

FEDERATION HISTORY

- 1960 - 1965 Foster Parents in Victoria, Kelowna and Vancouver were meeting independently to form self-help groups. However as a result of a provincial recruitment drive, (JEFF) in 1965, existing Foster Parents found out they weren't the 'only ones'.
- 1966 - 1970 The first Foster Parent Conference was held in June 1966. A committee was struck to determine the purpose, structure and funding sources for a Provincial body. In 1967 the Federation was officially founded with 15 active locals. Purposes and Aims were set out and became our Constitution. In 1970 - 139 delegates accepted a DRAFT Constitution, and the "B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations" was chosen as our official name.
- 1972 - 1979 On February 2, 1972 the Federation was officially incorporated under the B.C. Societies Act as a Non-Profit Organization. At the 6th Annual Conference in 1975 those present adopted a "Procedure for Resolving Conflicts Between Foster Parents and Ministry". Regionalization was introduced in 1978 to better meet the needs of Foster Parents in the diverse areas of the Province. Provincial funding for the Information Kit was obtained. In 1979 the William Curtis Memorial Bursary was established.
- 1980 - 1983 An Education and Training Coordinator was hired and work commenced on a Policy Handbook for Foster Parents, and in 1982 the first Knowledge Network program was developed by the Federation and aired. Then in 1983 an Orientation Manual for new Foster Parents was developed and a 'Guide to Foster Care in B.C.' was also in its final edits.
- 1984-1985 The BCFFPA Foster Parent Insurance Rider was implemented in 1984; Resolution of Issues was incorporated into Ministry Policy; the Resource Catalogue was published and the 3-year Health & Welfare Grant Program for Foster Parent Training began. In 1985 the Status of Fostering committee was struck.
- 1986 National Foster Parent Week was held in October for the first time.
- 1988-1989 The BCFFPA Code of Ethics was passed by the members at the AGM. The following year (1989) the 'Protocol for the Investigation of Alleged Abuse in Foster Homes was introduced.
- 1990 -1992 The Lieutenant Governor's Award to Foster Parents was created. Fosterline was made available to Foster Parents to call toll-free for information. In 1991, the BCFFPA held its 25th Conference and in 1992 the Federation celebrated 25 years of incorporation. The Protection Pamphlet was produced that year as well.
- 1993- 1996 The Levels of Care was implemented jointly with the Ministry for Children and Families. Canada 125 Medals were awarded to Federation, Esther Lowe, Ron Halston, Georgette Poirier and Gerhard Winkler for services to children and families. The following year, (1995) the Federation assisted the Ministry with proposals for legislative change to the F&CS Act, and establishment of the Advocacy Act; Federation reviewed and made recommendations to the Protocol for Investigating Abuse and Resolution of Issues policies; and compiled a submission for presentation to the Gove Commission. In 1996 Child welfare became a community responsibility. With the implementation of the new Child, Family & Community Service Act, and new MSS policy and procedures to support the legislation, Caregivers participated in joint training events with a strong community focus.

1997- 1999

In partnership with the Ministry and the Canadian Foster Family Association, the Federation, co-hosted the International Foster Care Conference at the University of British Columbia. In 1998 FosterCare2000 was developed to address improvements to the Foster Care system into the next century. Working jointly with the Ministry for Children & Families, the Foster Family Handbook was revised and contains Rights of Foster Parents. MCF and Federation worked together to add Multicultural services to the provincial Fosterline. Standards for Foster Homes were completed and put into use.

2000

Numerous documents were in the final stages of completion or were completed this fiscal year. These included the Family Care Home Contract, the Working agreement between BCFFPA and FAFP, the Support Worker and Advocacy Program, the Draft 3rd Party Review document as outlined in Foster Care 2000, the Draft Imminent Placement Dispute Resolution Process, the MCF/BCFFPA Teambuilding Agreement, Protocols for Foster Homes. The Pre-Service Orientation Manual was completed and distributed, and the British Columbia Foster Care Education Program was implemented in January of that year. The BCFFPA Web Page was designed and implemented as well.

2001

The Working Protocol Agreement between BCFFPA and FAFP was signed, the Family Care Home Agreement was put in place, and plans were made to implement the Imminent Placement Termination Review (formerly Imminent Placement Dispute Resolution Process) document in the 2001/2002 fiscal years. The Support Worker and Advocacy Program was now firmly in place and had a minimum of two support workers in each of the 13 regions.

2002

The Imminent Placement Termination Review Process was put in place. Work continued on the Independent Third Party Review Process. The Federation developed the Strategic Shifts Document. This document was taken to the membership to begin the process of restructuring in order to give power back to the Regional, Area, and Local Associations. This restructuring was in response to the Ministry's move to 5 Regional Governances.

2003

BCFFPA restructured and downsized the board and staff within the provincial office. The structure of the board now encompassed four executive and 5 regional delegates. The provincial BCFFPA continued operations through a grant from MCFD to provide services in the areas of communication, insurance, and recruitment. The BCFFPA continued to provide many services to members through fundraising initiatives as well as administration of the Natural Child, William Curtis, Merv Davis and Gordon Menzies bursaries.

2004

The BCFFPA Provincial Office moved and co-located with the Adoptive Families Association of BC. The Board and Staff continued to improve information flow and provision of services to foster parents. The Provincial Board provided input into the MCFD Caregiver Support Service Standards; Developed and implemented a Provincial Database of available resources for foster parents www.inyourgrasp.bc.ca which launched in October; Continued to lobby the Ministry of Children and Family Development as necessary; continued to address issues around the FCH Agreement Notice; Designed a Grief, Loss, and Transition "Train the Trainer Curriculum" and facilitated 2 province wide workshops.

2005/06

In the spring of 2005 a Grief Loss and Transitions workshop was developed for direct delivery to foster parents. The Board established the BCFFPA Technical and Vocational Bursary and the Special Olympics Bursary to assist members. The BCFFPA continued working closely with MCFD at the Provincial level in various capacities. A survey looking at ways for the Federation to better serve foster parents was sent out and a final report was included in the 2004/05 Annual Report. This report brought forward many issues which need addressing. The BCFFPA also lobbied MCFD for an increase in mileage rates for foster parents, and was successful in gaining a 50% increase in both the basic and additional mileage provided for caregivers in transporting children and youth. The Camps for Kids Program began and 20 kids went to camp each of these two years, and work began on the development of the Rights of Foster Parents, as well as the

gathering of information to support a maintenance and service payment increase for foster parents. In April 2006, the BCFFPA assisted Hollyburn Family Services, and Pacific Community Resources in the delivery of the first two-day Stand Together Conference. In early May 2006 the BCFFPA assisted MCFD Division in arranging the Caregiver Support System Framework Provincial Forum, whereby foster parents, MCFD staff, Delegated Agency representatives, Foster Parent Support Agency Representatives, Representatives from CLBC, YouthJustice, Mental Health, the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, and the BC Youth in Care Network met to discuss various issues in relation to supports and safety for children and youth receiving services from government. Melanie Filiatrault was voted President and Willy Neal was voted Vice President of the Federation at the May 2006 AGM.

2006/2007

The Board continues to meet regularly with the Minister of Children and Family Development around issues related to the strengthening of the Foster Care System. As a result of these meetings, the Federation has developed collaborativerelationships with various community groups including the BC Lions, Vancouver Canucks, and Science World. Both the Lions and the Canucks will be working with the BCFFPA to developPublicService Announcements and short videos to aid in retention and recruitment of Foster Parents. There is discussion taking place around the Duke of Edinburgh awards and various provincial discounts for foster parents, which may be brought about by MCFD

21 children and youth in care went to camp and three Educational Bursaries wereawarded!

The Provincial Education, Recruitment, and Retention Committeeswere developed out of the Caregiver Support System Framework Provincial Forum held in May, with several meetings taking place since August. The BCFFPA administers grant funding for this committee on behalf of the Ministry of Children and Family Development and continues to work closely with MCFD and agencies to address the issues that arose out of the original forum as well as working with these same agencies and the Provincial Ministry on revisions and upgrades to the Caregiver Support Service Standards.

The BCFFPA 40th anniversary was held in May of 2007. Several members of the BCFFPA Board were involved in the World Forum.

2008

In 2007/08, the BCFFAP began holding Idea Forums throughout BC in response to the issue of low graduation rate and homelessness among former youth in care. To date 13 Idea Forums have been held in the North, Interior, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island Regions. The website www.fosterchildren.ca was developed to act as a communication centre regarding the outcomes of these forums. It was launched February 2008. The Idea Forums have also resulted in joint collaboration between other provincial groups serving children, the business community, and counselling services.

The Caregiver Support Service Standards has been worked on jointly with MCFD and was released in the fall of 2006. The BCFFPA provided input into this document in the areas of Insurance deductibles, FCHA 60 notification, Cultural requirements and other significant portions of this document.

The Federation continues to work on justification for increases in maintenance and the Rights of Foster Parents.

BCFFPA has representation on CLBC, the Youth Transitioning Committee, Connections, an new ministry initiative that keeps youth connected to caring adults once they leave care, and the LEAP BC Provincial Working Group which has come out of the Legacies Now Funding as a result of the 2010 Olympics.