

July 2007

Dear Caregivers :

Our 40th Anniversary AGM, and Conference was held in conjunction with the Canadian Foster Families Symposium and was a tremendous success. Attendance at the BCFFPA AGM has increased steadily every year and we anticipate a similar trend for the 2008 event which will be held in the Delta Hotel at the fabulous Sun Peaks resort, located just outside of Kamloops May 29, 30, and 31, 2008. All are welcome to attend and network with other foster parents, and ministry/agency staff in attendance.

A considerable number of motions were generated from the 2007 AGM. The BCFFPA By-laws have now been amended to allow for Association memberships, which will allow the Federation to include large corporations, and other foster and family support groups as members going forward. Work is well underway on the development of a feedback form for foster parents to give feedback to the child's social worker on service quality received during the term of the placement. We are also gathering information to aid in development of a training module for foster parents and ministry staff regarding triangulation and the impact on the fostering of youth in care.

A letter has been drafted regarding clarification of income to assist foster parents in securing mortgages etc. This letter will be ready for distribution soon. A letter regarding the immediate notification of the nature of an allegation raised against foster parents has been sent to MCFD Provincial office. We are awaiting a response.

We continue to develop a province wide summer camp program for children and youth in care. The funding for this will come from the sale of a series of numbered Limited Edition prints by the well known Aboriginal artist Joe Mandur, please visit our website at [www.bcfosterparents](http://www.bcfosterparents) for further information regarding this wonderful opportunity. We are also working on a formalized type of urgent response system to aid foster families during times of tragedy in addition to the many other motions which came forward at the AGM.

The BCFFPA executive hosted the first stage of our Idea Forums in a number of communities in June. Sessions were held in Cranbrook, Nelson, Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon, Salmon Arm and Kamloops. We were pleased to have representatives from the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, and the Public Guardian and Trustee as part of the sharing of information for many of the meetings. The idea forums have also generated a lot of traffic to the new [www.fosterchildren.ca](http://www.fosterchildren.ca) website. Click on it to check all the ideas that have been posted, and where the BCFFPA is going with them.

Hoping you are all having a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Melanie Filiatrault