

FosterlineBC

BC Foster Parents Association



Pictured: Alia Gordon, Foster Caregiver

**Caregiver
Spotlight:
Alia Gordon**

**Sector News
& Updates**


**foster
parents**
British Columbia
Fall 2026 Volume 24, Issue 3

**Child Wellbeing
Action Plan
and Outcomes
Framework**

**MCFD CYSN
Redesign FAQ**

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IN THIS ISSUE

4 President's Report

Message from BCFPA's President

5 Notes from the Office

Organizational updates, highlights, and news

6 Delegate Reports

Regional updates and perspectives from delegates

9 Caregiver Spotlight: Alia Gordon

Alia Gordon's journey as a caregiver

13 Sector News and Updates

Recent developments, initiatives, and changes affecting caregivers and the broader child and family services sector

15 Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework

An overview of the provincial action plan, its priorities, and the outcomes framework guiding future work

17 Voices of Impact

Stories and reflections from bursary and grant recipients

19 CYSN Redesign Q&A

Answers to questions about the redesign of services for children and youth with support needs

OUR MISSION

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



OUR BELIEF

Supported and resilient caregivers raise empowered children and youth.



OUR VISION

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.

President's Report

by Rocky Hindmarch



Hi everybody!

I hope you all had a good summer and were able to spend some time relaxing and having fun. That said, we're foster parents, so relaxing likely wasn't a big part of our summers. For the homes affected by fire evacuations, I hope you were able to stay safe and didn't suffer too many losses from the fires.

Up here in the North, we noticed that summer has quickly turned into fall. The air smells and feels different, and the leaves are changing. We're shifting into fall and getting closer to preparing for winter. Soon, the flower pots get put away and the shovels and snow blowers come out.

Our team has been meeting with MCFD quite regularly regarding the motions from the AGM last year. These meetings have been quite positive, and it feels like we're working collaboratively with the Ministry. They are truly listening to our concerns and taking them higher up the ladder to the people who will be able to make policy changes—eventually! It's been a great experience being able to work with them, and they're looking forward to having new motions brought forward for us to work on as well.

Foster Family Month is coming up! My hope is that your area will be doing something to recognize and appreciate you, but I know that this is not always the case. One card or one dinner doesn't always make us feel fully

appreciated, but it does help a little. I think where we truly feel appreciated is by other foster caregivers who share in what we do and know how hard our jobs can be. Thank you, from myself and the entire Board, for continuing to do what you do and for continuing to put the children and youth in your care front and centre in your lives. We're all making a difference in their lives and in the community.

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up! Please make sure to come prepared with any motions you may have, and don't forget to stand up and present them during the AGM. This is one of the ways we can truly be heard and help make changes in the lives of foster families.

This year, we'll be at the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria. I've been to this hotel before, and it's great. The one thing I do want to mention, though, is that there isn't a convenience store or grocery store nearby. If you're driving in, you may want to grab a few things for your hotel room before arriving.

There's lots to look forward to at BCFPA's AGM & Conference. I hope you all come prepared to network, connect, and enjoy being together with other foster caregivers from across the province. The AGM is always an important opportunity to have our voices heard, but it's also a chance to reconnect, share experiences, learn from one another, and have some fun along the way.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Notes from the Office

by Dan Malone



October is Foster Family Month, an important opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedication of foster caregivers throughout British Columbia. Every day, foster families open their homes and provide stability, care, encouragement, and connection to children and youth. On behalf of BCFPA, I extend my sincere appreciation for all that you do and for the positive difference you make in your communities.

As we move into the fall, there is a great deal happening across the BC Foster Parents Association. Our team continues to focus on supporting foster and kinship caregivers, strengthening connections throughout the province, and ensuring that caregivers have reliable places to turn for information, advocacy, and practical assistance. I am grateful for the dedication caregivers show every day and for the experience and knowledge they continue to share with us.

Our 2026 Annual General Meeting is being held in Victoria at the Inn at Laurel Point. Registration has been very strong and the event is now almost full. We are looking forward to welcoming caregivers, delegates, community partners, staff, and board members for an important time of learning, connection, and organizational business. The AGM provides an opportunity to celebrate the caregiver community, hear different perspectives, and consider the priorities that will guide BCFPA's work in the year ahead.

The President and Secretary will be announced at the AGM as part of the transition to the new board. We appreciate everyone who has

stepped forward to contribute their time and leadership to the Association. Strong governance is essential to BCFPA's ability to represent caregivers effectively, respond to emerging issues, and remain accountable to our members and communities across British Columbia.

LINK (Listen, Include, Nurture, Know), the new MCFD pre-service and mandatory education program for foster caregivers, is now up and running and is replacing P.R.I.D.E. This is a significant transition in caregiver education. As the new program becomes established, BCFPA will continue to listen to caregivers' experiences, share information, and support communication about the transition. Education and preparation are important parts of helping caregivers feel informed, connected, and ready for the responsibilities of fostering.

Our Solutions Program continues to be very busy providing support to caregivers. The questions and situations brought forward reflect the complexity of caregiving and the importance of having knowledgeable, responsive assistance available. The team remains committed to listening carefully, helping caregivers understand available information and processes, and supporting them as they navigate challenging circumstances.

The Kinship Support Program is also running well. Kinship and out-of-care caregivers play an essential role in keeping children and youth connected to family, culture, and community. We are pleased to continue building this area of

support and to provide a place where kinship caregivers can seek information, connection, and assistance that recognizes their unique experiences.

We also continue to host quarterly provincial calls with caregivers. These calls are an opportunity to connect across regions, raise issues, exchange information, and hear directly from the people providing care in communities throughout BC. Caregiver voices help shape our understanding of what is working, where challenges remain, and what areas may require further attention or advocacy. They also help ensure our work remains grounded in the realities caregivers are experiencing and that emerging concerns are identified early. By creating a consistent space for dialogue, these calls help inform broader provincial advocacy and system improvement. We encourage caregivers to join the calls and share their perspectives.

BCFPA developed and submitted three recommendations in response to the Legislative Assembly's annual consultation on the provincial budget. Each year, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services invites individuals, organizations, and communities across BC to identify priorities for the upcoming provincial budget. The Committee reviews the submissions it receives and develops recommendations for consideration by the Legislative Assembly.

BCFPA's Budget 2027 recommendations were submitted to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services as part of this consultation process. The recommendations identify targeted provincial investments that could strengthen the sustainability and capacity of family-based care across British Columbia. BCFPA is recommending three complementary investments focused on strengthening caregiver support, improving equity across caregiving arrangements, and ensuring caregivers have adequate and predictable resources to meet the needs of children and youth. We are calling for stronger, more equitable supports for foster, kinship, and out-of-care caregivers through a dedicated caregiver support network, improved mental health and critical incident supports, and increased maintenance payments that are indexed annually. These investments would strengthen caregiver retention, placement stability, and the sustainability of family-based care across the province.

Thank you for your continued commitment to children, youth, and families across British Columbia. Whether you are attending the AGM, joining a provincial call, connecting with one of our support programs, or sharing your experience with us, your involvement helps strengthen the caregiver community and ensures caregiver voices continue to be heard. BCFPA remains committed to standing alongside caregivers working toward a system where caregivers feel supported and valued.

October is Foster Family Month

Celebrating the British Columbians who open their homes, hearts, and lives to children, youth, and families.

Your commitment makes a lasting difference. Thank you for all that you do!



Interior Delegate Report

by Jana Fraser

Greetings from the Interior Region! There has been a great deal happening across our communities, and much to reflect on as we move into a new season.

The Summerland fire was devastating, and many residents lost their homes, belongings, and sense of security. We are grateful that we did not receive any reports of foster families in the area losing their homes, and that evacuations have now ended and families have been able to return home. Moments like these remind us how important strong, connected communities are, especially during times of crisis.

I'm also pleased to share that the South Okanagan, Kelowna, and North Okanagan recently came together for a full day of training for foster parents and support agencies. The day focused on suicide awareness and prevention and street drug awareness, and included lunch, door prizes, and opportunities to connect. It was wonderful to see caregivers from across the region learning together.

As we celebrate Foster Family Month, I want to recognize the incredible foster parents and families throughout the Interior. Your impact is felt in the everyday moments: providing stability, building trust, advocating for children and youth, and creating a sense of safety and belonging. Thank you for the commitment you bring every day. You deserve to be celebrated!

Island Delegate Report

by Sarah Scorey

It has been another busy and rewarding year for foster caregivers across Vancouver Island. I continue to be inspired by the dedication, resilience, and compassion of caregivers who open their homes and their lives to children and youth, often during incredibly challenging circumstances.

Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to connect with caregivers through local events, meetings, mentoring, and advocacy.

These conversations continue to highlight both the strength of our fostering community and the pressures many caregivers are facing. Across Vancouver Island, many homes remain at capacity, and there continues to be a significant need for more foster caregivers, particularly those able to support children and youth with complex needs.

Even amid these challenges, there is much to celebrate. Caregivers across the Island continue to support one another, welcome new foster families, strengthen relationships with community partners, and advocate for positive changes that improve the fostering experience for everyone.



As we celebrate Foster Family Month, I want to recognize the extraordinary contribution of Vancouver Island's foster caregivers. So much of what you do happens quietly and without recognition: the appointments, school meetings, late nights, advocacy, encouragement, difficult conversations, celebrations, and countless everyday acts of care that help children and youth feel safe, supported, and valued.

Northern Delegate Report by Tanya-Lea Nault

Welcome Back to School! As summer comes to an end and another school year begins, we want to wish all of our foster families a wonderful start to the new school year.

September is always a busy time as families settle back into routines, school schedules, activities, appointments, and everything else that comes with supporting children and youth. Thank you to our foster parents for all the ways you help children and youth navigate these transitions, celebrate new beginnings, and feel supported along the way.

October is Foster Family Month

As we look ahead to October, we are especially pleased to recognize Foster Family Month and celebrate the foster parents and caregivers who make such an important difference in communities throughout British Columbia.

Fostering is so much more than opening your home. It means showing up every day with patience, compassion, and care. It means celebrating milestones, helping children and youth through difficult moments, working alongside families and professionals, and providing stability during times of change and uncertainty.

We know this work can be incredibly rewarding, but we also know it can be demanding and challenging. The commitment you make to the children and youth in your care matters, and the impact of that commitment extends far beyond

Thank you for continuing to show up for children, youth, families, and one another. Your commitment makes a lasting difference.

I am proud to represent Vancouver Island and look forward to continuing to strengthen connections among caregivers, amplify caregiver voices, and work toward meaningful improvements for foster families throughout British Columbia.



your own household to families, schools, and communities.

During Foster Family Month, we hope you take a moment to recognize the difference you make every day. Thank you for opening your homes, your hearts, and your lives. We appreciate you!

The Holidays are around the corner!

It may only be fall, but the holiday season will be here before we know it! Rocky and I are already busy planning our Christmas Party, and we are looking forward to bringing everyone together for some holiday fun!

After another busy year, it will be wonderful to spend time together, reconnect with familiar faces, and celebrate our fostering community. Stay tuned for more details as the holidays get closer!



Caregiver Spotlight: Alia Gordon

Alia is a longtime foster caregiver living on Vancouver Island who has been fostering for more than 40 years. Her connection to fostering began at 13, when her mother opened their family home to children seeking safety and connection. Even at such a young age, Alia had a natural ability to connect with children who found it difficult to trust adults. Throughout her fostering journey, Alia has supported children through trauma, medical needs, and many other challenges. Over the years, fostering has expanded her family circle and deepened her belief that everyone deserves a place where they feel they belong.

Photo by Marjie Armstrong
Interview by Michelle Relevante

How did your journey begin?

I've been involved in fostering in one way or another for about 40 years. My mother became a foster parent when I was around 13, so fostering became part of my life at a young age. Many of the children who came into our home had experienced difficult and unsafe circumstances and were not yet comfortable speaking openly with adults. They would often talk to me, and I became someone they trusted to help communicate what they were feeling or needed.

I remember one child who would sit behind me and quietly whisper their answers so I could share them with the adults in the room. They were not ready to speak directly, but they felt safe enough to speak through me. That was really the beginning of my role in fostering. Since then, I have supported children with a wide range of experiences and needs.

Over the years, I have experienced many different aspects of fostering and learned something from every child who has come into my life.

How did growing up in a foster family shape you?

One of the most obvious lessons was perspective. I would think, "I have it hard"... Then I would listen to what some of these children had experienced. Their stories made me look at my own challenges differently and recognize what I had. Fostering taught me gratitude and empathy.

Fostering changes how you understand your own challenges when you meet someone facing circumstances you can barely wrap your head around. Many had lived through experiences I could barely comprehend. Hearing their stories taught me never to take anything for granted. It also taught me to listen without judgment and to remember that we rarely know the full story of what someone else is carrying.

Was there a moment when you knew fostering was something you wanted to do?

For years, I kept trying to move in a different direction, but fostering continued to call me back. Fostering is a calling. It is incredibly challenging. Other jobs can seem easy in comparison because, at the end of the work day, you shut everything off and go home. The day may end, but the responsibility that comes with being a foster caregiver does not.

Fostering is rewarding and comes with many wonderful things, but when you are fostering, you are constantly "on". It can be incredibly demanding, but the chance to be there for a child keeps bringing me back.

What is it about fostering that keeps pulling you back?

Social workers! They know that you are going to meet this child, fall in love and want to help them. Then you're lost. The work needs to be done. You find yourself standing there asking, "Can I walk away? Can I sleep at night if I do?" With some children, you simply cannot walk away—not when you know that being there for them could make a big difference in their life.

How has fostering changed you and your family?

Fostering has expanded our definition of family. It has taught us that family can take many forms and that belonging begins with knowing there is a place for you.

In our home, family is built through care and showing up for one another...and that has also included more than a few animals along the way, not just humans! In our home, there is always room for one more.

How do you help children feel safe and welcome when they are new to your home and trust has not yet been established?

The first priority is making sure they are physically safe and that their immediate needs are attended to, particularly when supporting children with medical challenges. Then you stop, take a breath and look at the person you are trying to care for. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. What makes one child feel safe may not make another child feel safe.

It's important to make them feel accepted; no matter how they arrive at your door. You do not begin by judging their appearance or asking them to explain themselves. You begin by showing them that they are welcome and that they do not have to earn their place in your home.

Every child arrives with a different history. You have to meet them where they are and take the time to understand what may be making them feel unsafe. Trust is not something you can demand. It is built through small moments...keeping your word, respecting their boundaries, listening without judgment and showing them, again and again, that they are accepted and cared for exactly as they are.

How do you care for yourself when being a foster caregiver feels difficult or overwhelming?

Self-care is not my area of expertise! Fortunately, I have people around me who are very good at telling me when I need to slow down. For me, creativity helps. Allowing yourself to be creative can help fill your cup. Having a strong support system also makes a huge difference. It is important to have people you can lean on and trust. You also have to be realistic and honest with yourself. When you are too tired, you need to be able to say, "I'm too tired".

What is the best advice you have received as a foster caregiver?

You are not always going to be perfect. You have to accept your failures. Sometimes a placement is not the right fit. It may be something entirely outside your control. Something as simple as your facial features could remind a child who experienced horrific abuse of the person who harmed them. It is not personal. You give it your best and then you let it go. As long as you can look at yourself in the mirror and know that you gave it your best effort, that is all you can do.

You have to enjoy your successes, but remember that your success is helping someone else become successful. It is not about being personally successful. You have to accept that it will not work out every time.

What kinds of support do foster caregivers need most right now?

Many foster parents struggle for years without access to respite. People sometimes say fostering is just like being at home, but it is not. Once a placement becomes established, the need for respite may not feel as urgent for everyone. However, for foster parents supporting children with medical needs or a range of other complex challenges, being unable to access respite can be devastating.

Foster parents need breaks. People who work in offices can turn off the lights at the end of the day and go home. That is not an option for foster parents. The longest I went without respite was two and a half years while supporting a child who presented a risk of violence. For two and a half years, I was psychologically "on" 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That is physically and mentally exhausting, and it is only one of many possible scenarios. There needs to be a solid and clearly defined path for foster parents to receive breaks so they can care for their self and families.

What is one word you hope children would use to describe their time in your home?

Happy. I also thought of “safe”, but being happy includes feeling safe, seen, and loved. I once supported a child with a limited vocabulary who said, “Happy, happy, happy,” multiple times in a row. That was a little more enthusiasm than I was looking for, but yes—happy is the word I would love for them to use to describe their time in my home. Happiness comes from peace, feeling safe, and knowing someone is in your corner.

What would you say to someone who is considering fostering but feels unsure if it’s for them?

When people think about fostering, they may not view it as a real job or a real career. But it is one of the most challenging and fulfilling careers a person can have. There are no promotions and no office parties. Every child you encounter teaches you something. Go into it with an open mind and an open heart. You may end up making a much greater difference than you ever imagined.

BCFPA’s Solutions Team is here for you.

Information and Guidance

Learn about your rights, entitlements and responsibilities as a caregiver.

Caregiving Advice

Get practical advice about challenges, including supporting children and youth with complex needs.

Emotional Support

Receive emotional support as you navigate changing relationships while caregiving.

Resources and Referrals

Access helpful resources, programs and community support services.

1.800.663.9999
solutions@bcfosterparents.ca

Sector News and Updates

The Province launches Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework

The Province has released a new Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework aimed at improving how government supports children, youth, and families across BC. The plan establishes a shared, cross-government direction for ministries and agencies, with an emphasis on moving from reactive crisis response toward earlier intervention, prevention, and better co-ordination of services. It also responds to longstanding calls for families to experience a more connected system, with fewer barriers and less need to navigate multiple ministries or repeatedly tell their story.

The commitment to this work began after the Representative for Children and Youth's investigation into the tragic death of "Colby," a young First Nations boy, and the release of their report **"Don't Look Away: How One Boy's Story Has the Power to Shift a System of Care for Children and Youth"**. The report called for systemic change and stronger accountability across services and systems in BC.

The five-year action plan is organized around five priority areas:

- creating a safe, strong and healthy foundation for families
- preventing and responding to intimate-partner, gender-based, and family violence
- strengthening integrated services and crisis response
- advancing Indigenous self-determination and jurisdiction
- protecting vulnerable children and youth who have contact with the child welfare system

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As a youth who grew up in care, I know how important it is for young people to be heard in decisions that affect their lives. What excites me most about the Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan is its commitment to bringing ministries together and listening to lived experience. My hope is that every child and youth in British Columbia feels seen, heard, respected and supported. Not just during a meeting, consultation or celebration, but every day.

- Alex Turpin, Former child in care and member of the MCFD's youth advisory committee

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An accompanying Outcomes Framework will help government track progress, identify gaps and inequities, and determine where changes are needed to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. The draft framework emphasizes Indigenous data sovereignty, distinctions-based and culturally grounded approaches, and equity-focused measurement. It will continue to evolve through collaboration with Indigenous partners, ministries, the Provincial Health Officer, the Representative for Children and Youth, and other partners and communities. Ultimately, the framework is intended to provide a more complete, whole-system picture of how children and youth are doing and inform policy, program design, and resource allocation.

An Update on the Phased Transition to New Systems

In April, BCFPA shared that the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) had begun a phased transition to new systems for managing Family Care Home (FCH) and Out-of-Care (OOC) agreements and related processes. The transition began in the Okanagan West Kootenay Service Delivery Area in mid-April 2026 and will continue across the province throughout the year. The next phase of the rollout is expected to begin in the Vancouver Island and Northern Service Delivery Areas in October 2026. This work is part of MCFD's broader effort to modernize its agreement and case management systems.

As the transition progresses, MCFD will begin managing FCH and OOC agreements through the Integrated Case Management (ICM) system and Procurement Contract Management System (PCMS). The updated systems are intended to support electronic signing of agreements using DocuSign, improved tracking of agreements and placements, and more efficient agreement and payment processes.

Updated Water Temperature Requirements in Policy and the Environmental Care Checklist

The Resource Work Policies (Chapter 8) and Standards for Foster Homes, and Environment of Care Checklist were updated in June 2026 to include new requirements for safe water temperatures. Paragraph D.8.6 of the Standards for Foster Homes now states: "A caregiver must ensure that water accessible to a person in care, from any source, is not heated to more than 42°C."

Policy changes that affect foster parents are typically developed in consultation with BCFPA. MCFD advised that the change was implemented quickly due to its importance for the safety and well-being of children and youth in care.

PRIDE Training Has Transitioned to LINK

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) advised that Governors State University (GSU) would be ending the PRIDE (Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education) Pre-Service, In-Service, and Kinship Training programs. Access to PRIDE training ended on August 25, 2026.

Caregivers who had outstanding PRIDE training requirements at that time were advised that incomplete training progress would not transfer to the new system and that any remaining requirements would need to be completed through MCFD's new caregiver training program.

LINK Replaced PRIDE

MCFD launched LINK (Listen, Include, Nurture, Know) on September 8, 2026. LINK has replaced PRIDE as MCFD's caregiver training program and is intended to provide trauma-informed, culturally safe training that includes information specific to British Columbia.

PRIDE training is no longer available, and incomplete PRIDE training progress did not transfer to LINK. Resource Workers will register caregivers with outstanding training requirements in LINK, and new caregivers requiring training will now be registered in the LINK program.

Questions about caregiver training can be directed to the MCFD Caregiver Training Team at MCF.CaregiverTraining@gov.bc.ca. If you have questions about your individual training requirements, previous PRIDE progress, or LINK registration, please contact your Resource Worker. They will be best positioned to provide guidance specific to your circumstances.

Caregivers who are unsure about their remaining training requirements or registration status are encouraged to connect with their Resource Worker for support and clarification.



Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework

What is the Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework?

On June 16, 2026, the Government of British Columbia launched the Child and Youth Well-Being Action Plan and Outcomes Framework, a cross-government strategy to improve outcomes for children and youth across the province. They provide a coordinated approach for aligning action, strengthening accountability, tracking progress, and supporting lasting change.

The framework focuses on four interconnected areas of well-being: access to basic needs and safe housing; physical health; social, emotional, and cultural well-being; and learning, development, and preparation for the future. The plan is intended to improve outcomes for all children and youth, while prioritizing those who face the greatest barriers and inequities.

What are the Action Plan priorities?

The Action Plan takes a broad, system-wide approach, focusing on areas where coordinated action can make the greatest difference in the lives of children, youth, and families. This includes strengthening families, preventing violence, improving coordination across services, and advancing Indigenous self-determination.

Rather than focusing on a single program or service, the plan looks at how different parts of the system work together and how children, youth, and families experience those systems in their everyday lives.

The plan is organized around five closely connected priority areas. Because people's needs and experiences are complex, they may be affected by more than one priority area at the same time.

Safe, strong, and healthy foundation for families

Helping families access the essentials they need to thrive—including food, safe housing, stable income, child care, and early supports—so children and youth can grow up safe, healthy, and supported.

- Expanding school food programs
- Improving access to affordable child care
- Strengthening supports for children and youth with complex needs
- Increasing mental health supports in schools and communities

Preventing and responding to intimate partner, gender-based, and family violence

Preventing violence before it begins and creating safety and support for those impacted by violence.

- Supporting school programs that teach healthy relationships
- Improving how police, courts, and services work together
- Providing safe housing and counselling

Integrated services and crisis response

Improving coordination across systems so children, youth, and families receive connected, timely, and consistent support especially during periods of crisis.

- Developing tools to improve coordination and information-sharing across government services
- Supporting crisis response groups that can act quickly when urgent needs arise
- Creating integrated teams that bring together health, education, and social services

Advancing Indigenous self-determination and jurisdiction

Supporting Indigenous Peoples and communities to lead and deliver services grounded in their

own knowledge, cultures, and governance.

- Working with First Nations and partners on funding and agreements
- Supporting Indigenous-led programs and services
- Strengthening cultural connections for children and youth interacting with the child protection system

Protecting and uplifting the most vulnerable

Ensuring that children and youth who are most at risk – including those in care or involved with multiple systems – are safe, supported, and connected to opportunities.

- Strengthening resources to support families to keep children and youth safely at home
- Helping youth with housing, school, and jobs
- Improving care and oversight for children and youth in care

What makes this plan different?

It is designed to address urgent needs now while supporting long-term system change.

- **Acting now:** Government is strengthening services, improving access, and addressing gaps based on evidence, lived experience, and community feedback.
- **Working across government:** Ministries will coordinate priorities, services, and responses so families receive more connected support.
- **Learning and improving:** Data, evaluation, and ongoing engagement will guide changes over time.
- **Using shared outcomes:** A common framework will help government track progress and identify where more action or investment is needed.
- **Addressing inequities:** The plan considers how race, disability, gender, income, language, and geography affect access and outcomes.

Voices of Impact: 2026 Education Bursary Recipients Share their Stories

I will be taking courses at the University of Victoria in September 2026 as part of an undergraduate program in anthropology. The bursary will mean that I have access to a peer mentor who can help me navigate the complexities of university. I'm an Indigenous student and the first in my family to go to university, and I am highly motivated to succeed. However, the leap from high school to university is significant, and I know I will benefit from support in understanding and managing my course requirements.

I've been in foster care for many years and have the support of both my biological and foster families, who are very pleased with my accomplishments. I really want to continue making them all proud.

- FT, William Curtis Memorial Fund Recipient

Receiving this bursary has given me a sense of financial stability that I really needed while completing my degree. It has helped take some of the pressure off paying for basic expenses and allowed me to focus more of my time and energy on school and preparing for my future career. I'm incredibly grateful for the support and for the opportunity to continue working toward my goal of one day supporting youth in care.

- MM, Merv Davis Bursary Recipient

As a self-funded student, I mainly rely on loans to pay my way through school, so I was beyond grateful to receive the Natural Child Bursary. The bursary will help reduce my tuition this semester and lessen my financial load once school is finished. Support like this also reduces my overall financial stress, which means I can focus more on school and my community.

- CL, Natural Child Bursary Recipient

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This bursary means more to me than I can truly express. Losing my dad last year completely changed my life, and the impact on my mental health has been profound. Since his passing, I've struggled to find my footing and balance grief, my mental health, recovery, and the demands of being a student. There have been times when simply trying to keep moving forward has felt incredibly difficult.

Receiving this grant has given me something I desperately needed: space. Space to breathe, to heal, and to focus on becoming the person I want to be. It means I can attend more NA meetings and continue prioritizing my recovery, while also putting more of my energy into my academics and building a future for myself.

I've always hoped to become a concurrent disorders therapist and to support people who are struggling with mental health and substance use in the way I've needed support myself. This bursary is helping me stay on that path. It reminds me that even during one of the hardest chapters of my life, I'm still capable of moving forward and building something meaningful from what I've been through.

I'm incredibly grateful to the Ames Family Foundation for giving me this opportunity. This support is not just helping me financially. it is giving me the ability to take care of myself, continue my education, and keep working toward the future I've dreamed of.

Thank you for believing in me. It truly means more than you know.

- SR, Ames Family Foundation Bursary Recipient

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We're deeply grateful to the following donors who have helped BCFPA make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, youth, and families.

**Al Roadburg Foundation
Ames Family Foundation
Loyal Protestant Association
Victoria Foundation**



CYSN Redesign: Questions and Answers

**Information from MCFD's Claims & Facts Document*

BC is expanding financial supports and services for children and youth with support needs (CYSN). The changes aim to provide more direct support to families, to increase access to free community-based services, and to make the system easier to understand and navigate. Families will receive step-by-step guidance as the new benefits and services are introduced.

As part of MCFD's planning for the new CYSN service approach, Autism Funding agreements are being updated to align with the planned end of Autism Funding on March 31, 2027. Families will continue to have access to autism funding until March 31, 2027.

As in previous years, funding will begin on the child's birthday and continue to the end of the benefit period. This approach helps ensure funding is fair, regardless of a child's birth month. Renewed plans will cover the period from the child's birthday to March 31, 2027. Funding amounts will be adjusted based on the number of months remaining.

Families will receive information about their child's revised funding period and amount as plans are processed. During this final funding period, families may use up to 50% of their funding for travel, training and equipment. This is an increase from the previous limit of 20%.

Families are understandably worried. Do they have to prove their child is “disabled enough”?

No. The process is intended to understand the type, level and duration of support a child/youth’s needs in daily life. It is not about judging their disability.

Families can use documents they already have to show their child’s support needs. A new diagnosis or assessment is not required. This information helps ensure supports are provided fairly, consistently, and transparently.

Why isn’t MCFD pausing or withdrawing the new criteria?

Families have said for years that too many children were not receiving the support they needed and that the system had to change. The new approach was shaped by input from families, Indigenous partners, service providers, experts, and the broader disability community. Feedback gathered through the BC Disability Collaborative also helped identify gaps in the previous system. MCFD says the new criteria are intended to address those gaps and expand support to thousands more families.

If a child does not qualify for the Disability Benefit, will they receive no support?

No. The Disability Benefit is only one part of the new support system. Children and families may also be eligible for:

- the Disability Supplement, for children with more moderate support needs
- expanded free community-based services and supports

The Disability Benefit is intended for children with the highest support needs, but not

qualifying for it does not mean a child is excluded from all support.

By 2028–29, families are expected to receive approximately \$316 million each year in direct supports, along with an additional \$80 million investment in expanded services.

Will certain disability groups be excluded in the new model?

MCFD says that no disability group is automatically excluded. Eligibility is based on individual support needs and circumstances, rather than their diagnosis. Some children and youth may also qualify through a direct admission pathway and will not need to complete the functional review process. Not qualifying for one specific benefit does not mean a child/youth is excluded from all supports.

Will children/youth have to be in crisis to qualify for support?

The criteria do not require a child to be in crisis before support is available.

The new needs-based model is intended to match support more closely to each child’s individual needs. It will also expand support to thousands more families, including some who previously received no direct funding. Most families already receiving funding will continue to receive support. Some families, including families of children with autism, may receive additional support through the Disability Supplement and expanded community-based services.

Do all children have to complete the same assessment?

No. Some children may qualify automatically through a direct admission pathway without completing a functional review. Some children qualify automatically under established criteria.



Foster & Care Provider Portal

Apply to become a foster caregiver in B.C.

Create Account / Log In

You need a [BC Services Card Account](#)  to log in.

MCFD's new Caregiver Portal, which was soft launched in March 2026, has now been publicly launched. It will become the primary way prospective foster caregivers apply in BC. This welcome change marks a major shift after more than 30 years of BCFPA managing caregiver intakes. The portal will fully replace BCFPA's PDF and online intake forms.

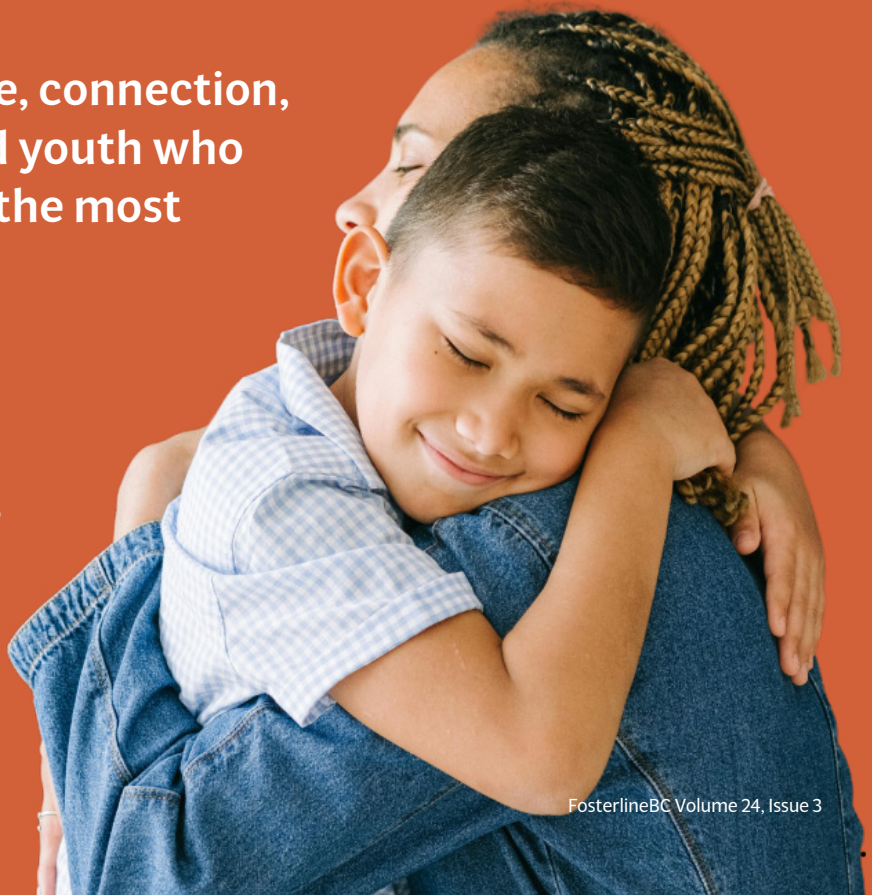
The new portal guides individuals and families through the steps to apply to become a foster caregiver. It allows applicants to request to attend an information session, submit forms, upload documents, and communicate digitally through a BC Services Card Account.

While the intake process is changing, BCFPA will continue serving as an important first point of contact for prospective caregivers by offering guidance, early-stage support, and tracking barriers or concerns applicants may experience. This will help ensure prospective caregivers continue to have access to personalized support as they navigate the new application process.

If you know a community member who is curious about fostering or ready to take the next step, please encourage them to call us at 1-800-663-9999 or visit bcfosterparents.ca. Our friendly staff will be happy to answer questions and connect them with the resources they need to get started.

Foster caregivers provide care, connection, and belonging to children and youth who may be going through one of the most difficult times in their lives.

The impact of caregiving can last far beyond a moment. A caring adult, a stable home, and meaningful connection can help shape a child or youth's future.



FOSTER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Provincial Resources

BC Foster Parents Association bcfosterparents.ca	1-800-663-9999
After Hours Foster Parent Support Line	1-888-495-4440
Indigenous Perspectives Society fostercaregiversbc.ca	1-844-391-0007
Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks fbcyicn.ca	1-800-565-8055
Belonging Network belongingnetwork.com	604-320-7330
BC Council for Families	604-678-8884
Pacific Post Partum Support Society postpartum.org	604-255-7999
Parent Help Line	1-888-603-9100
Parents Together	604-325-0511
Parent Support Services of BC parentsupportbc.ca	1-800-345-9777
Representative for Children & Youth rcybc.ca	1-800-476-3933
FAE/S Support Network	604-507-6675
Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre	1-800-665-1822

Interior

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

Okanagan Foster Parent Association okfosterparents.ca Central Okanagan North Okanagan South Okanagan Shuswap	250-870-8991 250-558-0939 250-462-6907 250-515-1522
Okanagan Metis Children & Family Services	250-868-0351
Interior Community Services 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.

Caring Families Society caring-families.ca	1-888-922-8437
Victoria Nanaimo/Cowichan Valley Comox Valley Campbell River Port Alberni	778-430-5459 250-618-8327 250-896-7929 250-204-1566 250-735-1124

North

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

AXIS Family Resources axis.bc.ca	1-877-392-1003
Community Bridge (Fort St. John) 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.

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



It pays to be a BCFPA member!

- Vote on BCFPA matters and help shape the Association's direction. Members may also serve on the Board of Directors, represent their region as a delegate, and bring caregiver perspectives forward provincially.
- Access member-exclusive perks and financial supports.
- Take part in mentorship and volunteer opportunities.
- Support your local branch. Membership fees help fund meetings, family activities, and opportunities for caregivers to connect.

Visit bcfosterparents.ca or call 1.800.663.9999 to join or renew your membership.

Get social with us!



@bcfosterparentsassociation



@bcfosterparents



Youtube.com/@BCFPA



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