

FosterlineBC

BC Foster Parents Association



**BCFPA's AGM &
Conference 2024**

**BC Budget
2024 Update**



**A Message from
the Honourable
Grace Lore**

**Apply for an
AGM Bursary**

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



Hello fellow foster parents:

I hope this finds you all well and preparing for summer. Since fire season is already upon us I hope you all have your safety plans and supplies at the ready. It's a concern for everyone in the province and if you have any questions about how you as a foster parent should be prepared please contact your resource worker. We also have some information regarding wildfire emergencies located on [page 10](#) of this newsletter.

We had our Board of Directors face-to-face meeting in Surrey in early May and we have big things planned for the AGM in Penticton. Watch for your registration package coming soon via email and be sure and register right away.

We took a trip to Prince George in late April and we met with foster parents in the northern region for a workshop. We also met with MCFD and ICFSAs for an information sharing session to see what is happening up in the northern service delivery area. We were well-received and we have plans to go back again with more in person training.

We have some upcoming meetings with the ministry in Victoria in early June and while we are there, we are meeting with Blair Mitchell, ED/Advocate at Representative of Children and Youth's office.

We continue to advocate for foster parents. We have ongoing conversations about mileage, respect, and fairness. With the upcoming election this Fall we don't know what is going to happen but we do remain optimistic and we take pride in our positive working relationship with the ministry.

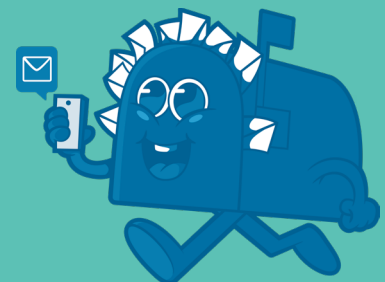
Julie Holmlund
President

AGM Voting Notice for BCFPA Members

BC Foster Parents Association members eligible to vote in this year's Board of Directors election (see [page 18](#) for more information) should be on the lookout for emails from **Simply Voting**. These emails will contain information regarding the election, as well as the information needed to access the online voting portal.

Please ensure that the email on file for your BCFPA Membership is correct.

Those with a **Couples Membership** will need two separate email addresses in order for both individuals to be eligible to vote. Our team has been working to gather secondary email addresses from those with co-applicants on file. If you have received an email or a phone call from our provincial office staff regarding this matter please ensure that you respond urgently.



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.

Notes from the Office



BCFPA continues to grow. Currently, we have eleven staff serving our community of foster parents and sector workers. We'd like to mention specifically that Amanda Oliver, who many of you may know from the MCFD Vancouver/Richmond office, has joined our team as Director of Advocacy/Provincial Community Strategist. Amanda started off strong by joining our board and staff members on a trip to Prince George to establish a stronger network of practice. It's clear that the foster caregivers in the north region are hungry for information, training opportunities, and connection with their counterparts in the rest of the province.

AGM planning is well underway. We have an opportunity to offer some cultural themes for our activities this year. Watch for more news including a foster parent sharing circle, engaging keynote speakers, and a drum circle, as well as some very informative workshop topics. We'll also have our AGM bursaries available again this year. You'll find the information about our AGM and bursaries in the following pages.

We have a refreshed list of advocacy topics that we'll be discussing with Minister Lore and her team at our upcoming meetings. The Minister is already aware of the survey gathering information about pensions for foster parents and our investigations about possible options. To support foster parents in the future, we must stop expecting them to work well past an age when they would otherwise have retired. Our advocacy list also includes discussing the traumatizing and long lasting emotional and relationship impacts of Quality of Care and Investigation processes – most especially when there has been no wrongdoing. We've identified the need for a service delivery step in response to Foster Caregiver Reviews of a serious sanction where it's found that the process hasn't been conducted fairly (in the administrative sense). There should be a mechanism to revisit the outcome when necessary.

We're happy to note that the Under-Deductible Losses Program was accessed many more times last fiscal year which indicates that more foster parents and their workers are aware of the program. The Solutions Program continues to be very well utilized offering important supports and advocacy for all foster parents across the province. April Reeve, in her role as BCFPA's Representative for Indigenous Interests, continues to ensure our program delivery is informed and respectful of cultural protocols.

As BC's child welfare system shifts toward Indigenous self-determination, we have a commitment to walk alongside the foster parents who are experiencing these changes and to provide as much information and support as possible.

We recently co-hosted three meetings with MCFD Practice Team members including foster parents, MCFD, and agency staff to hear about the changes to court rules around Continuing Custody Orders and transfers of custody for children with Indigenous heritage. This is a unique time in history and we're honored to be a part of this work.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Jayne Wilson
Executive Director

STAY IN THE KNOW

Subscribe to the BC Foster Parents Association Newsletter at bcfosterparents.ca to keep up to date on events, bursaries, sector news, surveys, and more!

A Message from the Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development

I've been Minister for Children and Family Development for about six months and during that time I have been so inspired by the commitment of foster caregivers to support B.C.'s most vulnerable children and youth. Thank you for what you do!

Since I am relatively new here, I'll share a little about myself and my commitment to this work. Since 2017, I have served as Minister of State for Child Care as well as Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. Before entering politics, I taught political science at UVic and at UBC, where I was able to share my passion for political participation and representation as a path for meaningful change. I also work with anti-violence organizations and women's shelters. I've worn many hats, but I think my most important role is being a mom of two.

As a mom, I know what you do is a 7-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day responsibility. To take in a child or youth or a group of siblings, share your home, your life and your care is a responsibility that many people would find daunting. But I hear from caregivers how rewarding fostering a child can be, as you provide support and patience, work closely with their family, and overcome challenges together.


It's very clear that we need more people like you. When a child needs a safe place to stay, we must have a home for them. So, we are working to grow our network of caregivers. This spring, the ministry worked with BCFPA to create a provincial foster caregiver recruitment campaign, "Open your heart. Open your home." This campaign delivered millions of impressions across digital platforms and appeared on public transit. As well, the BCFPA and the ministry have collaborated to streamline the foster caregiver application and onboarding process.

Fostering is a challenging undertaking. So, it's important that you have a way to share how things are working and tell the ministry what you need. The new BCFPA

Director of Advocacy (DOA) will communicate with the ministry the challenges and recurring themes that caregivers face, and together we'll work on solutions. The creation of this position reflects how important it is that your concerns are heard and shared. Together, BCFPA and MCFD will continue to collaborate to support you as foster caregivers.

I thank you for the care, compassion and support you share with the kids in your care, and wish all of you a safe and fun-filled summer!

Sincerely,



Grace Lore
Minister of Children and Family Development



Interior Delegate Report by Raquel Lesieur

Hello and Happy Summer to everyone! Wishing you all a safe and sunny season full of family fun.

The Interior region continues our work in advocating for caregivers as we navigate difficulties related to high social worker turnover, communication setbacks, and recruitment and retention. We are seeing the results of having few foster homes in the region, leaving the ones that are open overloaded and struggling to give children/youth the full level of attention and care that they so deserve. At the same time, some out of care placements are experiencing breakdowns.

If you or someone you know are interested in opening your home to the children and youth needing placements in the Interior, I encourage you to visit bcfosterparents.ca to request more information on becoming a foster caregiver.

I'm proud to announce that the BCFPA workshop on the topic of *Suicidality and Trauma* that happened here in March was successful. As was our face-to-face

Northern Delegate Report by Rocky Hindmarch

The Prince George branch of BC Foster Parents Association is doing great! Our recent raffle was a huge success, bringing in over \$10,000. We had a foster parent pub night and silent auction that was another success. We've also been volunteering a lot for the Prince George Cougars and bringing in lots of funding for the branch through that as well. We hosted our second partnership meeting on May 7th. All local agencies were in attendance.

Our branch is planning something for BC Child and Youth in Care Week (happening June 3, 2024 through June 9, 2024). If you're in the area, we encourage you to reach out for more information and join us. We're also planning "Haircuts and Hamburgers" for the beginning of September. Foster families can come get a free haircut and some food. In addition to these upcoming events, we're beginning to make plans for Foster Family Month in October. We hope to do something big this year in collaboration with all the local agencies.



meeting with BCFPA board and staff that took place in May. Interior Community Services continues to prioritize training opportunities for foster caregivers in the area, for which we express our gratitude.

We are so excited to be hosting our 2024 BCFPA AGM and Conference here in Penticton this year. There are some wonderful, highly requested, workshop topics hosted by some incredible speakers taking place. I look forward to seeing many of you this October!



Our BCFPA workshops were great this year and Prince George's *Protocols, Policies, & Procedures. Oh My!* with *Amanda Oliver* was a great success, though we hope for better attendance next time. Keep an eye out for announcements on future BCFPA training opportunities and be sure to register. The partnership meeting the next day was a success as well, with all agencies participating, and 35 attending. We'll be showing more of a presence in the North moving forward and hope to continue these meetings every six months, expanding outside Prince George.

We're doing good! Seems like things are moving in a great direction!

Fraser Delegate Report by Catherine Clutchey

Hello fellow foster parents. I hope the Summer 2024 issue of the Fosterline BC Newsletter finds you well. Summer always brings about such big changes in the schedule for kids. We know that this can be a struggle, especially with the kids we work with. I hope you were able to secure spots in summer camps, as your children are able. And even better if they were able to take advantage of the Camps for Kids bursary through the BC Foster Parents Association. (No worries if you missed it, there is a Fall opening as well! Apply for the next round between August 1 and October 31.)

Our board and provincial office staff have been busy planning what the next year and beyond is going to look like for BC Foster Parents Association. At the start of May, we held a face-to-face strategic planning meeting. I have to say I've never been so encouraged by the hard work and passion that this board brings to the organization. The staff at the BCFPA provincial office have been nothing short of amazing as we navigate the changing waters of the foster care system and British Columbia. I have no doubt in BCFPA's ability to adapt to change while continuing to provide consistent support for its members and to the fostering community.

Island Delegate Report by Taiah Repstock

Hello from beautiful Vancouver Island (now officially one Service Delivery Area).

Partnership meetings on the Island are taking place on a consistent basis. We're happy to have many attendees joining the meetings from MCFD, though representation from foster caregivers is low. If you're a caregiver interested in getting involved, please reach out to your regional delegate, Sarah Scorey, at sarah@bcfosterparents.ca for information regarding future meetings.

We are happy to report that the training event hosted by BCFPA in February, on the topic of *Co-Regulation with Mary Klovance*, went wonderfully. It is our pleasure to be able to provide these training opportunities and we look forward to being able to do so again in 2025. FPSSS continually organizes and hosts online trainings for caregivers.



We look forward to seeing you at this year's upcoming BCFPA AGM & Conference in Penticton, taking place October 4th and 5th. We hope you can make the journey and take the time to invest in self-care, but also helping to support the advocacy and education of Foster Care in BC. Be sure to apply for an AGM Bursary online at bcfosterparents.ca/news if you are eligible. And don't forget to book your room before September 15, 2024 to receive the discounted room rate. More information available on [page 21](#).



We recognize that foster caregivers need opportunities to bring their families together. So BCFPA's Island Delegate is working to plan an event in the near future. There are also plans to host a BC Child and Youth in Care Week celebration in June.

We are currently navigating some challenges in the region. There are many over-capacity placements in Victoria as workers are having a hard time finding beds, and we've seen some well-known homes close. On a positive note, relief payments in the region have been speedier recently due to a change in the process.

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer!

Meet Amanda Oliver

We're excited to announce that BC Foster Parents Association's Provincial Community Strategist (Director of Advocacy) is now in place. The Strategist's goal is to work in partnership with MCFD to address the obstacles we see and to advocate for streamlined practices within our fostering community.

Letter of Introduction

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Oliver
Director of Advocacy/Provincial Community Strategist

SECTOR NEWS & UPDATES



New Indigenous Child Welfare Director position in place.

A newly implemented Indigenous Child Welfare Director (ICWD) position, in place as of March 6, 2024, will expedite progress on Indigenous child welfare. This new role will ensure the seamless delivery of services as more communities exercise their inherent jurisdiction over their children and families, while also working to better ensure the safety, wellness, and access to community and culture for Indigenous children and youth. The ICWD position will hold equal power to the director of child welfare. Both roles are designated at the assistant deputy minister level.

The ICWD role will include:

- providing advice, guidance, and oversight Indigenous child and family services and supports.
- an intense focus on prevention services aimed to keep young Indigenous people in their homes and connected to their communities, cultures, and languages.
- supporting Indigenous jurisdiction by harmonizing the rights and laws of Indigenous Peoples with provincial and federal child welfare laws, and upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Between March of 2019 and February of this year, there has been a 19% reduction in the number of Indigenous children and youth in care. Regional Chief Terry Teegee, British Columbia First Nations says “The new Indigenous child welfare director position is a positive step toward reconciliation and implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

Source: MCFD Press Release

Province strengthens information sharing protections.

Through an amended legislation - developed in collaboration with Indigenous partners, regional health authorities, and BC Civil Liberties Association - to the Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA), new safeguards will enhance personal privacy protections while supporting child protection needs. This amendment will also work to remove barriers to Indigenous jurisdiction.

Under section 96 of the CFCSA, directors have the right to any information available through public third parties (health-care providers, police, etc.) that is vital to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) performing their duties under the act. Section 96 also plays a crucial role in collecting up-to-date information once child protection concerns have been addressed and the child can be safely returned to their family.

These new safeguard procedures will:

- define personal health information.
- ensure a standardized, written approach.
- require an after-the-fact notice be sent to the individual who is the subject of the information request.
- establish an administrative review process.

Two amendments will address barriers to Indigenous jurisdiction by:

- expanding the court’s authority to dispense with formal notice when Indigenous law applies, avoiding unnecessary delays in returning children to their communities and families.
- broadening the definition of “Indigenous child”

Source: MCFD Press Release

SAJE updates: Expanded eligibility and new supports for former youth in care.

As of April 4, 2024, an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the SAJE (Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment) program rb.gy/svmgkw opens support to an additional thousands of former youth in care. Now, over 9,000 young adults will have access to essential cultural, housing, medical, educational, and financial supports.

Prior to these updates, young adults were eligible for the program only if they were between 19 and 26 years of age and in care under a Youth Agreement, a Continuing Custody Order, or were under the guardianship of a director on their 19th birthday. This expanded eligibility criteria means that young adults between 19 and 26, including up to their 27th birthday, are able to access the program if:

- they were in a comparable arrangement under Indigenous law.
- they have 24 months of cumulative care between 12 and 19 years of age.
- they reached their 19th birthday under a Youth Agreement, a Continuing Custody Order, or were under the guardianship of a director.
- they achieved permanency between the ages of 12 and 19 years of age.

In addition to the expansions to SAJE's eligibility criteria, a new conditional income support is available in the amount of \$1,250 per month. Available to former youth in care between 19 and 20 years of age, this amount provides assistance with living costs such as groceries, rent, travel expenses, and other necessities. This support is intended to address the high rate of former youth in care who experience homelessness and poverty, better equipping them to achieve their goals.

The SAJE program is designed and guided by former and current youth in care. With this guidance, the program is able to address the needs of the young adults taking part in the program. SAJE is expected to see further updates throughout the year, including the opening of an online portal.

For more information on available benefits, working with the SAJE program, and the program roadmap visit rb.gy/59rrju.

Source: MCFD Press Release

Emergency Information for Foster Caregivers Impacted by Wildfires

With the approaching flood and wildfire season, there is a potential that your community may be impacted and you may be required to evacuate to a safe location. To support foster caregivers during emergency events, MCFD has designated a contact number that is available and staffed around the clock, seven days a week. Please call Provincial Centralized Screening at **1-800-663-9122** as soon as it is safe to do so, if you have been evacuated as a result of a flood or a wildfire or if you have been evacuated or are in the process of evacuating and require support to seek alternative accommodation.

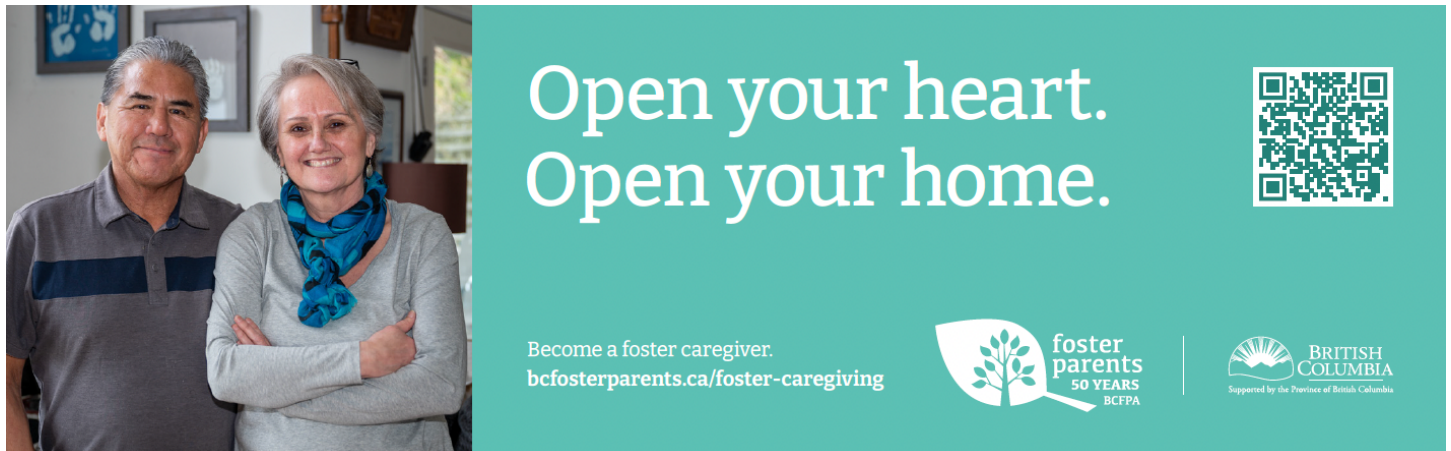
Additionally, to prepare in advance of the upcoming flood and wildfire season, we ask that all care providers ensure MCFD has their latest contact information, including mobile phone numbers. If you need to update your information, please call Provincial Centralized Screening. MCFD social workers will ensure updates are reflected in their records so that contact with the care providers for children in care can continue despite care provider location.

All MCFD offices in the new area are available to provide support to caregivers. For additional information about flooding or wildfires please refer to emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca or call **1-888-663-5555**.

Foster Caregiver Recruitment Campaign



In February, BCFPA partnered with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on a provincial recruitment campaign. The goal was to increase awareness of the need for foster caregivers in British Columbia, and encourage individuals and families to inquire about becoming a foster caregiver. Advertisements were distributed from BCFPA's profiles (e.g. YouTube channel).

The campaign was anticipated to generate over 12 million impressions through various print and digital media including over 1,500 transit ads in buses and skytrains all over the Lower Mainland, online video ads on YouTube and Connected TV, digital display ads on web and mobile, and Google Search ads.



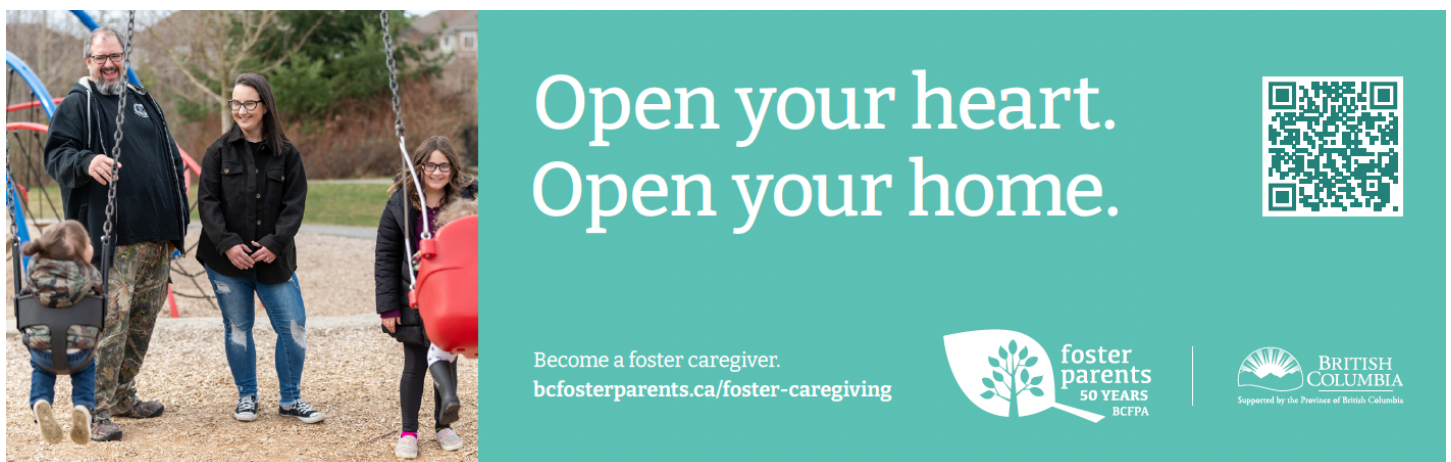
Open your heart.
Open your home.

Become a foster caregiver.
bcfosterparents.ca/foster-caregiving



First-time website visitors during campaign period: **20,648**

Unique website visitors during campaign period: **24,102**



Open your heart.
Open your home.

Become a foster caregiver.
bcfosterparents.ca/foster-caregiving

Website views during campaign period: **31,299**

Total YouTube views during campaign period: **2,385,591**

Watch the campaign videos posted to the BCFPA YouTube channel here: youtube.com/watch?v=RISCjFBQZPY

Pictured: BC Transit ads featured throughout the campaign.

BC Budget 2024 Highlights

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is focusing on four key areas:

1. Indigenous Reconciliation: Addressing the overrepresentation of the child and family services system in the lives of Indigenous children and youth and upholding Indigenous people's inherent rights to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.

2. Prevention and Family Supports: Shifting focus to early and ongoing support—prioritizing keeping families safely together.

3. Youth and Young Adult Transitions: Ensuring that youth and young adults transitioning to adulthood from government care have the tools, resources, and social supports to transition successfully to adulthood and adult services.

4. Network of Care: Ensuring that the services and supports provided in the network of care are driven by a child or youth's needs.

Initial changes include historic legislative changes that pave the way for Indigenous jurisdiction of child and family services, the expansion of services for youth and young adults transitioning to adulthood from government care, implementation of Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) teams, continued work to advance improved services for Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN), and the beginning of the implementation of Specialized Homes and Support Services (SHSS).

Child Welfare and Protection Investment

Budget 2024 provides a budget increase of \$129.5 million to child safety, family supports, and children in care services. This increase consists of \$41.2 million for direct services, \$77.1 million for wage increases to support front-line recruitment and retention and \$11.2 million for Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE). This funding supports more

than 12,000 children and youth who are in the care of a family or community member, in permanent care arrangements or in ministry care and provides for sector wage increases that will support recruitment and retention.

Funding for MCFD's child welfare programs support:

- Increased oversight of the child protection system.
- \$37.9 million for the ongoing child protection support, providing a home and care for children unable to live with the parents through extended family or community members care arrangements, foster care, and post adoption assistance.
- \$2.3 million increase for Director's Legal Counsel to support increased work volumes.
- \$1 million increase for ICFSA Secretariat to support its important function.
- Social sector wage increases that provide stability in resources which result in better outcomes for BC's children, youth, young adults, and families.

MCFD's goals include:

- Improving how child protection work is delivered through process and practice improvements but also more front-line and oversight staffing levels.
- The continued creation and implementation of an Associate Provincial Director of Child Welfare to provide systemic practice oversight and guidance to Designated Directors (statutory decision makers) in the service delivery areas on child safety matters.
- A new Child Safety Oversight and Practice Development team to support the work of the Associate Provincial Director of Child Welfare and provide increased practice support and systemic oversight of services focusing on child safety and wellbeing for children, youth, and families in BC.
- Committing to resource stability through government's rollout of the Shared Recovery Mandate, which offers over 17% wage lifts over 3 years. These wages enable government to attract and retain the needed resources which are vital to ensuring the supports and safety needed for children, youth, and families through times of family difficulty.

Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Investment

The BC government has invested an additional \$61.3 million annually in the following:

- \$8.6 million to support an additional 2,500 families of children or youth with an autism diagnosis through individualized funding.
- \$0.8 million additional Investment for CYSN engagement.
- Funding for social sector wage increases that provide stability in the resources which result in better services for BC's children and families.
- \$2.2 million for CYSN piloted service model for the continued implementation of the family connections centres.
- MCFD continues to roll out Budget 2023's CYSN new investments to underserved children, youth, and families that are under served, the three goal of:
 - Providing an additional 90 foundational program therapists across the province for programs such as infant development, early intervention, and school-aged therapies through investment in Childhood Development Centres or similar organizations in every community in the province.
 - Doubling the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Key Worker program.
 - Expanding agency-coordinated respite to all regions of the provinces.

Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) Program Investment

Budget 2024 provides an additional \$11.2 million investment into SAJE supports and services including resources to build life-skills and job readiness, connect to culture and community, access rehabilitative and mental health supports as well as education and financial supports. We will witness the final phase of the implementation of the SAJE program introduced through Budget 2022.

Youth and young adults in and from government care are already benefiting from the following components of the SAJE program:

- A no-limit earnings exemption that makes employment income exempt when determining the level of funding a young adult will receive through SAJE.
- SAJE guides and navigators who support youth in care starting at age 14 and guide them until age 25 in accessing services and identifying, setting and achieving life goals.
- A \$600-a-month rent supplement to help eligible young adults from care to live independently and afford rent.
- SAJE Life-Skills, Training and Cultural Connections funding which provides eligible young adults with access to up to \$11,000 to pursue their goals.
- The SAJE Mental Health and Counselling Benefit which provides up to \$1,500 per year for eligible young adults to access and receive counselling services of their choice.

SAJE Phase 3 Implementation

New investments of \$9.8 million will add to existing supports and provide:

- an unconditional income supplement for an estimated 1375 eligible young adults from age 19 to 20
- expanded SAJE eligibility for post-19 supports and services, and
- additional SAJE Navigators and Guides to support young people across the province

SAJE Rent Supplement

New investments of \$1.4 million annually are available to support the \$600-a-month rent supplement program by providing an additional 190 young adults with rental assistance over two years.

Take Advantage of Perks & Discounts

BCFPA members have the opportunity to take advantage of perks and discounts offered locally, and province wide, across BC. Visit our webpage at bcfosterparents.ca/membership/perks-and-discounts/ to learn more about what offers have been generously provided to our members and sign up for a membership today to get started.

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.



Community Feedback on BCFPA's 2024 Trainings Project

In the early months of 2024, BC Foster Parents Association had the privilege of organizing and hosting another round of free in-person training opportunities for foster caregivers across British Columbia. This year we brought workshops to Burnaby, Parksville, Kelowna, and Prince George.

We asked those who were able to attend: What was your favourite moment or aspect of the workshop?

"I enjoyed the interactive atmosphere."

"Validation that it is okay for us as parents/caregivers to have feelings and moments when we need to take time for ourselves."

"Connecting with other foster caregivers."

"The information that [Colleen Drobot] shared regarding allowing children/teens the space to process their emotions. I enjoyed the links she presented between behaviour and neurological processes (ie. what happens to a person when they are alarmed)."

"All questions were welcomed and answered. Great resources supplied!"

"Relaxed, respectful, informative and relateable presentation."

"All of it! From beginning to end."

"Good speaker, good food, and good people."

"There were many moments. However, what stood out the most was her relatability to the youth that we serve. This was interwoven throughout the workshop."

"The enthusiasm shared by the presenter. She was truly invested in those who were present."

"Being part of this workshop gives me a sense of pride and professionalism of the work that I do with our foster children."

"Amazing information!"

"Discussion on culture and how it is paramount to understanding trauma and suicidality."

"Listening to Amanda [Oliver] speak and share their knowledge and experiences."

"Insights into the ever-changing world our teens are experiencing."

"I liked the free-flowing sharing of experiences and flexibility of the workshop."

"The re-reminding us that we are already doing a good job by opening our hearts and homes."

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



Step 1: Go to Perkopolis.com and click 'Register' in the top right corner.

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'.

You're all set to start saving!

Use your BCFPA membership to enjoy savings on North America's top travel, entertainment, health and wellness, and lifestyle brands!

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Adidas | The Brick |
| Apple | Carter's |
| Champs | Cineplex |
| Cirque du Soleil | Club Monaco |
| Columbia | Cruises.ca |
| CityPASS | Disney on Ice |
| Disneyland | Dell |
| Dyson | Ever New |
| Fairmont Hotels | Foot Locker |
| Frank and Oak | Great Wolf Lodge |
| HP | Hunter |
| Indigo | Kiehl's |
| KitchenAid | Landmark Cinemas |
| La-Z-Boy Furniture | LEGOLAND |
| Lenovo | Matt & Nat |
| Panasonic | Reitmans |
| RW & CO | Samsung |
| Sennheiser | Sorel |
| Sonos | Telus |
| TurboTax | UGG |
| Universal Studios | Vitamix |
| 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.



Apply for an AGM Bursary

Apply for one of fifty-four total available BCFPA AGM Bursaries.

When to apply:

Between June 21st, 2024 and July 19th, 2024

Where to apply:

Apply online via bcfosterparents.ca/news

Next steps:

All applicants will be notified of their status prior to August 1, 2024. To claim a bursary winners must submit a pdf registration form (to be provided via an email to bursary winners) stating “Bursary Recipient” in place of payment information.

North

\$1,150 + \$350 Conference Registration
Eight full bursaries available

Vancouver Island

\$950 + \$350 Conference Registration
Eight full bursaries available

Coast / Fraser

\$850 + \$350 Conference Registration
Twelve full bursaries available

Interior

\$700 + \$350 Conference Registration
Eight full bursaries available

\$350 Conference Registration
Eighteen registration bursaries available

Please note that the registration-only bursaries are only open to the following areas:

Osoyoos, Oliver, Okanagan Falls, Keremeos, Summerland, Peachland, Kelowna, north to Vernon, west to Princeton, east to Rock Creek.



AGM & Conference 2024 Workshops



Indigenous Cultural Safety with Carrie Lamb

The Indigenous Cultural Safety Workshop is a transformative and interactive learning experience designed to foster understanding, respect, and sensitivity towards Indigenous cultures, histories, and worldviews. Grounded in principles of cultural humility and anti-oppression, this workshop equips participants with the knowledge, tools, and practices necessary for creating safe and inclusive environments for Indigenous peoples.

This workshop incorporates a variety of engaging activities, discussions, and reflective exercises. Carrie Lamb creates a safe and inclusive space for participants to engage in honest dialogue, ask questions, and share experiences openly. Participants actively participate in role-playing scenarios, group exercises, and case studies to deepen their understanding and empathy.

About Carrie Lamb

Carrie Lamb is a dynamic Indigenous HR professional, coach, facilitator, and speaker dedicated to fostering inclusive workplaces and empowering individuals and organizations to embrace diversity and cultural safety. With a passion for reconciliation and social justice, Carrie brings over a decade of experience in human resources, coaching, and facilitation, specializing in Indigenous cultural competency training and organizational development.



Embracing Connection: A Trauma Informed Approach to Foster Care with EFFT with Trixie Hennessey

This workshop is designed to highlight the critical role of Emotion Focused Family Therapy (EFFT) in addressing trauma within foster care. This workshop delves into the complexities of trauma, equipping participants with the skills to recognize its signs in children and implement EFFT principles to foster healing relationships. Participants will also learn strategies for creating nurturing environments, enhancing family dynamics through effective communication, and prioritizing self-care to prevent burnout. A key focus is on navigating caregiver and clinician blocks, enabling them to overcome personal emotional

challenges that may hinder their ability to do this work wholeheartedly or long-term. Combining interactive discussions, case studies, and personal stories, this workshop offers a rich learning experience aimed at fostering resilience, healing, and emotional connection in foster care settings, making it an essential opportunity for those committed to making a difference in the lives of foster children.

About Trixie Hennessey

Trixie Hennessey MSW, RSW is a seasoned individual and family therapist with over two decades of experience, specializing in a holistic and integrative approach to mental health. Her practice is deeply rooted in Attachment Theory, Interpersonal Neurobiology, Narrative Therapy, and Emotion Focused Family Therapy- complemented by her commitment to continuous learning and specialization in eating disorders, self-harm, and complicated grief and loss. Trixie's dedication extends beyond her professional achievements; as a long-term foster parent and the parent of two adult children, she brings a personal understanding and passion for supporting youth and families through difficult transitions, utilizing empathy, understanding, and evidence-based strategies to promote healing and growth.

More information on this year's AGM & Conference will be available on our website at bcfosterparents.ca/news, including bursary applications and registration.

Call for Nominations

BCFPA will be hosting our Annual General Meeting October 4-5, 2024 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre. This year, there are two (2) positions for election on the BC Foster Parents Association Board of Directors Executive Committee.

- President
- Secretary

Each position has a two-year term. Nominations for each position must be received by the BCFPA provincial office by **July 4, 2024** for distribution to the membership for online voting process. Please note that we have transitioned to 100% online voting through a third-party neutral platform, Simply Voting. It provides BCFPA and our members with a secure, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly voting process.

Eligibility to be nominated as a member of BCFPA's Board of Directors includes:

- a) A nominee must be a voting member in good standing (membership paid in full as of January 31, 2024); be qualified in accordance with Bylaw 7.2; and remain in good standing throughout the election process.
- b) Voting members may not nominate themselves and may not nominate more than one nominee for any given position.
- c) All nominations must be supported by a second voting member in good standing.
- d) All nominations must be made in writing, in a form established by the Society and must be signed by the member who is the nominee, by the member who makes the nomination, and by the supporting member.
- e) Nominations must be submitted in advance of the election, in accordance with such deadlines as may be established by the Board. Nominations will not be permitted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting; and
- f) All nominations must be vetted by the nominations committee to confirm eligibility and adherence to required process.

Additional policy-related nomination criteria include:

- Nominee must be present at the AGM unless excused by the President for extraordinary reasons.
- Eligible candidates and nominations for officer positions shall be vetted by the Nominating Committee and are confirmed for their knowledge and expertise in relation to the position.
- Candidates must not hold any position on another provincial or regional agency Board of Directors at the time of nomination.
- Candidates running for these positions must have served for at least one year in the previous three years on a BCFPA branch, or on the BCFPA Provincial Board of Directors.
- If only one nominee's name is submitted for a posted position and they meet all eligibility criteria as stated in the Bylaws, the individual is considered to be elected by acclamation.
- Associate Members who have been elected to hold positions on the Association Board of Directors shall have full voting privileges during their term of office.

PLEASE FORWARD NOMINATIONS TO THE BCFPA PROVINCIAL OFFICE:

**BC FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION
208 - 20641 Logan Avenue
Langley, BC V3A 7R3**

Email: jayne@bcfosterparents.ca

Fax: 604-544-2223

****Nominees may be asked to participate in an interview with Nominations Committee member(s) to discuss their nomination or application for the position prior to an election process or appointment.***

BCFPA Provincial Board of Directors Nomination Form 2024

Name of Candidate _____ Membership Number _____

Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Current Foster Contract Expiry Date _____ Contracted With _____

Eligibility Criteria (in addition to general Director criteria required by BCFPA bylaws):

- *Must have established connections with other foster parents in their community and region*
- *Must not be a Board member or employee of another agency in the adoption/fostering sector at time of nomination*
- *Previous experience and knowledge of BCFPA's mandate and operations will be considered by the Nominations Committee prior to distribution of nominations for election process.*

Candidate Information (please use additional pages if necessary)

Fostering Experience Description

BCFPA Experience (length of membership, past positions held, Branch affiliation, volunteerism)

Related Volunteer, Board, Management or Employment Experience

Personal Views and Objectives to Offer this Position

Other Comments

Nominated by _____ Membership Number _____

Nominated by _____ Membership Number _____

Signature of Candidate _____ Date _____

Please attach any supplemental information to your nomination and send forms to jayne@bcfosterparents.ca

Special Resolutions 2024

Whereas: (state circumstance)

Therefore: (state proposed special resolution)

Moved By: _____ Membership Number: _____
(name)

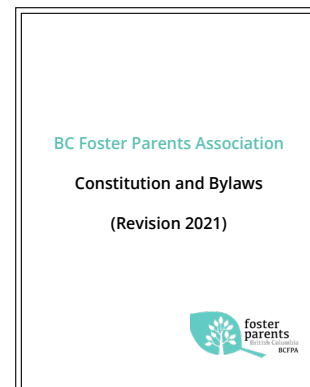
Moved By: _____ Membership Number: _____
(name)

Please submit your proposed Special Resolution by July 4, 2024.
Packages will be distributed by email for online voting by July 22, 2024.
Proposed Special Resolutions will be accepted from members in good standing (current members as of January 31, 2024).
Please submit one form for each Special Resolution proposed.

What are Special Resolutions?

Prior to the BCFPA Annual General Meeting, we receive proposals from members in good standing for special resolutions. A special resolution is a proposed change to our Bylaws. The proposed changes are presented to our membership as a whole and voted on. We require a majority vote for the special resolution to be passed. When a special resolution is adopted into BCFPA's Bylaws through a membership vote, the wording of the resolution is then submitted to the governmental authorities to become part of the Association's permanent documentation.

BCFPA Constitution and Bylaws are the formal documents that contain BCFPA's fundamental objectives and principles.



DATES TO REMEMBER

June 10, 2024

Deadline for distribution of Call for Nominations and Special Resolutions

July 4, 2024

Nominations and Special Resolutions submissions due

July 22, 2024

AGM Voting and Registration Packages emailed to members

August 1, 2024

Online voting opens

September 3, 2024

Official Notice of AGM will be emailed to members and posted to BCFPA website

September 6, 2024

Online voting closes

September 15, 2024

Hotel reservation deadline to receive BCFPA's discount rate



BOOK AT DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15

Book your stay at the Penticton Lakeside Resort for BCFPA's 2024 AGM & Conference before **September 15, 2024** to receive BC Foster Parents Association's discounted room rate of **\$195 per night** for a King or Two Queen Cityview room.

Book now at the Penticton Lakeside Resort

For stays outside of the group's room block dates, guests will have to contact the Hotel directly by phone (**1-800-663-9400**) or by email (**lakeside@rpbhotels.com**) and identify themselves as members of the BCFPA to receive the special guest room rate. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card.

Link to book is also available on our social media platforms.

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 bcadoption.com	1-877-236-7807
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.

Foster Parent Support Services Society (FPSSS) 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.

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 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

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