

## **Feb 2009 Report – President**

Happy New Year to all caregivers. It is hard to believe that we are already in March with spring just around the corner.

First, a bit of news. The office has moved to a new location in Maple Ridge effective March 1. Our new address is #207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road, V2X 3K1. The main phone number is 604-466-7487 with the toll free number remaining as 1-800-663-9999. Staff is thrilled to not have to make a 3 hour commute every day. Your foster parent association is going green!

Beginning April 1 we will begin offering some new programs through the Federation jointly with Serenity Family Services. Please see page 10 of this newsletter for more information.

We were in Victoria from Feb 18-20. Meetings were held with Minister Christensen, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and Dan Lindstrom of Blue Cross. These were very productive. I encourage everyone to check the website for further details.

We also met with the MCFD Regional Transition Team to once again stress the need for increases to insurance coverage under the Rider. This is a priority for the Federation at this time, due to the high cost of rebuilding should a total loss occur.

We are sad to see Minister Christensen step down after the election and wish him all the best in future endeavors.

Please mark your calendars for the AGM in Richmond, which will be on May 21 – 23, at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel. Some of the workshops include self advocacy and youth gang issues.

As always, feel free to contact your office staff for any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Melanie Filiatrault