruitment services to the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies. We offer our community a support network through our local Branch affiliations and our Solutions Program, accessible fostering information and education, a hub to share news across our sector and insurance resources for foster caregivers. For over 50 years, we have consulted about the revision and development of policy and practice within BC's child welfare sector.

BCFPA's structure facilitates contact with all foster parents in the province. We provide funding to our Branches and Regional Councils, and we maintain a Board of Directors that represents the diversity of our province. BCFPA's Board of Directors provincially, regionally and at a community level are all volunteers, elected by their foster parent membership community.

# Notes from the Office



Happy Foster Family Month to all of our friends and community members! Our AGM takes place at the beginning of Foster Family Month this year. It also coincides with the interregnum period as we wait for a new provincial government. Due to the timing, we won't have a Minister of Children and Family Development to present at our AGM but we are happy, as always, to welcome Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, BC's Representative for Children and Youth, to open our conference day.

At the AGM we'll be announcing our next President of BC Foster Parents Association. New leadership is always an exciting time. Though we continue to follow our strategic priorities for advocacy and agency service, a new president always has something new to add to the mix. At the end of AGM 2024, we'll also be saying a sad farewell to both Kevin Daniel and Raquel Lesieur. Kevin has been serving our community for the majority of the past 14 years! Raquel joined the board in 2019 and has been diligently serving the Interior region these past 5 years. We will miss them both and wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

Since June, we've been focusing on our advocacy efforts and have met with the Minister of Children and Family Development, the Provincial Director of Child Welfare, the Executive Director of Guardianship and Adoption, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Service Delivery. All have been receptive to the fostering community priorities we highlighted, asked pertinent questions, and have indicated that they will support our efforts to ensure troublesome trends and areas that require development are addressed. The bulk of our work takes place behind the scenes and includes conversations with local ministry offices to better understand their process, noting office staffing concerns that regularly impact practice, and to make connections with leadership teams to engage in some challenging conversations. Our current priorities include addressing practice variations and policy interpretations that can fluctuate depending on the region.

The Foster Family Handbook revision has been stalled

for quite some time, but we're happy to report that the work is underway again. There will be a review phase for the project coming up soon, and we plan to have the final product out by the end of the year.

We are offering another in-person workshop series from Fall 2024 through Winter 2025 in Victoria, Richmond, Langley, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Prince George ([page 13](#)). We are offering 2 additional locations to reach a broader audience. Childcare and mileage reimbursement allowances will be increased but we won't be providing lodging for out-of-town attendees this year.

BCFPA members should have received a call in the past year from a board member, about participating in our regional Zoom calls that take place a few times each year. It's an opportunity for our members to connect with our Board of Directors and others in their region, and let us know what their challenges are, what's working well in their community, where they'd like to see some change, and if they'd like to be involved as a board member when there are opportunities. If you haven't heard yet from anyone about the regional membership calls, or are a new member of BCFPA, please get in touch with Taiah Repstock at [1-800-663-9999](tel:1-800-663-9999) or [taiah@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:taiah@bcfosterparents.ca).

We hope to see many of you at the AGM during Foster Family Month and we wish you a fantastic Fall with your families and friends.

Jayne Wilson  
Executive Director

## Interior Delegate Report by Raquel Lesieur

Hello, and happy Foster Family Month to all the foster families out there. I hope that all of you had a happy Summer and a great start to the school year.

This season's updates for the Interior region are much of the same. Ongoing efforts are being made to advocate for caregivers in the area experiencing overwhelming conditions that come from a shortage of homes and respite options. Advocating for lasting and meaningful change does not come quickly, but we firmly believe in the impact of our efforts.

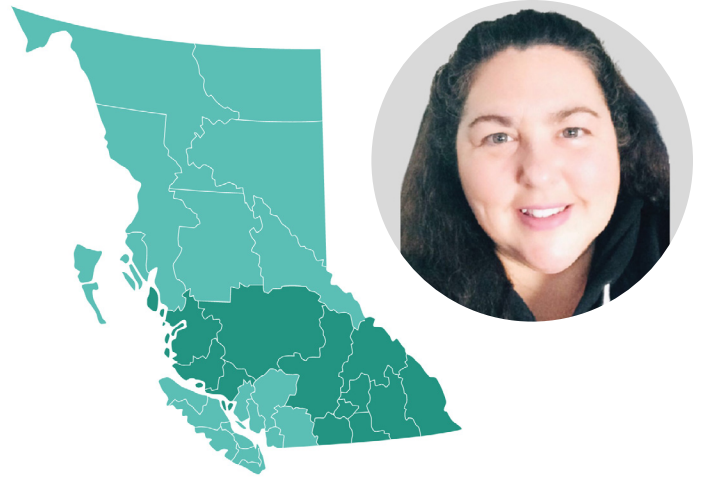
As this work continues, I warmly invite our BCFPA members to join us for regional calls. Happening regularly throughout the school year, members of the BCFPA board and staff meet virtually with caregivers to discuss what's happening in each region. We discuss support needs, training requests, service suggestions, success stories, and much more. Invitations are open to all of our members, and the information for each call comes from our Community Network Coordinator, Taiah Repstock ([taiah@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:taiah@bcfosterparents.ca)).

## Northern Delegate Report by Rocky Hindmarch

Happy Foster Family Month to all of the incredible caregivers and foster families out there. Know that you are important, seen, and supported by all of us at BC Foster Parents Association.

We have a busy Fall season this year. Our local branch is going to volunteer again for the Prince George Cougars hockey team to fundraise for our local branch. It was super fun last year so, of course, we've decided to do it again. If anyone is interested in helping out with this, please contact me at [rocky@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:rocky@bcfosterparents.ca) or get in touch with another member of the Prince George branch. We'll give you all the details and get you set up to come out and join us, or make a note to contact you for future volunteer opportunities.

There are lots of events happening, both recent and upcoming. In early September, we had a haircut and school supply event for our local families to prepare everyone for the new school year. As always, we had a



I'd like to take a moment to remind all of our caregivers that there are many supports and community connection opportunities available, both provincially and within the region. BCFPA's Fostering Solutions program is available to those looking for support and advocacy; Okanagan Foster Association, Interior Community Services, and [psacln.ca](http://psacln.ca) have many ongoing training opportunities; and there is a book club in South Okanagan for caregivers. These are just a few examples. I encourage you to reach out to your community and take advantage of groups and events.



great time. We're planning a huge Foster Caregiver gala for Foster Family Month in October. We've partnered with our local agencies for the event, which is wonderful. We will be inviting all of our Northern BC foster caregivers to attend, not just the Prince George folks. We're also planning an online silent auction to take place towards the end of the year. Feel free to reach out regarding any of these events to get more information!

We've had a few partnership meetings recently and I'm proud to report that all agencies have come forward to be a part of them. This is a trend we hope to bring forward into the new year as we continue to build these relationships.

## Fraser Delegate Report by Catherine Clutchey

Hello again everyone. Happy Autumn and Happy Foster Family Month.

Well, summer has officially come to an end and school is back in session. As of writing this in September, BCFPA is working hard to prepare for the upcoming AGM in Penticton. We are also looking ahead at a change in leadership within our organization. All around this is a busy month!

I would like to take this time to sincerely thank Julie Holmlund who has been our fearless leader over the past few years. She welcomed me onto the board with open arms and I look forward to working closely with the new president to continue the work that we have been doing for foster parents.

As someone who's been part of fostering community for nearly 20 years, I can say that progress is being made. Being a foster caregiver isn't any easier than it was previously. However, the support and resources we have that are accessible to us have increased. Education and training have gotten better and our knowledge about trauma related to children has advanced significantly. There is now, finally, education



available regarding transitions of children in the foster care system. This is greatly due to the demand of foster parents to better support children who enter their care. I am hopeful the education of social workers and ministry staff continues to improve as well.

I continue to be in awe and so grateful to the foster parents who have paved the way, and those coming up alongside us. Together, as a community, we can continue to bring change to the sector and build a better future for our families across British Columbia. I look forward to seeing this happen.

## Island Delegate Report by Taiah Repstock

Happy Autumn and Happy Foster Family Month. I hope that everyone enjoyed a beautiful September as we were brought into a new season.

Brought to light during BCFPA's regional call for the Island, we are noticing some disconnect between MCFD supports available to long-time caregivers and new caregivers. This is something that we are looking to address in our advocacy efforts. Through discussion and feedback, we are also seeing some of the pain points surrounding out-of-care supports, including its impact on foster caregivers.

With our Director of Advocacy role in place, occupied by Amanda Oliver, we have introduced a provincial strategy initiative (more information on [page 8](#)). With this initiative, we are able to bring a stronger focus to advocacy and we encourage you to make your voices heard.

Engage with our Board of Directors, Director of Advocacy/Provincial Community Strategist, Community Network

Coordinator, and others on regional calls; and be sure to subscribe to our email newsletter to engage in surveys and other opportunities.

Keep an eye out for BCFPA's third round of annual workshops coming up. Starting in October of this year, we'll be bringing new topics to Prince George, Langley, Richmond, Kelowna, Kamloops, and Victoria. The planning of each workshop is rooted in caregiver requests to provide certain topics (more information on [page 13](#) and on [bcfosterparents.ca/news](http://bcfosterparents.ca/news)).



**BCFPA members have access to discounts through our partnership with Canada's leading perk program!**



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**Step 2:** To access all perks, you must register by using a valid email address. Then, you will receive an email to activate your registration. - click the link within this email that says "Complete my profile".

**Step 3:** Enter your member ID code which is BCFPA + your 5-digit membership number (e.g. BCFPA12345). Once you are logged in, click on your name in the top right corner of the screen, then choose 'Profile'. Your BCFPA Membership Number will appear as the first item under 'Your Information'. You can now navigate back to perkopolis.com.

**Step 4:** Enter the required information. Click the 'accept terms and conditions' box. Click 'Confirm'.

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| WeightWatchers     | WestJet          |

**Don't foster in isolation!**  
**Our Solutions Program Team is here for you. We can all do so much more together than we ever can alone.**

**Call 1-800-663-9999 for support and advocacy.**





# Provincial Strategy Initiative

## by Benjamin Kathwaroon

Fostering is complicated. From the work that caregivers like you do to meet the needs of children and youth in your home every day, to the work that local resource teams do to support your practice, to the work that MCFD does at a provincial level to address arising issues and to improve outcomes for children and youth across BC. With so many layers to work with and so many different factors coming into play, it can be difficult to determine what problems are most pressing, and what areas of improvement will benefit our sector the most. While our Solutions Program team works to support the individual concerns of foster caregivers, BCFPA recognizes that a broader lens is necessary to really create change and get ahead of issues that face foster caregivers.

For this reason, BCFPA has introduced a provincial strategy initiative, headed by Amanda Oliver. Through this program, we have been working to research, identify, and collaborate with MCFD at all levels to address the complex, broad-scale issues impacting foster caregivers and the children and youth they care for.

We would like to introduce you to the first set of advocacy objectives that we have identified and recently presented at meetings with the Minister of Children and Family Development, the Honourable Grace Lore, and her team.

### **Assessment of the impact of a perceived increase in the number of Foster Care Home Investigations and Quality of Care Reviews across the Province.**

Foster caregivers have been making our team aware of a perceived increase in the number of investigations and reviews taking place across the province. The impacts of these investigations can be devastating for caregivers, particularly in the case of false allegations. While we work to obtain more definitive numbers, BCFPA's advocacy team is meeting with MCFD around the province to get their views on this alarming perception.

Initial impressions suggest that there is not necessarily a statistical increase in instances of review or investigation across the province, but their impact on foster caregivers and their role as a focal point of stress for our community remain important issues to address. As our team continues to dig into the issue and to collaborate with MCFD at all levels to address it, we hope to begin alleviating this stress.

Presently, some of our recommendations are for MCFD to emphasize the importance of proportionate responses to allegations and to ensure that actions taken are done with consideration and respect for the dignity and reputation of foster caregivers, and to ensure that caregivers undergoing these processes are made properly aware of the support services at their disposal.

At our meetings, we have been happy to see that this issue was received with due consideration and concern, and an understanding of how severe an impact these actions can have not just on individual caregivers, but on the sense of safety and security for our whole community.

### **Improvement of culture within the sector via developing positive working relationships between caregivers and MCFD/ICFSA staff.**

Improving working relationships between social workers and foster caregivers is an issue as old as our sector itself. Lots of issues can crop up which impede communication, break trust, and otherwise strain the vital connection between caregivers and child welfare sector employees. Our research and experience clearly show that having a positive culture of collaboration and respect between caregivers and workers is essential to creating a sense of security and fulfillment for caregivers, and while this issue is no simple solve, we have determined a number of ways we believe that it can be improved.

Foremost as caregivers are put under greater strain and higher expectation than ever before, that

dedication needs to be recognized and respected. By emphasizing the skills and competencies required to provide quality care to children and youth, we hope to bolster trust between workers and caregivers and normalize it for caregivers to be viewed as peers, not just contractors or employees. Various options exist and have been presented for directly improving these relationships as well.

One particular issue that BCFPA wished to address was the usage of the term “stranger care” to describe foster placements, and “family care” to describe Out of Care placements. We were glad to be assured by leaders at MCFD provincial office that they don’t support the use of the term “stranger care”.

### **Enhancing training opportunities and onboarding practices for new foster caregivers.**

With the needs of children and youth in care rising, it’s important for foster caregivers new and old to have their training and preparedness for these often complex needs bolstered as well. In particular, there have been a significant number of complaints from both caregivers and social workers that the PRIDE training model is outdated and in need of updating. Our program is focusing on advocating for vital improvements to this and other avenues of learning so that caregivers feel confident in meeting the needs of our province’s children and youth.

Consistency is key as well, and currently, a lot of variation exists between regions with respect to how caregivers are trained and what opportunities are made available to them, though our regional support agency partners are always diligently at work to increase the options available to foster caregivers. BCFPA is also always looking for new and valuable workshop options to provide.

One valuable resource that has recently been made available through our partners is the Provincial Support Agency Caregiver Learning Network (or “PSACLN”) which now enables easier access to online learning materials and even in-person events for members of our community throughout BC. We’d like to acknowledge the excellent work that our partners have done in putting this together, and if you haven’t already, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity this network presents. Find out more at [psacln.ca](https://psacln.ca).

### **Focusing on the vital importance of retaining skilled and experienced caregivers.**

It’s not just important to ensure that we are recruiting more foster caregivers, but that we are retaining and valuing those we are already fortunate to have serving our children and youth. A lack of foster placement options can lead to higher reliance on contracted group homes—particularly for youth. As most know, these are not always the best fit for youth, and making foster placements available is indispensably important to promote the best possible outcomes for young people in our system of care.

We know that creating a strong sense of community is one vital part of this process, and BCFPA, as well as MCFD and the various Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies in BC are always looking for ways to help get foster caregivers more connected with each other. Fostering is a difficult calling as it is, and doing so in isolation makes it that much harder. We will always continue seeking ways to bring our community together as we move into the future.

BCFPA is currently looking into administering exit interviews for all caregivers leaving the system, in order to determine what trends and root causes may exist and be impacting retention rates. We want to know why caregivers choose to leave the system, and moreover, what our advocacy initiative can do to make fostering a more practical, sustainable lifestyle for everyone. If you or someone you know have stopped fostering, or are seriously considering leaving the fostering system, we would welcome a discussion about your experiences and reasons for doing so.

Lastly, we would like to say that we were very grateful to see that Minister Lore and her team are very receptive to the issues listed, and we feel confident that we will find great success in the process of working in partnership to address them. With this new initiative, BCFPA hopes to help improve working conditions for foster caregivers, and to promote a spirit of cooperation and collaboration throughout all levels of the sector.

# Program Spotlight

## FOSTERING EARLY DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM

[develop.bc.ca](http://develop.bc.ca)

The Fostering Early Development (FED) Program is an MCFD-funded program (running out of a non-profit in Vancouver) that provides developmental screening and support to all children in care, from birth to age 6, along with ongoing education and training for foster caregivers. This program has been instrumental in detecting delays in development early, providing necessary referrals for early intervention support services, advocating for further diagnostic assessment when needed, and supporting foster caregivers as they care for vulnerable children.

Amy Ris, Program Coordinator of the Fostering Early Development Program, would like to hear more from foster caregivers across BC in hopes to expand this service in other locations across the province. Do you have a similar support service in your location? Would you like something similar in your region? How might it change the way you support the children in your care? Please reach out by email at [aris@develop.bc.ca](mailto:aris@develop.bc.ca) to connect further.



Developmental  
Disabilities Association

## BEAMING BRIGHT, YOU'RE A SHINING LIGHT

[shininglight.ca](http://shininglight.ca)

Beaming Bright, You're a Shining Light is an early social and emotional skills development program for babies and young children aged 0 to 6. Developed by an experienced parent educator, Lynne Cox, in partnership with a kindergarten school teacher, this program is created with a wealth of valuable knowledge and testimonials of real results. Lynne herself, speaks to how building the program has even positively impacted her as a mother and grandmother.

With a collection of free-to-use resources available online, this program can be implemented at home from birth by parents and caregivers, as well as in daycares and classrooms up to and beyond the age of 6. Each lesson is taught through fun age-appropriate activities that aid in the development of other early childhood skills. Resources include storybooks, audiobooks, music, lesson plans and materials, as well as an in-depth look at the program in action.



BEAMING BRIGHT,  
You're a  
Shining Light

# SECTOR NEWS & UPDATES



## British Columbia to take new direction in supporting children, youth, and families.

**Note:** The linked Don't Look Away report covers heavy topics surrounding grief and loss, and abuse. Please proceed with care.

In response to the Don't Look Away investigation and systemic review ([bit.ly/4efHyNo](https://bit.ly/4efHyNo)) released by the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) on July 16th of this year, the provincial government forms a new approach to child, youth, and family welfare. The review, which calls for a more collaborative system to support the well-being of BC's families, covers the following four major themes:

- the prevention of intimate partner and family violence;
- enhanced family support services;
- improved inter-agency collaboration;
- and improved support for those providing kinship care.

To take action on building this new approach to child, youth, and family welfare, the government will form a group of senior public officials across Canada. The sole purpose of this group will be to strategize and guide this new direction. This process is expected to take place throughout Autumn. The focus of their work will cover the following:

- developing a child and youth action plan that focuses on child and youth well-being;
- developing an outcomes-based framework to ensure that actions taken are working to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children, youth, and families;
- strengthening information sharing between ministries and service providers so that when children and youth are struggling, they are connected with the supports they need;

- requiring that government policy decisions consider the implications for children and youth;
- working across ministries to address the causes and ongoing impacts of family and gender-based violence, especially for Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit people and children;
- examining what functions of family supports and child protection can be separated to provide a more coordinated approach focusing on the well-being of children with their families;
- exploring the reconfiguration of child and family services across ministries including for Children and Youth with Support Needs and Child and Youth Mental Health;
- and exploring the establishment of a body for the purpose of supporting Indigenous governing bodies with the resumption of jurisdiction.

The Province commits to moving forward together with First Nations and Indigenous partners, on both a provincial and community level, to ensure that all families in British Columbia are provided with an equitable path towards success. As part of this commitment, the work being done to form this approach will build on actions, legislations, and partnerships that are currently in place or underway.

“Our agency recognizes the critical importance of timely response when change is called for. We gladly offer our full support for any initiative that leads to positive outcomes for children and youth.”

— Julie Holmlund, president,  
BC Foster Parents Association

**Source: MCFD Press Release**

## Report released addressing social work oversight in BC.

A report on a 2022-2023 study regarding social work oversight in British Columbia has now been released ([bit.ly/3XoEFmy](https://bit.ly/3XoEFmy)). This study, led by MCFD, engages social workers, ministry partners, and public individuals on topics such as practice requirements, standards, ethics, recruitment and retention, inclusion, equity, anti-racism, and truth and reconciliation. The discussions that took place resulted in the emergence of the following three major themes:

- accountability for social workers to better protect public safety;
- addressing systemic barriers that inhibit access to supports and improving the overall registration process;
- and supporting the delivery of high-quality results that enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Opinions on how to approach the oversight vary. While some participants believe in implementing an increase in the regulation of social workers, others express concerns about systemic issues that impact the current state of social work.

Following this report, MCFD will continue to work with Indigenous Peoples and partners to determine next steps and make necessary changes.

**Source: MCFD Press Release**

## Agreements signed between Province and Sts'ailes Peoples, as well as between Province and Cowichan Tribes.

In June of this year, Chief Cindy Daniels (Sulsulxumaat), Cowichan Tribes; the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services, and the Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development signed a historic agreement to protect the inherent rights of Cowichan Tribes to look after their families in alignment with their cultural beliefs and practices. The agreement supports the implementation of Snuw'uy'ulhust tu Quw'utsun Mustimuhw u' tu Shhw'a'luqw'a l' Smun'eem (The Laws of the Cowichan People for Families and Children).

In early September another agreement was signed by Siyam te Sts'ailes (Sts'ailes leadership); the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services; and the Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development. This agreement confirms the implementation of Snowoyelh te Emi:melh te Sts'ailes, the Snowoyelh Department to oversee the safety and well-being of Sts'ailes children and families while maintaining strong connections to cultural identities, beliefs, and practices.

**Source: MCFD Press Release**

# Happy Foster Family Month

The calling to be a foster caregiver is not an easy one. There is always something to learn, something to advocate for, and something new to navigate on this path. To open your hearts and your homes is to accept a monumental challenge, though one that is not without a multitude of rewards.

Know that no matter what you and your families face, you are seen for your love, generosity, compassion, strength, endless efforts, and the many hats that you wear each day to show up for the children and youth in your life. Know that you are not alone. There are entire communities beside and behind you to lift you up and to help pave the way to create positive change for generations ahead.

From the entire team here at BC Foster Parents Association and our families to yours, we wish you a wonderful Foster Family Month this October and a beautiful last few months of 2024.

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

BC Foster Parents Association is proud to announce another round of free foster caregiver workshops, taking place throughout late 2024 and early 2025. Given the project's prior success, we are excited to say that this year we are able to offer an addition of two locations for a total of six workshops. We are also able to offer new reimbursement rates for travel and childcare to better accommodate attendees (rates to be finalized).

Each foster caregiver exclusive workshop will take place on the specified date from 8am to 3pm. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments will be served during the event at no charge, and parking will be available at each location. Please note, that BCFPA is unable to offer complimentary hotel rooms this year.

## **Prince George at the Prestige Treasure Cove Resort**

**Date:** October 24, 2024

Titled *What To Do When Things Get Out of Control*, this workshop will focus on an attachment-based perspective on self-regulation and managing other attachment-seeking behaviour in children 0-19yrs. This workshop will be presented by Amanda Oliver and Stephanie Carr.

## **Langley at the Cascade Hotel and Casino**

**Date:** November 20, 2024

Titled *What To Do When Things Get Out of Control*, this workshop will focus on an attachment-based perspective on self-regulation and managing other attachment-seeking behaviour in children 0-19yrs. This workshop will be presented by Amanda Oliver.

## **Richmond at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel**

**Date:** November 27, 2024

Workshop title, topic, and speaker are to be finalized. Information will be available under [bcfosterparents.ca/news](https://bcfosterparents.ca/news) and via our email newsletter.

At this time we are also planning offer a webinar on collaborative decision-making in child welfare this Autumn. Details will be announced on our website and via our email newsletter.

For further and final information, and to register for a workshop, please visit [bcfosterparents.ca/news](https://bcfosterparents.ca/news).

## **Victoria at the Hotel Grand Pacific**

**Date:** January 29, 2025

Yet to be titled, this workshop will focus on understanding and supporting children and youth with autism, including a look at the common crossovers between autism and eating disorders, as well as autism and ADHD. This workshop will be presented by Jessica Pfeffer.

## **Kamloops at the Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre**

**Date:** February 25, 2025

Yet to be titled, this workshop will focus on self-advocacy and wellness for caregivers. The workshop will be co-facilitated by Jessica Mills and Shawna Mackenzie.

## **Kelowna at the Ramada Inn Hotel**

**Date:** February 27, 2025

Yet to be titled, this workshop will focus on understanding and supporting children and youth with ADHD. The workshop will be co-facilitated by Jessica Mills and Shawna Mackenzie.



## Brand new perks now available for BCFPA members.

BC Foster Parents Association is proud to now offer discounts on meal prep kit delivery services, alongside our growing list of BCFPA member perks and discounts. Enjoy meal kit deliveries from Easy Vegan (Victoria), 2 Guys with Knives (Lower Mainland), Way Of Life Foods “WOLF” (Victoria), and more to come.

New discounts are added to our website on a regular basis. Be sure to check back regularly so you don't miss out on offers.

Our team at BC Foster Parents Association makes continued efforts to contact vendors and request discounts for BCFPA members. You can help! BCFPA branch members are encouraged to get involved in contacting local vendors to source discounts for caregivers in their area. Please provide us with any new information to post on our website.

## Not covered by a group health plan? Concerned about health & dental expenses?

Find the coverage that's right for you and your family with a **Health Assist plan** from **Green Shield Canada (GSC for short)**.

**gsc** healthassist®

You can choose a plan that offers prescription drug coverage, dental or a combination of both. Plus, all plans provide coverage towards vision care, extended health care (like registered massage therapists and chiropractors), and emergency medical travel protection. Your acceptance is guaranteed for many plans – no medical questions asked\*. Best of all, Health Assist plans are easy to understand and easy to get.

**It's all about you and what you need.**  
**Want more info?**

Contact

**Candace Dodson-Willis**

in strategic alliance with Group One

[Candace\\_Dodson@icloud.com](mailto:Candace_Dodson@icloud.com)

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

\*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.  
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# Hearing from BCFPA's Education Bursary Recipients

We reached out to the recipients of this year's educational bursaries with the question: How will this bursary help you to achieve your career plan and future goals?

“

I am incredibly grateful for the generous bursary you have awarded me. This financial support will significantly enrich my life, allowing me to fully dedicate myself to advancing my skills and knowledge in the field of automotive mechanics. With this bursary, I can afford the necessary tools, resources, and education that will elevate my career prospects and enhance my ability to provide exceptional service. Your belief in my potential and investment in my future means the world to me, and I am deeply thankful for this opportunity to pursue my passion with greater confidence and capability. ”

- Dylan, Recipient of Merv Davis Bursary

“

This scholarship provides me with an opportunity to remove one more obstacle in achieving my career and future plans. Purchasing a computer was a big obstacle as I am on limited disability income currently due to a past accident. My future career plans are to receive academic designations in the accounting and finance areas. These funds would enable me to purchase a desktop computer with the programs required to complete my studies i.e. accounting software, Zoom capabilities (virtual classes), printing, etc. I currently am working off an older and slower used computer. Thank you for this opportunity to create more efficient ways to complete my studies. ”

- Destiny, Recipient of William Curtis Fund Bursary

While some of our recipients were unable to provide a comment, we are able to express gratitude on their behalf for the positive impact that these bursaries will have on their educations and the paths to their goals.

For more information about BCFPA's grants and bursaries, and to submit an application, please visit [bcfosterparents.ca/programs-and-services/financial-assistance](https://bcfosterparents.ca/programs-and-services/financial-assistance).

**STAY IN  
THE KNOW**

Subscribe to the BC Foster Parents Association Newsletter at [bcfosterparents.ca](https://bcfosterparents.ca) to keep up to date on events, bursaries, sector news, surveys, and more!



# Apply for a Camps For Kids Grant

## Fall/Winter Cycle

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The Camp For Kids grants were established by BC Foster Parents Association to alleviate some of the costs member foster caregivers encounter when sending their foster, adopted, or birth children to camp.

**Amount of grant:**

An annual grant of \$300 per family.

**Who can apply:**

- You are a current foster caregiver and BCFPA member who requires assistance to send their foster, adopted or birth children to camp.
- The child/youth attending camp must be between the ages of 6 and 18 years old.

**Application requirements:**

Proof of deposit or full payment for the camp that the child/youth is enrolled in.

**When to apply:**

Applications will be accepted from **August 1 - October 31**.

**How to apply:**

Complete an online application form at [bcfosterparents.ca/form-camps-for-kids-grant-application/](https://bcfosterparents.ca/form-camps-for-kids-grant-application/). Don't forget to fill out all the information and include all required documentation at the time of application. Contact our staff at **1-800-663-9999** or [office@bcfosterparents.ca](mailto:office@bcfosterparents.ca) if you need any assistance.

**Next steps:**

Once the application has been reviewed, Applicants can expect to be notified in November, regardless of application status. Cheques are issued payable to the applicant and sent to the applicant's mailing address. Please allow four weeks from the date that you receive the notification for your cheque to arrive.





## **“This Is Who We Are” A Poem by Marcy Perron**

*You bring us a child who is lost and scared  
Whose future is uncertain and needs someone who  
cared.*

*It doesn't matter the child's gender or age  
The child will regress and so sets the stage.*

*For the future of the child their kin and family  
That has been torn apart and needs healing badly.*

*We welcome the child and all that they bring  
Their beliefs their culture, family and friends.  
Just know this path has a beginning but there is no end.*

*By mending the circle that has been fractured and frayed  
We hope the child and family will be united one day.  
The circle will be mended and the child will be safe  
Be it at home with their family or in a loving safe place.*

*The needs are all different for each child who came  
Their paths will vary  
But the outcome will be the same.*

*A family to cherish them for who they are  
A circle unbroken to help heal the scar.  
To see light where there is darkness  
To hear laughter and song  
To enjoy looking to the future knowing the darkness is  
gone.*

*To love and be loved  
And know that it's true  
The more love you give  
The more it comes back to you”*

I love the work I do and I'm proud to be a part of a community of individuals who have dedicated their lives to helping heal both child and family whenever possible while keeping in mind the child's need not only to be loved unconditionally but to feel safe and secure in their future.

You will always have my utmost respect.

A fellow foster parent and proud of it.  
Marcy Perron, BCFPA Treasurer

# FOSTER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## Provincial Resources

<b>BC Foster Parents Association</b> bcfosterparents.ca	1-800-663-9999
<b>After Hours Foster Parent Support Line</b>	1-888-495-4440
<b>Indigenous Perspectives Society</b> fostercaregiversbc.ca	1-844-391-0007
<b>Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks</b> fbcyicn.ca	1-800-565-8055
<b>Belonging Network</b> bcadoption.com	1-877-236-7807
<b>BC Council for Families</b>	604-678-8884
<b>Pacific Post Partum Support Society</b> postpartum.org	604-255-7999
<b>Parent Help Line</b>	1-888-603-9100
<b>Parents Together</b>	604-325-0511
<b>Parent Support Services of BC</b> parentsupportbc.ca	1-800-345-9777
<b>Representative for Children &amp; Youth</b> rcybc.ca	1-800-476-3933
<b>FAE/S Support Network</b>	604-507-6675
<b>Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre</b>	1-800-665-1822

## Interior

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

<b>Okanagan Foster Parent Association</b> okfosterparents.ca Central Okanagan North Okanagan South Okanagan Shuswap	250-870-8991 250-558-0939 250-462-6907 250-515-1522
<b>Okanagan Metis Children &amp; Family Services</b>	250-868-0351
<b>Interior Community Services</b> interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca icsfp.info East Kootenay West Kootenay Cariboo Kamloops and area	1-877-376-3660 250-426-6013 778-460-5174 250-609-201 236-421-0031

## Island

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

<b>Foster Parent Support Services Society (FPSSS)</b> fpsss.com	1-888-922-8437
FPSSS (South Vancouver Island)	778-430-5460
FPSSS (Central Island)	250-618-8327
FPSSS (Comox/Courtney)	250-898-4488
FPSSS (Cowichan Valley)	250-818-3293
FPSSS (Upper Island)	250-204-1566
FPSSS (Port Alberni)	250-735-1124
FPSSS (North Island)	250-949-7419

## North

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

<b>AXIS Family Resources</b> axis.bc.ca	1-877-392-1003
<b>Community Bridge (Fort St. John)</b> communitybridge.ca	250-793-2261

## Coast 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> hollyburn.ca	604-987-8211
<b>Vancouver Aboriginal Child &amp; Family Services Society</b> vacfss.com	778-331-4500
<b>Foster Hub</b> fosterhub.ca	1-877-926-1185
<b>Archway Community Services</b> archway.ca	778-880-8555
<b>Fraser Valley Foster Parent Association</b> fraservalleyfosterparents.org	1-877-797-7701
<b>South Vancouver Youth Centre</b> milieu.ca	604-325-2004
<b>Pacific Community Resources Society</b> pcrs.ca	604-587-8100
<b>The Children's Foundation</b> childrens-foundation.org	604-434-9101

# IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

Please complete and return to BCFPA: 208-20641 Logan Avenue, Langley, BC V3A 7R3 or join or renew via our website at [bcfosterparents.ca](http://bcfosterparents.ca)

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

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

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

Local Association (BCFPA Branch): \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Foster Home: (select 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 office 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 BCFPA branch.

I/we contract with \_\_\_ MCFD \_\_\_ ICSFA Other: \_\_\_\_\_

OR my affiliation with the BCFPA is (i.e. staff, MCFD, non-foster parent): \_\_\_\_\_

As members of the BC Foster Parent Associations, I/we agree to abide by the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, and Code of Ethics of the Association. \_\_\_\_\_  
[signature(s)]

Please bill my VISA or MC # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
[signature for approval]

## Get social with us!



@bcfosterparentsassociation



@bcfosterparents



Youtube.com/@BCFPA



@bcfosterparents