

# INFOLETTER

BC Federation of Foster Parents Associations

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Heather Bayes

The first thing I want to do is to thank all of our members in participating in the AGM, either by attending in Kelowna or sending in their mail in ballots. We have over 1000 members in the BCFFPA with many other foster parents we support regardless of membership.

This year was again a success. Our workshops were well attended and the topics current and interesting. I would like to take this time to thank our presenters Diane Sowden of Children of the Street Society, It can Happen to Anyone. Alison Dennis, Understanding the culture of poverty. Linda Austin, Whose got the power?

The afternoon session with the Residential Redesign was a great opportunity to let our voices be heard.

Still on the topic of the AGM I would like to say how much I appreciated the input of our members. It was made clear that there are some issues that need addressing and that have become a priority for myself and the Board. To this end we have developed 2 committees, the first is Policy and Procedure, and they will be addressing the updating and clarification of this document to make it easier for our members to work with it. The 2nd is the Fundraising committee and they are to do exactly what the name implies to help find the funding to continue the programs we have and to develop new ones. Any one wanting to be on either committee please contact the office.

I would like to extend my thanks to Melanie Filiatrault for her years of work for the Foster Parents and the Association. After having done the job for a month I have become very aware how many hours that she had to put in for all of us. Do not worry Melanie is still around she will continue to be our rep to the IFCO (International Foster Carers Organization) conference. This will be in July of 2011, for more information go to the IFCO link on our web site.

I would also like to thank Debbie Derwitz for her work as the Delegate from Fraser Valley. As some of you know MCFD have reworked the boundaries of Vancouver Coastal and the Fraser Valley, Debbie is now in the Vancouver Coastal Region. She has promised to stay involved with the Fundraising Committee.

We are now looking for Delegates for the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Any members in good standing interested please submit your name to the office. Each region will be able to have a mail in vote for their Delegate.

I am looking forward to the next years as your President. I feel that this is the time to concentrate on the supporting of our Foster Parents and strengthening our net work with other community services. We need to work together to address the issues of the contracts and their proper interpretation, protocols and their length of time to resolve as well as the accessing services for the children and youth in our care. Together with one voice we can work miracles.



Founded April 15, 1967  
Recognized  
Charitable Organization

July 2010

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## B.C.F.F.P.A.

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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Heather Bayes-Enderby

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Sheila Davis-Nanaimo

#### SECRETARY

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#### DELEAGTES

##### VANCOUVER COASTAL

Peter Dueck

##### FRASER

Vacant

##### INTERIOR

Marcy Perron

##### NORTH

Sherrie Jones

##### VANCOUVER ISLAND

Vacant

##### IFCO DELEGATE

Melanie Filiatrault

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lea Ann Bryant-Maple Ridge

The B.C.F.F.P.A. is a provincial organization for foster parents, run by foster parents. It is a Registered Society which aims to bring together foster parents, social workers and other interested people working to improve the standard of care for the children of B.C. The association provides education, training and professional development, as well as support and assistance for the Foster Parents of B.C.

### GUIDELINE TO THE FAMILY CARE RATE—2009\*

Basic Foster Care Costs (per month)	Ages 0-11years	Ages 12-19 years
Food	135.04	183.35
Housing	149.51	183.35
Transportation	67.52	76.89
Personal Needs	14.46	17.74
Recreation	33.78	35.50
Clothing	81.98	94.63
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>482.29</b>	<b>591.46</b>
Additional Family Care Costs	Ages 0-11years	Ages 12-19 years
Education	25.72	31.85
Babysitting	86.81	57.33
Transportation	61.09	60.51
Personal Spending	41.79	54.14
Gifts/ Activities	61.09	60.51
Equipment/ Recreation	45.03	54.15
Sub-total	321.53	318.49
<b>Total Maintenance (per month)</b>	<b>803.82</b>	<b>909.95</b>

\*The amounts in each category are estimates of what is required for most children. Actual costs will vary between categories, with some caregivers spending more in some categories but less in others. The total amounts should be sufficient to cover the actual costs for most children.

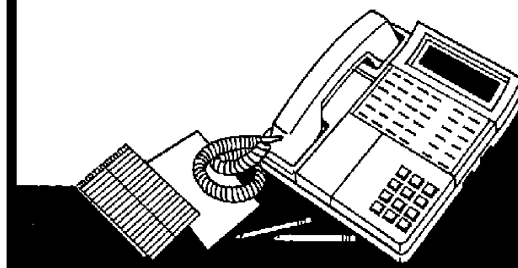
#### The Relief Foster Care Rates

Restricted (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs) \$36.79  
Restricted (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs) \$40.33  
Regular (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs) \$36.79  
Regular (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs) \$40.33  
Level 1 (all ages) \$55.60  
Level 2 (all ages) \$68.35  
Level 3 (all ages) \$90.89

Remember the Provincial Toll-Free  
**FOSTERLINE!**

# 1-800-663-9999

If you need any information or support, call this toll-free number and one of the office staff will take your name and telephone number and call you right back.



This Newsletter, for the Foster Parents of B. C., is made available through funding from the Ministry for Children and Families.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the B.C.F.F.P.A. However, we do endeavor to inform, in the belief that everyone has the right to information. We try to promote and generate open, frank discussion.

We invite Letters to the Editor and submissions for the Newsletter. All submissions must reach the office at least one full month prior to the next publication date. Please check with the office to find out when the next tentative publication date is and make sure notices for Coming Events reach the office well ahead of the workshop date so that we can publish the event in an issue that will reach Foster Parents prior to that date.

We reserve the right to edit for length, language or legality. The Editor has final say on content.

## Vice President Message Sheila Davis

Thank you to every member who voted for me. I appreciate your support. Now the work begins! All of us will be working very hard for you, this year especially. The board members are pleased that the AGM 2011 can now be held in July, so that more foster parents will find it easier to attend at least part of the IFCO 2011 event in Victoria. If inspiration hits and you can suggest some really great fundraising ideas to assist foster parent members attend IFCO 2011, please let us know. It will be a wonderful chance to exchange ideas and information with foster parents from around the world.

I encourage foster parent members to volunteer on our Policy and Procedures Committee and the Fundraising Committee. There is also an opportunity in Fraser and Vancouver Island Regions to run for the Delegate position. Please join us in our endeavours!

Sheila

**Wild Horse Cowboy**  
**by Maurice Graydon**

This story is written "as an Ode to the Foster Kids and Orphans of this world" to be an inspiration by one who has lived the realities of the Ode."

Through history past and present and recollections the story unfolds of a young boy living in Vancouver who was placed in foster care and ended up in the interior in the winter in the late 1920's. It covers his many and varied experiences (heartaches and successes) to present times. Without giving away the stories here, it is a book well worth reading. Maurice has overcome many obstacles and is a pillar of the community where he now resides. He has indeed lived a full life!

Wild Horse Cowboys is printed in Canada by Chilko Printing, Maple Ridge, B.C. All net proceeds of his book will be donated to children's charities including the BCFFPA recently.

If you wish to purchase this inspiring novel, please contact the BCFFPA. The novel is \$20.00.

**With proceeds of this novel Maurice Graydon has set up 3 new bursaries this year for the BCFFPA.**

**Maureen and Maurice Graydon Bursary.....\$750.00**

**Maurice and son Carson Graydon Bursary...\$750.00    Navy Vets**

**Maurice Graydon Bursary.....\$500.00**

## **MRSA:** **On the rise among children and in the community**

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), or commonly referred to the Super bug, is a drug resistant bacteria<sup>1</sup>. This bacterium is found in many people within the population, but become infectious when the bacteria have reached the soft tissues of the body. MRSA can cause infections in the skin, aggressive bone infections and sever pneumonia.<sup>2</sup> MRSA can show up on a person, looking like a small spider bite. This begins to come to head and forms a boil. Due to the fact that MRSA is resistant to antibiotics, it is often hard to treat, if not discovered early. When treatment does begin to combat MRSA, Vancomycin, is the only drug, that has shown that is it is, so far, the only drug that can help to combat MRSA<sup>3</sup>

Across the country, children are being hospitalized for MRSA. Some have become infected in the hospital, while others are becoming infected within the community. In the study conducted by the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program, it was found that there were 72 cases of hospitalized children with MRSA. Children infected with MRSA stayed on average, 18 days in the hospital. Also, 88% of the children, or 64 out of 72, have acquired the infection in the community.<sup>4</sup> This shows that not only is MRSA prevalent behind the wall of the hospital, but now it is reaching into the community, and otherwise healthy people are becoming infected.

Children can catch MRSA from many different aspects of life. They can receive MRSA from an infected parent, or someone who is a carrier of MRSA. It can also be contracted from school, as the MRSA is able to survive on hard surfaces, such as desk, chairs, and sports equipment. AS MRSA is spread through physical contact, it is absolutely crucial to ensure that all surfaces are kept clean, as well as any clothing, towels or bed sheets.<sup>5</sup>

MRSA is an infection that can severe consequences if not diagnosed and treated quickly and effectively. Children are at an even greater risk now that MRSA has spread into the community rather than being confined to the hospital. It is important to keep everything clean and if you notice anything that you find cause for concern go to the doctor so it can be diagnosed and treated early. MRSA kills more people in the United States, than HIV and AIDS<sup>6</sup>. Due to the severity and rise of this infection among the public, all precautions must be taken.

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<sup>1</sup> Patient information pamphlet, University health network;[http://www.uhn.ca/Home/Bug\\_stops\\_here/docs/](http://www.uhn.ca/Home/Bug_stops_here/docs/).

<sup>2</sup> Can West News Publication: Nanaimo Daily News Doctors Failing to spot infections in kids: Survey

<sup>3</sup> MRSA Infections: [http://www.medicinenet.com/mrsa\\_infection](http://www.medicinenet.com/mrsa_infection)

<sup>4</sup> Can West News Publication: Nanaimo Daily News Doctors Failing to spot infections in kids: Survey

<sup>5</sup> MRSA Infections: [http://www.medicinenet.com/mrsa\\_infection](http://www.medicinenet.com/mrsa_infection)

<sup>6</sup> Agence France-Presse 2010: Nanaimo Daily News Drug resistant disease on the rise: Study

## Our Mission

*“The BCFFPA represents and supports all Foster Parents to provide quality in-home foster care in British Columbia”*

## Our Vision

*“Supporting children and youth to reach their full potential through excellence in foster care”*

## Our Belief

*Resilient Foster Parents = Empowered Children and Youth*

### Read Carefully Before Signing

We caution caregivers to CARE-FULLY read and understand your contract or modifications to that contract before signing.

Once it is signed it is difficult to have it changed, and you may find yourself out of pocket.

### GET IT IN WRITING!

When agreements are made for the coverage of excess costs related to your role as a Caregiver (i.e., agreement for extra respite coverage due to your needs, or payment for special travel related to the child)

Get it in writing from MCFD prior to incurring the expense, so that the original intent of the agreement cannot be misconstrued or forgotten leaving you out of pocket for the expense.

### \* What is the BCFFPA doing for YOU?

The Provincial BCFFPA is currently addressing the following issues with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

- \* Increase in coverage under the Rider Insurance
  - \* Idea and Information forums in Regions
  - \* Legal Action Fund start up
  - \* Caregiver Support Service Standards
- \* Participation in the Foster Parent Education Program and Retention and Recruitment Strategies Provincial Working Groups
- \* Discussion with MCFD with regard to the reinstatement of the Support Worker and Advocacy Program and a/or a Foster and Birth Family Support Program
- \* “Rights of Foster Parents” now in place
- \* Clarification from EI regarding what constitutes income

## **BCFFPA PROVINCIAL SERVICES FUNDED BY MCFD**

The BCFFPA is contracted to support all foster parents, agencies, and Ministry by providing consistent information, promotion and support to ensure quality in-home foster care, including :

- Administer the BCFFPA/MCFD 1-800 Fosterline, by responding to calls, by providing written information on fostering to callers, by referring callers to the appropriate Ministry district offices and regional foster parent support and education services, and by providing reports to the Ministry on the volume/type of calls and referrals.
- Provide foster parents with information on the community support services available to them and maintain an awareness of current issues facing foster parents, provincial, national and international, to facilitate an ongoing information exchange.
- Produce and distribute Quarterly Infoletter in partnership with MCFD.
- Maintain and continuously update the BCFFPA web-site and Resource Database and work jointly with MCFD to ensure access links to the MCFD developed resource data base that will contain up-to-date information on the supports and services available to children, families and foster parents in communities throughout the province.

In addition to the communication strategies described above, the BCFFPA focuses on developing and maintaining working relationships with key regional and provincial services and organizations that relate to foster care, including:

- Collaboration and partnership with regional contracted foster parent support services and regional Ministry staff including consultation and information about past BCFFPA work, materials and programming related to the various support programs.
- Continue to work in partnership with the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, the Adoptive Families Association on projects and initiatives of mutual interest. Whenever possible and appropriate the BCFFPA will partner with other agencies, organizations and the Ministry on specific projects.
- Develop and maintain a variety of communication strategies with Ministry staff, regional organizations and agencies who are involved with supporting and promoting foster care to encourage and support working partnerships between foster parents, contract services and Ministry staff.

Within existing budgetary and business plan limitations, to work with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on special projects as mutually agreed upon including:

- Consultation on the development and revision of Standards and Policy relevant to foster care.
- Service transformation initiatives related to foster care

### **SERVICES TO FOSTER PARENTS and CHILDREN/YOUTH IN CARE THROUGH MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING**

**AGM** – Training event and conference, which are attended by agency representatives, foster parents and Ministry staff. This event facilitates communication and networking between all groups, in addition to providing excellent training opportunities, which enhance caregiver's abilities.

**In Your Grasp Resource Database** – The BCFFPA in partnership with the Adoptive Families Association, and the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, has developed a database of available community resources for accessing by foster parents, Ministry, agencies, birth and adoptive families and the general public. This database contains over 4400 service providers.

**Government Lobbying** – Gather information around foster parent issues, which are of a provincial scope and bring those issues forward in an effort to assist in resolution. Act as a conduit for sharing of information between Ministry and foster parents.

**Regional Support** – Regional councils and local associations provide peer support to foster parents, in addition to sharing information of a provincial nature with caregivers within regions. As well, regional foster parents assist in gathering information around issues of a regional or provincial nature, for sharing with the appropriate Ministry, agency or provincial BCFFPA contacts.

**Regional/Local Financial Support** – Transference of the majority of membership funds from the provincial

BCFFPA to regional councils and local association to assist these groups in offering training and network-

ing opportunities for foster parents. In addition, the provincial organization has awarded grants to all locals in good standing to assist in building capacity.

**Joint Meetings** – Assist in covering costs for BCFFPA representatives to attend meetings with Ministry and

other provincial organizations and agencies for policy and standards development.

**Partnership Meetings** – – Work with other organizations to improve services to caregivers, children and youth. Some examples of this include the Youth in Care Project which seeks to increase the number of youth

in care with adoption and permanency plans in the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Regions, Kinnections a response to concerns raised by youth-in-care that a variety of supports are required before and beyond age

19 to assist youth in the successful transition to adulthood, and the BCFFPA Rider Insurance for Youth Justice Homes, which was developed by the BCFFPA in joint partnership with an insurance provider.

**Public Relations** – Respond to media requests, in order to obtain positive coverage for the field of foster-

ing  
**Board of Directors Meetings** – Information sharing and support to BCFFPA volunteer board members, in addition to providing the opportunity for face-to-face communication between themselves, ministry representatives and joint partners.

**Camps for Kids Grants** – The BCFFPA funds subsidies to assist foster parent members to send their fos-

ter, birth and adopted children to camp.

**Computers for Youth** - Foster children of BCFFPA members who obtain a Dogwood Diploma or school leaving certificate are able to put their name in a draw for a laptop computer.

**Educational Bursaries** – The BCFFPA administers the BCFFPA Natural Child Bursary for birth and adopted

children of foster parent members, as well as the William Curtis, and Merv Davis bursaries for former youth in

care.

**Training Material** – The Federation has developed curriculum for a two day train-the-trainer Grief and Loss

Module, as well as a three hour Grief Loss and Transitions training module for caregivers.

**Orientation kits for new foster parents** – The BCFFPA recognized a need to reinitiate Foster Parent orientation kits for the sharing of relevant and essential information around special needs and BCFFPA services for newly approved foster homes. The BCFFPA provincial office distributes these information kits at

the request of foster parent support agencies, and Ministry staff.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## **Vancouver Coastal Report:** Peter Dueck

Our annual meeting has come and gone; workshop content is being absorbed in the summer heat and our sights are on the coming year. In our region we are still reviewing the changes to the regional boundaries; a meeting is planned with Ministry staff to better understand the changes and to understand why we are viewed as minor players in such matters.

One of the highlights of the summer is the annual picnic for foster parents. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Wishing all a restful and enjoyable summer.

## **Interior Report-**Marcy Perron

**The Interior Region** has had a very busy spring . There have been numerous courses offered through OFPA and also through the Aboriginal Foster Parent Association along with specialized courses such as Safe Babies and Non Violent Intervention. OFPA also arranged for four Foster Parents in Kelowna to meet with a group of approx 12 - 3rd year Social Worker students to discuss why they became Foster Parents what role they play in the Foster Childs life what is involved in being a Foster Parent ie on going training and education and what support we need from Social Workers in order to help these children .

**Kelowna's** Foster Parent Association was busy this Spring as well They have had amazing turn outs for their social events as well as their monthly meetings. The Association was also active in helping to support the BCFFPA with the AGM. Julie Holmlund one of our Foster Parents donated a hand made quilt that she named" Love Makes The World Go Round" for auction at the AGM . The local set up a babysitting room and supplied babysitters for any Foster Parents who wanted to attend the conference and needed babysitting in order to do so. Kelowna has also had bi-monthly partnership meetings and another Town Hall meeting that a good number of Foster Parents attended. The Kelowna Foster Parent Association in conjunction with the Resources Office are planning a joint barbeque in July for all Foster Parents and Ministry workers to attend.

**Salmon Arm's** Foster Parent Association is up and running. The Association has been busy setting up programs for Foster Parents and getting the word out in their area that the Local is active and ready to support and assist Foster Parents where needed. They are hoping to have Foster Parents come out to their monthly meetings building a support system that will provide a strong base for the future of the Association.

Kamloops has been busy this Spring with their main focus being on the Education of Social Workers (3rd year students). They are working with the University to set up a program where students go into Foster Homes and observe the day to day realities of a functioning Foster Home . They will learn first hand the skills required to be a Foster Parent. They will also see the impact this has not only on the Foster Children coming into the home but also on the natural children living in the home. They will see how complex these relationships really are for the whole household and the time and patience required to make it work . Although this has been their main focus Kamloops has also offered many courses for all Foster Parents to attend and expand their knowledge in different areas of concern

**Vernon** has been busy, as well, with ongoing partnership meetings Foster Parents training and courses being offered including 3DVD courses on traumatic stress Vernon is also operating with a shortage of ministry staff. There resource workers are only part-time and there are only 2-3 intake workers as well. They are training Foster Parents to advocate for their children to keep them in school and will be talking to the schools about the responsibilities of the appointed child advocate in the school .

**Cranbrook** local continues to have on going local meetings, courses and training sessions for their Foster Parents. They have worked very hard in conjunction the social workers and resource workers to created an Outcome Statement that has now been printed on a certificate . These statements are a result of the appreciative inquiry interviews completed with Foster parents in January 2010. The Local also had a foster parent picnic that was held at the fish hatchery in early June

**Williams Lake** and surrounding area are training any Foster Parents who would like to learn Sign language. They have Aboriginal training on care plans available and Jacques Goutieo teaching cultural planning .The staffing issues are improving they now have 2 workers back from leave and the adoption worker vacancy has been filled. Partnership meetings are being held and the 53 hour training course is up and running along with the 18 hour pre service training.

**Penticton** is busy with courses being offered through OFPA and promoting their co-parenting review to any other locals interested in setting up a similar review or using it as a tool to establish one of their own. Penticton continues to have good support for their Partnership meetings and they are still signing people up for both pre service and Foster Parent Education as well as many specialized courses such as safe babies. Penticton also co-ordinated Dr. Venessa Lapointe three day training seminars The seminars were sold out and over 1/2 of the people registered were Foster Parents. OFPA is also keeping them busy with several educational courses being offered on a monthly basis.

**East Kootneys** have had a long run with severe ministry staff shortages. These shortages caused partnership meeting to be cancelled. The local is pushing for new members and the local meetings are on going. Esther Swanson has step down as area rep for the Macro and Maryann Kelly is taking her place . In Nelson there was a luncheon potluck with the Ministry Staff and homemade goodies were taken to the Ministry Office for Social Worker Week. Courses and training for Foster Parents are ongoing in this area as well.

**Revelstoke** has seen a reduction of children being brought into care they feel this may be due to the fact that wealthier families are moving into the area increasing the rents and property values forcing the less fortunate families to move out of the area. Foster Parent training courses are being offered on a regular basis , partnership meetings continue and Revelstoke local is up and running with a new President Jackie Ward Treasurer Rose Machete and Secretary Davies. The ongoing battle with the school district about keeping our children continues in Revelstoke as in all other areas in the Interior region.

All Locals supported the BCFFPA AGM by bringing baskets to be auctioned with the funds being used to support venues such as Kids at Camp etc.

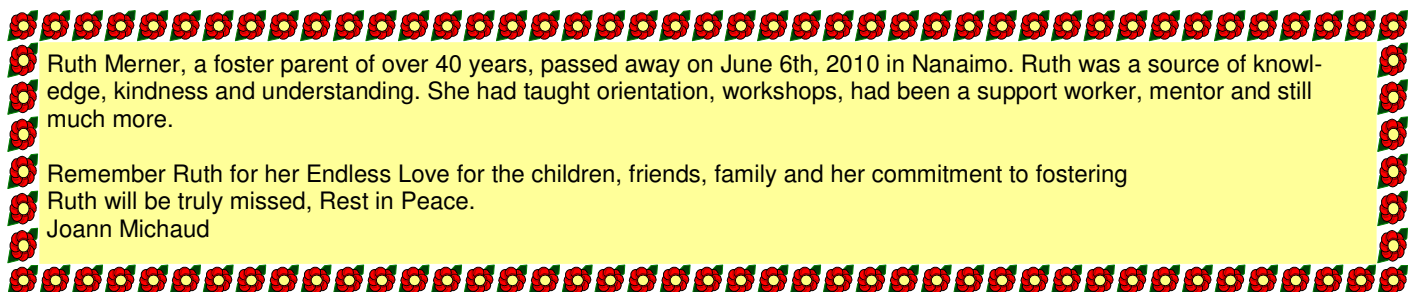
Most of the Locals have slowed down for the summer months but will be back-- rested and ready to Rock and Roll -- starting September Have fun and enjoy your summer.

## Vancouver Island Region Sheila Davis

I have enjoyed being your delegate again for this past year. However, since I was elected as Vice President of your Provincial Board at AGM 2010, I have stepped down as your regional delegate to start my new duties. This creates a vacancy which I am hoping one of our members will volunteer to be nominated to fill. If any of you are interested in participating, please use the toll free number 1-800-663-9999 to contact our provincial office for information or access the website [www.bcfosterparents.ca](http://www.bcfosterparents.ca).

On a sad note, our region has lost a long time foster parent who was well liked and provided a valuable service to so many over the years. She was a respected elder and a volunteer locally for the BCFFPA. A very nice afternoon tea was held in Nanaimo which was well attended by people of all ages and from all walks of life. It was a wonderful opportunity to remember one of us. A life well lived.

I have asked one of her close friends, also a foster parent, to say a few words in her honour. Please see below.



Ruth Merner, a foster parent of over 40 years, passed away on June 6th, 2010 in Nanaimo. Ruth was a source of knowledge, kindness and understanding. She had taught orientation, workshops, had been a support worker, mentor and still much more.

Remember Ruth for her Endless Love for the children, friends, family and her commitment to fostering  
Ruth will be truly missed, Rest in Peace.  
Joann Michaud

## **Northern Report** Sherrie Jones

As the Northern Rep I continue to sit on the Northern Partnership Board. With the budget restraints we hold regular teleconferences and only meet face to face once per year. One of our top identified issues is the area of communication. This still appears to be a problem that is Provincial and not isolated to our Northern Region. There is also concern with the lack of support for children that are aging out of the Foster Care System. We need to implant ongoing support for the youth as they transition into Independence to ensure that this transition is successful.

I attended the MCFD CAPP session that was held in Dawson Creek February 26/2010. From what was presented MCFD is changing the way they do business and MCFD staff and Foster Parents are about to start on a new learning curve as to how services will be provided to children and youth.

With the freeze on hiring MCFD staff many offices are operating short handed, and in many cases staff are taken from one office to cover shortages in others. This has crated confusion for Foster Parents as you never know who is in what office, and what role they are in.

The issue of communication has arisen from all areas of the North. It is felt that a lack of communication between MCFD staff and Foster Parents in all aspects, is hindering all. Foster Parents need to have consistent contact with staff to ensure that they are able to provide the best possible service to their children.

Axis continues to provide support for Foster Parents and has offered several training events for Foster Parents. The Coffee Socials and training events are valuable for tools for Foster Parents to ensure that they are connected to other Foster Parents. For new Foster Parents it is crucial to connect with others and use them as support and rely on their knowledge to assist them in providing the best possible service for their foster children.

The next few years are going to be a challenge for Foster Parents with all the changes that are ahead of us. We need to communicate with MCFD and other Foster Parents to ensure that all are up to date on the changes, and that we support each other as we go thru this process. I encourage all to become members of the BCFFPA and assist us with making these difficult transitions easier on all. Knowledge and inclusion make for a stronger and united Association. We need to all work together to ensure that all foster children receive the best possible service to enable them to be the successful youth of our future.

**Fraser Region: VACANT**

**Vancouver Island: VACANT**

**The BCFFPA is looking for anyone interested in being a Regional Delegate for either:**

**Fraser** (Mission, Abbotsford etc.)

**Vancouver Island**

Please contact the BCFFPA Office via phone 604 466-7487, Toll Free (in BC) 1-800-663-9999 or email to apply.

## **CANADIAN FOSTER FAMILIES ASSOCIATION** Sheila Davis

The major event in the last quarter was AGM 2010 and the conference held June 7 - 13th in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Thanks go to the Saskatchewan Foster Families Assn. for hosting the CFFA and to the hard work done by all the volunteers and staff who made this event possible. The new Executive Committee is: President - Sheila Durnford, 1st Vice President - Mary Smith, 2nd Vice President - Sylvia Thompson, 3rd Vice President - Sharon Joyal, Treasurer - Nancy Macfarlane, Secretary - Connie.

The membership now stands at 12 Provincial, 2 Organizational and 54 Donor.

IFCO 2011 will be held July 10 - 15, 2011 in Victoria. Our President, Sheila Durnford is on the committee and will be attending as our CFFA Delegate. There is also a youth component to this event, so you could bring your children too.

There will be a face to face board meeting Oct. 1st to 4th at the Alberta Children's Camp graciously hosted by the Alberta Foster Parents Assn. again. One day is booked for the board meeting and one day for training. Please send in any ideas you may have for training.

The National Working Group was chaired by Sheila Durnford. In the morning the Guest Speakers were Anna Eikens and Maureen Cech, the "Every Child Matters" project staff. The afternoon featured information sharing and each delegate shared what was happening in their Province/Territory. In Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador foster parent rates were increased. The rates in Alberta and B.C. stayed the same. In the Northwest Territories foster parents are experiencing a lot of difficulties.

Well, change is inevitable and now my 3 year appointed term as the B.C. Director is over. I found it interesting and really enjoyed the window on Canada's foster parents. I appreciated the opportunity. Our Delegate, Louise Dol, has now been appointed as the new Director for B.C., so you will be hearing from her in the next issues of our Infoletter. As usual you may access the CFFA website for further information - [www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca](http://www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca) . You may also phone the federation office toll free @ 800-663-9999.

### **Here's Your Chance to Help Make the BCFFPA Work Better!**

**These two important committees are looking for your assistance:**

**Fundraising Committee**

**Policy and Procedures Committee**

**Please contact the BCFFPA Office via phone 604 466-7487, Toll Free (in BC) 1-800-663-9999 or email to help design BCFFPA's future.**

# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions about Emergencies

*Note: most of this information is from [getprepared.ca](http://getprepared.ca)*



**All Canadians need to be prepared in case of an emergency.**

### **What's different for Foster Families?**

All Canadians should know the risks for the area they live in, have an Emergency Plan, and an Emergency kit.

- Foster Parents need to update their plan and their kits regularly, as children join, or leave, their family
- Foster Parents who find themselves in an emergency situation are to notify the After Hours' Emergency line **1 800 663 9122** to notify that they have been evacuated and of their new location.
- Reinforce with children in care that they can always call the Children's Helpline (310-1234) if they need help.

### **Why do we need a plan?**

A family emergency plan will help you and your families know what to do in case of an emergency. Every Canadian household needs an emergency plan. Remember to review it whenever new children join your family.

Before starting your home emergency plan, you will need to think about:

- Safe exits from home and neighborhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Health information
- Place for your pet to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical box, gas valve and floor drain

### **What's in a basic emergency kit?**

You may have some of these basic emergency kit items already, such as a flashlight, battery-operated radio, food, water and blankets. The key is to make sure they are organized, easy to find and easy to carry (in a suitcase with wheels or in a backpack) in case you need to evacuate your home. Whatever you do, don't wait for a disaster to happen. Canadians are encouraged to be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours - that's 3 days - of an emergency.

- **Easy to carry** - think of ways that you can pack your emergency kit so that you and those on your emergency plan can easily take the items with you, if necessary.
- **Water** - two liters of water per person per day (Include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order)
- **Food** - that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (remember to replace the food and water once a year - and don't forget the pets)
- **Manual can opener**
- **Flashlight and batteries**
- **Candles and matches or lighter**

- **Papers in a waterproof container** - copies of important papers, copies of ID (care cards, driver's license, etc.) photos of family members and pets, phone numbers. You need to have written information for each child in care.

### **What's a Comfort Kit?**

MCFD recommends a comfort kit be prepared for each child in care. It should include items that are familiar and that will provide comfort. Items to include for children:

- Pictures of the child's birth family
- Books, crayons, scissors, glue
- Puzzles, board games, hand-held computer games with extra batteries
- Prescription medicine, medical instructions pertaining to the child

### **What if we have to evacuate?**

Authorities will not ask you to leave your home unless they have reason to believe you are in danger. Foster parents are expected to comply with evacuation orders.

### **If you are ordered to evacuate, take:**

- your emergency kit
- your emergency plan
- essential medications and copies of prescriptions
- a cellular phone (if you have one) and don't forget...your pets!

### **Protect your home:**

- Shut off water and electricity if officials tell you to.
- Leave natural gas service on, unless officials tell you to turn it off. (If you turn off the gas, the gas company has to reconnect it. In a major emergency, it could take weeks for a professional to respond. You would be without gas for heating and cooking).
- Lock your home.

### **If you have time:**

- Call your out-of-town contact, and MCFD. Tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive. (Once you are safe, let them know. Tell them if any family members have become separated.)
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going

### **Where can I get more information?**

MCFD pamphlet called Emergency Information for Foster Parents.

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/foster\\_parents\\_emergency\\_info.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/foster_parents_emergency_info.pdf)

*I wish to thank Joan Kirkbride from OFPA for providing the BC Federation of Foster Parents Association with this valuable information.*

Joan Kirkbride

Foster Parent Coordinator

Okanagan Foster Parents Association

[www.okfosterparents.ca](http://www.okfosterparents.ca) (250) 868-9285

**BCFFPA**  
**Annual general Meeting 2010**  
*Motions from the Floor*

01/AGM/2010:MSC: (Bonnie Thompson) **Move to accept the interpretation of the Nomination Committee that the special Resolution means that a candidate for President must have served on the board of Directors for 2 years immediately prior to his/her nomination. Carried**

02/AGM/2010:MSC: (Lila Lachmuth) **Move that the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate, develop and implement a Family Care Home Agreement with the Aboriginal and designated agencies who share resourced with the Ministry and Family Development. Carried**

03/AGM/2010:MSC: (Lila Lachmuth) **Move that the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate, develop and implement a new level of foster care that will not require extra approvals and can be used when needed and appropriate. This level of care to allow for a parent of a child or children that is being apprehended (under certain conditions and reasons and with Social Worker, Resource Worker and foster parent agreeing) to also reside at the foster home and continue to parent with supervision and mentorship of the Foster Parent. Carried**

04/AGM/2010:MSC: (Lila Lachmuth) **Move that the BCFFPA resolve to negotiate, develop and implement the mandatory BCFFPA membership for the MCFD resources and any shared resources. Carried**

05/AGM/2010:MSC: (Lila Lachmuth) **Move that the BCFFPA resolve, develop and implement a level of foster care that would enable a current Foster Parent to provide services and structure to care for a child/youth that may otherwise be placed into “staffed type” resource. Carried**

06/AGM/2010:MSC: (Brenda Richardson) **Move that BCFFPA hold their 2011 AGM in conjunction with the IFCO (International Foster Care Organization) 2011 Conference scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>,2011 in Victoria B.C. Carried**

07/AGM/2010:MSC: (Helen Hofer) Because grief is an important reaction that eventually leads to emotional healing and prolonged grief can be an intensely painful experience and unattended can result in significant emotional distress. Although most foster parents who are grieving continue to work and socialize, cumulative grief can impair function and productivity. **Move that an After Care Debriefing program for grief recovery for foster parents be implemented when children leave their homes. Carried**

08/AGM/2010:MSC: (Esther Swanson) **Move that it become a standard practice the Foster Parent Resource file be seen by the foster parent at the time of their annual review. Carried**

09/AGM/2010:MSC: (Wendy Sutherland) **Move that the BCFFPA bring forward a special resolution at the 2011 AGM to amend our Constitution and Bylaws so that Section 3, iv will be amended to read: “Any candidate for the position of President must have served on the BCFFPA Board of Directors for at least two years immediately previous. Carried**

10/AGM/2010:MSC: (Paul Filiatrault) **Move that the BCFFPA leadership engage stakeholders to support the spread of the program at Thompson River University where social workers students do a 6-week internship in foster homes. Carried**

IFCO

# IFCO 2011 is Coming to Canada!

## And You're All Invited!



IFCO 2011  
World Conference

### XVII Biennial 2011 IFCO World Conference

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
July 10th through 15th, 2011

Theme: Fostering Hope ...  
Together, we can make a difference.

What you can expect:

- An Exciting Youth Program* 🍁
- An Outstanding Adult Program* 🍁
- Excellent Networking Opportunities* 🍁
- A Warm Welcome in Beautiful Victoria* 🍁
- and a Truly Memorable Experience* 🍁

Website & Contact Information:

<http://www.ifco2011.com> 🍁 email to [info@ifco2011.com](mailto:info@ifco2011.com)

**Call for Papers, Registration, and  
Travel & Accommodation Information  
will be available in mid-July 2010 on our  
website at <http://www.ifco2011.com>**

Haa Huu Pa by aa aats'ik Ray Sim, Sr:

The original Aboriginal Artwork proudly displayed here was created by Gibxsan/Musqueam artist, Ray Sim Sr., especially for IFCO 2011. It is titled "Haa Huu Pa" which is a Nuuchah-nulth term for "teaching". Ray's traditional name is aa-aats'-ik.

The Eagle is a very important spiritual animal to the First Nations people of the Northwest Coast; it is generally a symbol of power, intelligence and loyalty. Eagle down represents peace and friendship.



IFCO 2011 FOUNDING FUNDERS: Adaption & Permanency Trust Fund / Victoria Foundation

IFCO 2011 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE © 2010

'IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER'

Please complete & return to: BCFFPA 207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, V2X 3K1

NAME(S) : \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY : \_\_\_\_\_ P/

C: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Association

I provide Restricted \_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_ Level I \_\_\_ Level II \_\_\_ Level III \_\_\_

Contractor \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

NEW MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ OR A RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year individual \$30.00 \_\_\_ couple \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

2 year individual \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

couple \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

N.B. \$10.00 of this membership fee will be used by the provincial body for administration of the program and development of services to foster parents. The balance of the fee will be returned to your region or local associations if there is no regional council in existence.

I/we contract with (i.e. delegated agency regional agency MCFD etc.) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

As members of the B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations, I/we agree to abide by the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, and Code of Ethics of the Federation.

-----  
\_\_\_\_\_

signature(s)

Please bill my VISA \_\_\_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_ /

**BCFFPA.**  
**#207-22561 Dewdney Trunk**  
**Maple Ridge BC V2X 3K1**  
**E-mail: office@bcfosterparents.ca**