



Pre-AGM Board Meeting
July 8, 2011
The Fairmont Empress Hotel
Victoria, BC

In Attendance

Heather Bayes, President
 Sheila Davis, Vice President
 Les Toth, Treasurer
 Marcy Perron, Secretary
 Peter Dueck, Vancouver Coastal
 Russell Pohl, Fraser
 Kevin Daniel, Interior
 Jo Axe, Vancouver Island
 Melanie Filiatrault, IFCO Committee
 Jayne Wilson, Executive Director

Absent

Sherrie Jones, North

A Board Majority being in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm.

***M/S/C (Moved/Seconded/Carried)**

ACTION	DETAIL	MOTION or ACTION
	<p>It was noted that this meeting would have an ad hoc format and be run with an informal agenda.</p>	
<p>1. Bylaws and Policy Documents</p>	<p>It was noted that an impactful inconsistency exists between the Constitution and Bylaws document and our working Policies and Procedures document. This inconsistency should be remedied immediately.</p>	<p>MOTION to remove from the Policies and Procedures document under Section II - BCFFPA Association Structure; Provincial Board of Directors, Clause 7c which states "Canadian Foster Family Association representative and other such appointed persons as may be required." M/S/C Kevin/Les</p>
<p>2. Financial Statements</p>	<p>Les provided a short overview of financial structure and the purpose of financial statements.</p>	
<p>3. SunLife Shares</p>	<p>With the assistance of E.B. Rich Research, a company in eastern Canada with information that there were unclaimed funds in our name, we have discovered that we own 170 shares of SunLife stock. We have been presented with 3 options: to sell all shares, to sell a portion of the shares or to hold the shares. In the last two cases we will send for a stock certificate to have on file. There appears to be no history regarding these shares in BCFFPA archives.</p>	<p>ACTION Marcy will contact E.B. Rich Research and discuss the history of BCFFPA ownership of these shares. Marcy will investigate all restrictions associated with the ownership of these shares and obtain a stock certificate. Marcy will report her preliminary findings to the Board at the September meeting.</p>
<p>4. MCFD Regional Changes</p>	<p>MCFD has undergone a regional boundary adjustment. Vancouver Coastal and the Fraser Regions have been amalgamated and will be called "Coast Fraser". This new larger region now represents over 1100 foster parents.</p>	

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	<p>The President discussed the possibility of a macro region being formed under BCFFPA guidelines. The Vancouver delegate asked for clarification regarding the benefits of a macro region. There was brief discussion regarding how our delegate positions will be handled with the amalgamation of MCFD regions.</p>	
<p>5. Regional Delegate Positions</p>	<p>Discussion regarding the election and term of office for BCFFPA regional delegate positions. Some are in favour of a 2 year term.</p>	
<p>6. Committee for Concerned Foster Parents</p>	<p><i>[Claude C., Jan C. and Sheila D. attended the second half of this Board meeting on behalf of their ad hoc committee of concerned foster parents. The committee's roots began up to 5 years ago when former BCFFPA Board members shared concerns with each other regarding the administration of BCFFPA and they endeavoured to address these concerns through meetings. Letters requesting meetings and letters addressed to MCFD and our Federation lawyer date back to 2008. This is the first meeting of the committee with BCFFPA Board members. There was a consensus with the present Board that concerns regarding BCFFPA operations should always be addressed through established channels – through regional delegates. All recent attempts to establish an in-person meeting at a mutually agreeable time were unsuccessful prior to July 8, 2011.]</i></p> <p>The Fraser delegate, who is also the BCFFPA representative to the CFFA Board noted a concern that Sheila D., as CFFA President, was present at this meeting. The noted concern being a perceived conflict of interest.</p> <p>The President noted that the clause in our Policies and Procedures which was in conflict with the clause in our Constitution and Bylaws has been struck from policy. This was one of the Committee's concerns.</p> <p>Claude noted that he, Jan and Sheila represent a larger group of foster parents, not only the founding 7 committee members. The President asked for clarification regarding the numbers of concerned foster parents and was informed that the numbers were undocumented but that an estimated 100 individuals have been in contact with the group over the past few years.</p> <p>The Vancouver delegate asked for clarification regarding the background documents which will be referenced during the meeting.</p> <p>The Fraser delegate enquired which foster parents the committee is speaking on behalf of and asked for</p>	

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	<p>clarification regarding their right to speak on behalf of these foster parents.</p> <p>Jan responded that they felt the right was theirs and that they were given the blessing of MCFD Provincial office to do so.</p> <p>Claude stated that up to 5 years ago, but more specifically 3 years ago, the committee noted a number of issues with BCFFPA's representation of foster parents in the Province. They see the framework as moving away from the grassroots perspective. Communication with the Board has been difficult. In meetings with MCFD, they were assured that their concerns were warranted.</p> <p><i>[Background note: throughout the latter half of 2010 and into 2011, the new ED has been addressing the issues noted in past correspondence from the committee and has been providing activity updates to Claude and the committee throughout this time.]</i></p> <p>Jan addressed the present structure of the BCFFPA noting that historically there was a much larger infrastructure throughout the Province. Over the past few years they have found that the Board has not addressed issues as it had done historically. There is concern that the present structure is inhibiting BCFFPA members from easy access to the Board.</p> <p>The Vancouver delegate asked for their thoughts regarding a different structure. The President interjected that we have a limited amount of time available in this meeting.</p> <p>Sheila noted that the committee hoped to meet with BCFFPA two years ago and they are just now sharing the concerns they brought forward to MCFD at that point in time.</p> <p>Claude noted that our past membership numbers have fluctuated a great deal and that without membership we don't have an agency. He then summarized the remaining issues as laid out in the background documentation.</p> <p>The Treasurer clarified the financial statement process and breakdown in answer to the committee's financial concerns.</p> <p>The Fraser delegate, citing his background in business, enquired about documentation and historical basis/evidence of the committee's concerns. How did the committee gather their information regarding concerns of the fostering community? Were all foster parents consulted for their opinions?</p>	

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	<p>Sheila asserted that they are now disbanding.</p> <p>The BCFFPA Executive Director (ED) noted that she is always available to speak to foster parents regarding concerns and feedback.</p> <p>Jan and Sheila asked if Board member contact information is provided in the newsletter. Due to privacy legislation we cannot provide home phone numbers or private e-mail, however, the ED suggested that setting up BCFFPA e-mail for all Board members would provide greater accessibility.</p> <p>The Fraser delegate asked why concerned foster parents are not stepping forward to run for positions on the Board.</p> <p>Jan noted that efforts were made to address concerns while concerned committee members were on the Board. They have been working together to effect change for 5 years.</p> <p>The Vancouver delegate stated his understanding of issues regarding downsizing BCFFPA's structure and noted the Board's genuine desire to move the organization forward.</p> <p>The President summarized that BCFFPA has gone through tremendous reorganization this year. Our former ED is no longer with us. The new ED has been restructuring and resolving internal and external issues. We have completed a strategic planning meeting and are feeling positive about where we are headed.</p> <p>All agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be posted on the BCFFPA website.</p>	
	Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.	