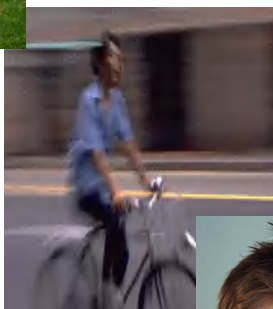


BC FEDERATION OF FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS



ANNUAL REPORT 2009



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A Message from the President

Welcome to the 2009 AGM. The Board and staff at your Federation have been working diligently to make this event as successful as previous ones.

I would like to take this opportunity to send Minister Tom Christensen our best wishes as he moves back to being a regular citizen. His dedication and true caring for children and youth in BC has made a difference in their lives. Thank you for your support of the BCFFPA and children and youth in this province.

This past year has been very busy. One focus has been development of the document outlining the rights of foster parents such that these are in harmony with the new rights for youth and children. Despite many struggles over the past few years, we are very happy to report that these new rights should soon be included in the Caregivers Support Service Standards document when the final edits are completed

Another good news item to report is that through the diligent efforts of the BCFFPA and the value the Ministry places on its foster home resources, the BCFFPA Insurance Rider coverage has been **increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000** per occurrence effective May 1, 2009.

Other projects the BCFFPA continues to work on are:

- A BCFFPA Representative sits on the International Foster Care 2011 committee. Victoria BC is the venue for this conference which will take place in the summer of 2011. Delegates from the committee will be attending IFCO in Dublin Ireland in July of this year. This should prove to be a real boost for our Retention of Foster Parents as we welcome Foster Parents from all over the world to beautiful Victoria BC.
- The Provincial Recruitment and Retention Committee continues to meet to work at ways to better recruit new homes and to retain current resources. Several issues including Protocols are being worked on at the Retention Committee, and there will be a forum to showcase the work of the Recruitment Committee held May 22nd at the AGM and Conference. The work of this committee is funded through a grant from MCFD.
- The BCFFPA has applied for a grant from the Law Foundation to develop written materials and provide workshops outlining the legal liability Foster Parents undertake in caring for Ministry children. In addition we will be developing a booklet of information and providing training and workshop materials to the agencies out of this grant should we be successful. Look for more information as it becomes available.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- As part of our contracted services with MCFD, the Federation continues to provide insurance training to foster parents and Ministry staff throughout the province. There are several training events planned for the next few months. Some areas we will be going to include, the East and West Kootenay, Central interior, and the North Island.
- A new service planned to begin in the next several months is the Serenity Program. The objective of the program will be to provide a safe and positive environment for individuals and their families with special needs. The program will be run by a group of professionals who specialize in a diverse range of behaviors. The services offered will include Learn and Play Support, Behavioral Consulting, Busy Bees Play Group (2-4), Mini Boppers Social Club (5-12), Youth Connection Club (13-18), Summer Day Camps, Family Support Services and Workshops, FASD, FAS, FAE Training & Workshops and Art Therapy

(13-18) Program topics for older youth will include social skills, self esteem, budgeting, hygiene, friendships, relationship, and Job Preparations Support.

(5-12) Support and education for pre teens, dealing with everyday challenges both at home and in their communities. Some topics may include bullying, budgeting, hygiene, friendships, and relationships.

Summer camps will also be provided for children and youth to help support families with out of school care during summer holidays.

Please contact Joanne Wilson-Project Coordinator for further information.
serenity@bcfosterparents.ca or 1-800-663-9999.

Finally, I would like to say to those of you who have become a significant part of the youth or children in your homes, a big "THANK YOU" for the positive influence you have had on the lives of our future generations. When the paths of other persons cross ours, we have to be there no matter what has happened. Remember that the charity and care that you have given them will speak volumes about the vitality of this gift that you freely gave to others.

I wish you all a tremendous spring & summer. Remember the Federation is your voice and your organization. We are here to support all caregivers including Foster Parents, CLBC caregivers, Youth Adjudicated Homes, Grandparents, Kith and Kin, and Child in the Home of a Relative care providers. When we as caregivers gather once a year we benefit from each other's support and collective wisdom.

Sincerely,

Melanie Filiatrault

Dear Foster Parents

I'll take every opportunity available to pay tribute to our province's committed foster parents, a group united by a drive to alleviate the suffering of B.C.'s children and to walk with them toward better lives. Your contribution as foster parents doesn't just affect the children in your care. You play a key role in society through your support for some of our most vulnerable young citizens. In these challenging economic times, poverty deepens for some, unemployment rates climb, previously successful families can struggle, substance abuse and family strife rise.

These factors can make life even harder for B.C.'s vulnerable children and youth and I thank you on behalf of all British Columbians for your continued commitment to the children when they need support the most. If I could leave you with one message here it would be to always consider the Representative's Office your ally. You have the full support of my team of child and youth advocates. Each of them is dedicated to ensuring that you can access the government services you need and that your foster children deserve. We have advocates and offices in Victoria, Burnaby and Prince George. To contact us, see our website at www.rcybc.ca or call 1-800-476-3933.

I wish you a very productive AGM in May and congratulations to the BCFFPA on 42 years of exemplary service.

All the best in 2009 and beyond,



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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



B.C. FEDERATION OF FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS
Meeting Standing Rules
Annual General Meeting
May 23, 2009

The following Rules of Order are designed to facilitate progress at the **B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations** Annual General Meeting, to include members in orderly debate and to ensure courtesy, fairness and equality for all:

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Society Act, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Federation and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised – 10th edition.
2. All speakers will practice justice and courtesy at all times.
3. Members who wish to speak will wait to be recognized by the chair and begin by stating their name, each time they rise to speak.
4. Debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker, for each question, except in moving a resolution when a member shall be allowed four (4) minutes.
5. Each speaker may speak twice to each question, however, no member may speak a second time, which includes asking a follow-up question, unless and until all those who desire to speak a first time have had the opportunity to do so.
6. Comments or questions must be related to the pending motion or report.
7. A majority of members voting will carry or defeat a motion. A three-fourths (3/4) vote is required to carry a Special Resolution.
8. A voting member has the right to move the previous question (to ask the assembly to close debate and proceed to vote on the pending motion/s). This motion must be seconded and is not amendable or open to debate and requires a two-thirds vote to adopt. This motion must be introduced from the floor with the speaker waiting his/her turn in the speaking line.
9. Cell phones and pagers shall be silenced during the business meeting. Video camera and recording equipment, other than that approved by the president, shall not be permitted in the assembly hall.
10. No children shall attend the Annual General Meeting.
11. The Annual General Meeting is for the purpose of transacting the business of the **B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations**. Issues of a personal nature will not be debated, but may be referred to the appropriate officers or staff.
12. All ballots including the tellers reports shall be placed in the custody of the Executive Director to be retained until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, after which time, they will be destroyed if no election or voting issue has been contested.

**BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
Saturday, May 23, 2009**

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------|---------------------|
| 1. | Meeting Called to Order | 10:00 AM | Melanie Filiatrault |
| 2. | Welcoming Remarks | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| 3. | Introductions | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| | § Board of Directors | | |
| | § Staff (Ellaine Ashby, Lea Ann Bryant, Alysha Stoddard) | | |
| | § Parliamentarian | | |
| | § Life and Honorary Members and Guests | | |
| 4. | Housekeeping | | Barry Lynch |
| | § Notice of Meeting | | |
| | § Quorum | | |
| | § Agenda | | |
| | § Rules of Order | | |
| 5. | President's Message | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| 6. | Keynote Address—Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond Representative for Children and Youth | | |
| 7. | Kathy Berggren-Clive – MCFD Advocacy Team “What is Advocacy?” | | |
| 8. | Financial Summary | | Les Toth |
| 9. | Auditors Report | | Brian Tipper |
| | § March 31, 2009 | | |
| 10. | Special Resolutions | | Barry Lynch |
| 11. | Elections | | Barry Lynch |
| | a) Report of Nominating Committee | | |
| | b) Candidate presentations | | |
| ***** LUNCH AND VOTING 12:30-1:30***** | | | |
| 12. | Martin Wright - Education and Health of Children and Youth in Care | | |
| 13. | New Business | | Barry Lynch |
| | § Motions from the floor | | |
| 14. | Voting results | | Barry Lynch |
| | a) Special Resolutions | | |
| | b) Elections | | |
| 15. | Closing | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| | § Announcements | | |
| | § Closing Remarks | | |
| | § Adjournment | | |



Nominees for Election to Executive Committee
Two-Year Term

POSITION: **Treasurer**

CANDIDATE: Les Toth

NOMINATED BY: Melanie Filiatrault and Paul Filiatrault

FOSTERING EXPERIENCE

15 years with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disordered children and youth

BCFFPA EXPERIENCE

I have held the position of Provincial Treasurer since 2008

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

I have been working as an Accountant for over 12 years

- g) Debbie Drewitz said that she had paid late in the past. The office will investigate the claim.

Frank Hetherington spoke against Resolution #1 as he felt that there should be ability for anyone to run and felt that the membership is intelligent enough to expect some BCFFPA experience.

Jan Chapman had a question regarding Resolution #2 as it related to length of service for Regional Delegates.

Heather Bayes spoke against Resolution # 3 as the bylaws give more than adequate time to allow the Provincial office to receive them, and that allowing an individual to carry votes to the AGM does not allow for anonymity

01/AGM/2008: MSC: (Debbie Drewitz) **Move that the credentials report adopted at the beginning of the conference be amended by the addition of Nick Rouleau**

Discussion occurred around whether Mr. Rouleau is a voting member or an associate member.

02/AGM/2008: MSC: (Jan Chapman) **Move to allow Nick Rouleau to vote on the Resolutions and Ballots at the AGM**

***** LUNCH AND VOTING*****

9. New Business

John Noonan

Motions from the floor

Frank Hetherington asked if adopted as a whole does the board have to do what is requested or simply consider. The answer given by the Parliamentarian is the Board will **consider** the Motions.

BCFFPA Regional Delegate/ Directors of the Board/ Executive Committee

03/AGM/2008: MSC: (Jan Chapman) **We move that the BCFFPA Board of Directors consider the list of 23 motions;**

1. A detailed job description is developed for Regional Delegates, which includes but not limited to the role responsibilities, expectations and limitations, duty to record and archive role related activities. **Rationale: To ensure parties applying for these positions have a clear understanding of their obligations and responsibilities to the BCFFPA in general and to the Board specifically.**
2. Each Regional Delegate (Director) is provided by the BCFFPA with a copy of the British Columbia Society Act (Chapter 433) and BCFFPA Constitution and By Laws, at the time of their election or appointment. **Rationale: To Ensure Regional Delegates have a clear understanding of their legal and ethical duties to BCFFPA, as a registered society under provincial law.**

3. All Regional Delegates be provided with password protected email addresses which would be posted on the BCFFPA website. **Rationale: To ensure direct and confidential communication with members, and persons interested in the function of the BCFFPA or fostering in general.**
4. BCFFPA create within their annual budget, and allocation which provides an hourly pay rate for Regional Delegates attending scheduled or unscheduled meetings as Directors of the Board. **Rationale: Regional Delegates are those doing public relations and support work of BCFFPA everyday of the week on a volunteer basis, remuneration to attend business meetings is becoming the standard in the non-profit sector.**
5. The Board of Directors reviews and rewrites Article II: Purposes, in the Constitution and By-Laws. **Rationale: As written, they are unclear in wording, ambiguous in the presentation and are not truly reflected in the overall service plan/s of the organization.**
6. The Board of Directors reviews and rewrites Article III, Sec. 2, item B of the Constitution and By-Laws. **Rationale: Firstly, that a contradiction without criteria is present in the item whereby it states that an “ Associate member shall have no voting privileges and shall not hold office nor be a delegate” And then goes to state, “ Notwithstanding (Article III-Section 2B), those associate members selected by nomination committee to hold a position on the Provincial Board of Directors shall have full voting privileges during their term in office and may represent the Federation.” Secondly, the use of the word ‘selected’, without any qualifying criteria can be deemed ‘ handpicking’ Directors of the Board, thereby undermining the democratic voting process honored by other members. To that end, replace all use of the word ‘ selected’ with ‘appointed’ and with qualifying criteria written in clear and concise terms, and to be voted upon by the full Board with outcome decided by existing 2/3 majority process.**

BCFFPA Business

1. BCFFPA Record and Post all motions presented at each AGM on provincial web site in a manner, which allows members the ability to monitor the status of said motions. Access would be gained by entering their BCFFPA membership number. **Rationale: BCFFPA has been shy with openness and accountability to its members, this would offer members an opportunity to witness that their elected Board is doing.**
2. At each AGM the status of motions accepted by vote from the previous year is conveyed orally, available in print form, and on the web site for those unable to attend. **Rationale: Members should be provided the opportunity to discuss status of motions and give direction to Board at AGM.**
3. All job postings for positions with BCFFPA must be tendered through a minimum of two (2) major newspapers in BC for a period no less than one (1) month. **Rationale: Membership needs to be assured that BCFFPA is making every effort to employ the most qualified persons, relative to budget and need.**
4. All postings and screenings for the position of Executive Director be commissioned by a professional consultant or agency with appropriate skills and history. **Rationale: Leadership influences the rate of success a non-profit agency enjoys. BCFFPA has not adopted fair and reasonable process.**

5. The Executive Committee develop, complete and distribute the job description for the position of Executive Director for voting into the Constitution and By-Laws no later than the established period sixty (60) days prior to the 2009 AGM. **Rationale: It is standard that the Executive Director of any Board, particularly non-profits, maintain performance standards which reflect the expectations of the voting members, the funders, professional collateral agencies and the Board of Directors. A job description ensures the person applying for, or acting in that position is aware of what their responsibilities will be and whom they will be accountable to. It allows the Board to assess the workload and efficiencies of the office staff, and adjust accordingly. Lastly, without a formal job description it is a hazardous practice to 'select/appoint' a candidate.**
6. The business meeting, including the reading of motions at AGM's is archived through video recording. **Rationale: 1. Provides an opportunity to correct any miscommunication; 2. Provides an accurate record of the discussions relating to BCFFPA business including the presentation of motions, resolutions, and outcomes.**
7. All employees whether paid hourly, annually or by contract, have wages reviewed by the Director of Personnel and Directors of Board, and adjusted with approval of a majority vote (3/4) of the full Board. **Rationale: To ensure wage adjustments reflect performance fairly, and meet role expectations.**
8. The Board of Directors, including the Executive committee establish limits on annual wage and salary adjustments and approve by majority vote (3/4) of the full board. **Rationale: To prevent the onus of these decisions being resigned to the views of an individual director. Objectivity will be exercised.**
9. BCFFPA secure the services of a professional minute taker for all AGM's. **Rationale: To allow Board Secretary to participate fully in the business at hand during the AGM without distractions.**
10. BCFFPA consult with appropriate party to design an Organizational Evaluation which would be distributed to membership, MCFD staff, business partners, and other resource agencies having affiliation with BCFFPA. **Rationale: Successful non-profit agencies rely on feedback from members/clients, funders and business collaterals to improve upon services, review goals, rewrite policy/bylaws, or redirect leadership.**
11. BCFFPA membership is governed by the BC Society Act and its Constitution and By-Laws. **Rationale: Other documents such as Policy & Procedures ad Board Orientation have been used to discourage members from involvement in elections.**
12. BCFFPA shall undertake a full review of the Constitution and By-Laws by an appointed committee. **Rationale: The By-Laws have not been reviewed for many years and a complete review would allow BCFFPA to put the full By-Laws before the membership for approval. Members need to know and understand that it is the By-Laws that govern the BCFFPA.**
13. BCFFPA will allow members to access to membership lists. **Rationale: This will allow members access to each other. Democracy is served when members can discuss issues with each other.**

14. BCFFPA will review the financial policy of the Federation annually. **Rationale: The Board of Directors is responsible for the financial policy of the Federation and need to understand and update all financial policies on an annual basis.**
15. BCFFPA will post on the web site the unaudited financial statements including income, expenses, assets and liabilities on a quarterly basis. **Rationale: To keep members informed on the finances of the organization.**
16. All mail in ballots relating to the election of officers at the AGM be mailed directly to the accounting firm retained by BCFFPA at that given time, and that all hand delivered ballots are deposited with representative/s of same firm at the AGM. **Rationale: To assure voters that their right to anonymity is maintained and to allow the accounting firm full responsibility for the counting, safekeeping, delivery and disposal of ballots. This would also free-up additional hours for office staff to dedicate to other business relating to the organizing of the AGM.**
17. BCFFPA research examples of voting ballots used by other non-profit agencies and incorporate those examples in the redesign of the current BCFFPA ballot/s. **Rationale: The current ballots are poorly designed, poorly reproduced and reflect an amateur approach to the business of the BCFFPA.**

04/AGM/2008: MSC: (Wendy Sutherland) **Move that MCFD identify and compensate the areas throughout the province that experience higher housing costs**

05AGM/2008: (Heather Bayes) **Move that the board of Directors take forward to the MCFD a request for an increase in our transportation costs.**

The motion was amended to strike from the motion above the words "for an increase in our transportation costs" and insert "for an indexing increase reflecting the cost of fuel. The final motion was

06/AGM/2008: MSC: (Heather Bayes) **Move that the Board of Directors take forward to the MCFD a request for an indexing increase reflecting the cost of fuel**

C. Cuff brought up a motion from the prior year related to request for a cost of living increase going to MCFD. The Board looked at the motion and as the ministry had increased the maintenance by \$100 per child and the SP by \$100 per child over 25 months, it was decided not to go forward at this time.

K. Zervos voiced her impression that there is \$5000 for a region to set up a macro council, but that she was unable to get any information despite repeated attempts.

Ellaine Ashby clarified as fact that the information provided was that there is UP TO \$5000 and that the information was further shared that Heather Bayes is in possession of the information needed to assist the Fraser Region, and that the same information had been forwarded to Ms. Zervos on three separate occasions.

A question arose regarding the \$100 rebate for children in care. Wayne clarified that there is a plan to send caregivers the \$100 for each child in their home. More information will be available soon.

Lila Lachmuth expressed her willingness to continue in the development of an urgent response system. Melanie apologized to her for not beginning sooner and indicated that the development of the model will begin shortly.

10. Voting results

John Noonan

- h) Special Resolutions - #1 50/yes 34/no – resolution failed
- i) Special Resolution #2 66 –yes 19- no – resolution carried
- j) Special Resolution #3 32 – yes 56 – no – resolution failed
- k) Elections
 - i. Melanie Filiatrault 76 yes, 22 no – elected for President
 - ii. Heather Bayes 75 yes, 23 no – elected for Vice President

Melanie Filiatrault thanked the assembly for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm

2009 Resolution Report

01/AGM/2008:MSC (Jan Chapman) **Move that the assembly through the Board of Directors receive and consider the list of twenty-three motions as circulated at the members tables, and that the Board of Director report the results of these motions on the web site. This has been done.**

1. A detailed job description is developed for Regional Delegates, which includes but not limited to the role responsibilities, expectations and limitations, duty to record and archive role related activities.

This is being worked on

2. Each Regional Delegate (Director) is provided by the BCFFPA with a copy of the British Columbia Society Act (Chapter 433) and BCFFPA Constitution and By Laws, at the time of their election or appointment.

This is provided to Regional Delegates when they are elected/appointed. Updates to BCFFPA documents are shared with them as they are amended

3. All Regional Delegates be provided with password protected email addresses which would be posted on the BCFFPA website.

There is no funding available to redesign the web page for this use. This would also contribute to a lack of transparency

4. BCFFPA create within their annual budget, and allocation which provides an hourly pay rate for Regional Delegates attending scheduled or unscheduled meetings as Directors of the Board.

No budget increases are anticipated for the foreseeable future. In addition the BCFFPA Bylaws does not allow for paid positions for board members. Purpose of the Society, Item 2 states: The B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other accretions to the organization shall be used in promoting its objectives and this provision is unalterable.

5. The Board of Directors reviews and rewrites Article II: Purposes, in the Constitution and By-Laws.

This is being worked on and requires a Special Resolution at the next AGM from the to pass those changes . The Board has not yet done this as they are still reviewing.

6. The Board of Directors reviews and rewrites Article III, Sec. 2, item B of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Further clarification regarding the reasons for this motion is being sought. Changes to the bylaws require a Special Resolution. This did not come forward this year.

1. BCFFPA Record and Post all motions presented at each AGM on provincial web site in a manner, which allows members the ability to monitor the status of said motions. Access would be gained by entering their BCFFPA membership number.

Motions are currently posted on the web site, and are available to all. The Annual report reflects prior motions and their outcomes and is also posted on the web site.

2. At each AGM the status of motions accepted by vote from the previous year is conveyed orally, available in print form, and on the web site for those unable to attend.

This is and has been provided through a Resolution Report brought forward by the Secretary, which is included in the Annual Report and is also posted on the web site as part of the Annual Report

3. All job postings for positions with BCFFPA must be tendered through a minimum of two (2) major newspapers in BC for a period no less than one (1) month.

Posting for this time period was deemed too expensive. In this time of economic restraint it was felt that posting for 1 week would be sufficient. This motion was accepted with amendments

4. All postings and screenings for the position of Executive Director be commissioned by a professional consultant or agency with appropriate skills and history.

If it were required to hire a new Executive Director it would be prudent of the Board to hire a professional consultant or agency only if the funds were available and the Board was unable to promote from within the organization. This motion was accepted depending on funding availability.

5. The Executive Committee develop, complete and distribute the job description for the position of Executive Director for voting into the Constitution and By-Laws no later than the established period sixty (60) days prior to the 2009 AGM.

To post the complete job description of the Executive Director would be difficult to accomplish, as part of the job is to facilitate the Board as per requests. There is also the issue that all personnel issues are confidential. This motion was rejected

6. The business meeting, including the reading of motions at AGM's is archived through video recording.

This is already addressed in the Conference Standing Rules, and is at the discretion of the President.

7. All employees whether paid hourly, annually or by contract, have wages reviewed by the Director of Personnel and Directors of Board, and adjusted with approval of a majority vote (3/4) of the full Board.

All employees' wages are already reviewed by the Director of Personnel and adjusted with the approval of the whole board.

8. The Board of Directors, including the Executive committee establish limits on annual wage and salary adjustments and approve by majority vote (3/4) of the full board.

This is currently being done. The Director of Personnel recommends the action however the full board must vote on it.

9. BCFFPA secure the services of a professional minute taker for all AGM's.

The Executive Director is required to take minutes of the meetings and is a professional who provides this service to other non-profits. The expenses of hiring a separate minute taker is not financially feasible at this time

This motion was rejected

10. BCFFPA consult with appropriate party to design an Organizational Evaluation, which would be distributed to membership, MCFD staff, business partners, and other resource agencies having affiliation with BCFFPA.

This will be looked at when funding to accomplish it becomes available. An organizational review was undertaken in 2001 and paid for by MCFD. The results are available on the BCFFPA web site

11. BCFFPA membership is governed by the BC Society Act and its Constitution and By-Laws.

This is true.

12. BCFFPA shall undertake a full review of the Constitution and By-Laws by an appointed committee.

A full review and rewrite of the Constitution and Bylaws was undertaken in 2004. This was then presented to the members via mail and in person at the 2004 AGM as a special resolution and was passed. Due to budget issues there is currently no plan to rewrite the document in its entirety.

13. BCFFPA will allow members access to membership lists.

Due to privacy legislation, this is not possible. Membership lists are given to Regional Delegates for their use as it pertains to specific BCFFPA Business and are held in confidence by that individual.

14. BCFFPA will review the financial policy of the Federation annually.

The BCFFPA Financial policies are constantly reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis and as necessary.

15. BCFFPA will post on the web site the unaudited financial statements including income, expenses, assets and liabilities on a quarterly basis.

Audited financial statement are shared with members at the BCFFPA AGM. Bylaws state

that members may view financial documents in the office at any time. This is already available

- 16. All mail in ballots relating to the election of officers at the AGM be mailed directly to the accounting firm retained by BCFFPA at that given time, and that all hand delivered ballots are deposited with representative/s of same firm at the AGM.

It would be inappropriate to hand deliver ballots at the time of the vote, as this goes against the BCFFPA by-laws. As for ballots being forwarded to the accountant's office, this would incur an expense which is unjustified as the Federation already has a method to secure ballots until the time of the count. The count is overseen by the auditor, a social worker and the BCFFPA senior staff member.

- 17. BCFFPA research examples of voting ballots used by other non-profit agencies and incorporate those examples in the redesign of the current BCFFPA ballots.

Researching of other organizations voting policies is ongoing, however at this time there have been no major differences in methods used

Children are not things to be molded, but are people to be unfolded. Jess Lair



BCFFPA
ANNUAL REPORT
2009



42 YEARS OF HISTORY

- 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** Feb. 2, 1972 - Federation was officially incorporated under the B.C. Societies Act "Procedure for Resolving Conflicts Between Foster Parents and Ministry". Provincial funding for Foster Parent Information Kit was obtained. In 1979 the William Curtis Memorial Bursary was established.
- 1980 - 1983** An Education and Training Coordinator was hired to develop a Policy Handbook for Foster Parents
- 1982** The first Knowledge Network program was developed by the Federation and aired.
- 1983** An **Orientation Manual for new Foster Parents** was developed
- 1984-1985** The **BCFFPA Foster Parent Insurance Rider** was implemented and **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.
- 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 1989 - **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.
- 1991** BCFFPA held its 25th Conference
- 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. In 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**. **FosterCare 2000** was developed in 1998 to address improvements to the Foster Care system into the next century. In 1999 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 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

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. 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. 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.

2006 – the first **Stand Together Conference** took place. 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, Youth Justice, 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. 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.

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 **collaborative relationships** with various community groups including the **BC Lions, Vancouver Canucks, and Science World**. 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

in 2008 **35 children and youth** in care **went to camp** and three Educational Bursaries were awarded!

The **Provincial Education, Recruitment, and Retention Committees** were 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

The 2008/2009 fiscal year saw many positive changes for foster parents. The Provincial

Retention Committee has developed a draft Provincial Protocol Document and has recommended it to the RED's. The committee awaits their input. Kith and Kin agreements continue to be worked on in order to bring them on par with other foster care providers. The BCFFPA continues holding **Idea Forums** throughout BC in response to the issue of low graduation rate and homelessness among former youth in care. To date 18 Idea Forums have been held in the North, Interior, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island Regions. The website www.communitychildren.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. Development began on a **Safeguarding Foster Families** program which will address the legal and liability issues related to foster parenting, and custody and guardianship issues so that foster parents have a full understanding of the legal ramifications of caregiving. The Law Foundation has been approached for funding to carry out this initiative.

BCFFPA continues to have representation on **CLBC**, the **Youth Transitioning Committee, Connections**, a new ministry initiative that keeps youth connected to caring adults once they leave care.

Due to the continued lobbying efforts of the BCFFPA Board and Staff, at the end of the 2008/2009 fiscal year MCFD agreed to an **increase in the Insurance Rider for Foster Parents**. The new maximum coverage for house and contents is now \$500,000 which is a substantial increase from the previous coverage of \$300,000 that has been in place since 1984.

The Federation continues to work on justification for further **increases in maintenance** and the **Rights of Foster Parents**. We are currently working with MCFD to have it included in the mandatory Caregiver Support Service Standards.

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in. Rachel Carlson

BC FEDERATION OF FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED DIRECTORS

President	Melanie Filiatrault, Kelowna
Vice-President	Heather Bayes, Enderby
Treasurer	Les Toth, Port Alberni
Secretary	Sheila Davis, Nanaimo

APPOINTEES

Canadian Foster Family Liaison	Sheila Davis, Nanaimo
Ministry Liaison to Board of Directors	Wayne Matheson, Victoria

REGIONAL DELEGATES

Vancouver Coastal	Peter Dueck, Vancouver
Fraser	Debbie Drewitz, Burnaby
Interior	Cheryl MacLeod, Vernon
Northern	Sherrie Jones, Pouce Coupe
Vancouver Island	Louise Dol, Port Alberni

FEDERATION PROVINCIAL OFFICE STAFF

Executive Director	Ellaine Ashby
Administrative Coordinator	Lea Ann Bryant
Reception/Office Assistant	Alysha Stoddard

REPORTS

Personnel Report—Heather Bayes Vice President

This year has seen some changes in the office; most importantly we have moved the office from Burnaby to Maple Ridge. There were several reasons for the move but one of the most important was green movement, all of our staff live in Maple Ridge and were spending up to 3 hours or more commuting every day. Even with car pooling this was a lot of fuel being used needlessly. Now our staff is safer, greener and much happier. In the process we also have a more efficient layout and more privacy with the possibility of renting one of the offices out to increase revenue.

As for the staff, Ellaine Ashby is doing a great job as our Executive Director, often going above her duties and putting in extra to support the foster parents of British Columbia. Ellaine has been going through out the province to give information sessions for the Insurance rider and the indemnity policy to foster parents and MCFD staff.

Lea Ann Bryant is our Administrative Assistant and is doing a great job. She is now taking on more duties to free up the Executive Director so that we can apply for more grants and do more lobbying for the Federation.

Alysha Stoddard is the office assistant/receptionist. Alysha has been working part time this past year so she could continue her education. In April she came back to full time when we need the help to prep for the AGM and to cover for summer vacation. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I do not look forward to the future when she will have to devote more time to her education.

BCFFPA Representative to the CFFA—Sheila Davis

Items worked on by the Board of Directors during 2008/2009:

1. The CFFA obtained funding from the BC Provincial Recruitment and Retention fund administered by the BCFFPA and produced a 30 second Public Service Announcement for recruiting foster parents. It aired in Victoria on Oct. 1st and then was shown across Canada in movie theatres during the month of October to promote fostering in as many communities as possible. It was very popular and a French speaking version was requested. It has now been completed and sent to every Province and territory. It is hoped that the video will be posted on their websites.
2. The CFFA website has been re-vamped. A donation box is now on the website. Hopefully donations will be increased this way. See www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca.
3. Our national president, Sheila Durnford, is representing the CFFA on the IFCO Committee. B.C. will host the International Conference in 2001 in Victoria. The work is being done via monthly conference calls.
4. CFFA 2009 Conference, "No Child Without A Home", is being held in Halifax May 25 to 31. This year it will not be held in conjunction with a Provincial Conference. Nova Scotia's Conference Committee has been working hard making the arrangements. Conference Info. can be found on the website www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca. So if you will be in Nova Scotia at the right time please participate. If you are unable to attend, there will be reports in the July newsletter which is mailed out

to every CFFA member.

5. The Policy & Procedure update is being worked on. A draft may be ready to present at the conference this year.
6. Fundraising - Fewer funds were collected this year, mainly due to the economy. New sources are being researched. Donations from individuals have gone up which is greatly appreciated.
7. Poster Contest - It is on hold for this year. A revamped contest will be held in 2010.
8. Networking & Communication - All e-mails are answered and/or forwarded for follow up by the appropriate person. We welcome contact from our provincial organizations and partners. Good communication is essential. It has been an encouraging year.

INSURANCE PROGRAM - *Ralph Libby – C.C.I.B. - Megson Fitzpatrick Insurance Services*

The BCFFPA insurance program has been in place for over 20 years!

The program has been set up and administered by the Federation to protect the property of foster parents, should damage occur due to the actions of a foster child. The policy will protect you to a maximum of \$300,000.00. As you may be aware, a foster child is a “member” of the household and wilful damage caused by a “member” of the household is excluded on your insurance.

The important factor is that you must carry primary insurance in order for this rider to be activated. Your policy becomes the basis of the coverage provided by the Rider. If you have theft coverage on your primary policy, then you have theft coverage on the rider, and so on.

The deductible on this policy is the same as the deductible on your existing home or tenants policy, Subject to a minimum of \$500.00.

Be sure to inform your insurance company that you are a foster parent to ensure that there are no restrictions, as the insurance company needs to know this information. If you have problems or difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage please feel free to call Laura Knight at our office at 1-877-477-2276 (Toll Free) or via email at lknight@megsonfitzpatrick.com

For the last 20 years the maximum amount that would be paid in the event of a claim was \$300,000.00. We are very pleased to advise that through a great deal of work by your organizations President and Executive Director we have been successful in increasing the limit to **\$500,000!**

I was personally honoured to travel throughout the province with your executive and discuss the insurance program with many foster parents. I hope that the information that we provided was of value to you.

If you have any insurance questions please contact Ellaine Ashby at the Federation office. She has done an outstanding job of handling queries and claims over the past years.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Vancouver Coastal—Peter Dueck

Introduction:

As a one-year board member, this has been a year of learning. I've had to get comfortable with a female dominated board (they tend to support each other emotionally), and get accustomed to an organization that appears somewhat amorphous at times. I've had to get to know my fellow board members from a distance; most of our meetings are telephone conferences, to save money. In short, I've had to become comfortable with an organization, which has very limited resources, relatively few members and a very large mandate. My guess is that there are a few organizations that are expected to do so much with so little.

Responsibility:

I've come to more fully realize the magnitude of our collective responsibility; the gentle caring of over 9,000 children. I've also come to understand that Vancouver, usually considered an important centre, is not when it comes to fostering. Our region has just over 10% of children in care compared, for example with Fraser, which has over 25% of all children in care.

Our Status:

I have come to realize that there are innumerable issues that need to be addressed. Surprise, surprise, and most often these issues are as much a concern to the system (Ministry) as they are to us. Too often, however, we as foster parents and our association are relegated to junior roles when looking for solutions. This then, naturally leads to, what I think, is the most important job of the BCFFPA; to raise the status of fostering.

Issues:

Many of the outstanding challenges facing foster parents and thus our association as well, are often related to this 'status' enigma. Some of these related and other concerns are:

- Overhaul protocol review
- Improve recruitment and training of foster parents
- Improve recruitment and training of social workers
- Redo the complaints system
- Develop an integrated, egalitarian functional team approach
- Review and rewrite agency contracts
- Review and rewrite 'confidentiality' policy
- Start planning for 'a centre of excellence' for children in care

Our Mandate: As part of my first year's reflection, I summarized, for my edification, our stated purpose to help assess our mandate and capability against the weighty list of tasks and issues. The BCFFPA is organized to:

- Be a collective voice for foster parents.
- Facilitate communication between foster parents, the community and the Ministry
- Help recruit foster parents
- Explain fostering to the community
- Develop and maintain a code of ethics
- Develop fostering skills through education/training

Next Year:

- I want to get to know more of you
- Listen to concerns and advocate where possible
- Work on our list of concerns/issues
- Help advance the status of fostering through our association, the BCFFPA.

Fraser Region—Debbie Drewitz

Tri Cities

Tri City Local holds its business meetings every second month and members meet on the last Thursday of every month. We have decided to have our next meeting in the Mall at Lougheed. Coffee , Teas, cookies and muffins are supplied. These meetings are called Round Tables and we encourage talk. If anyone wants to attend call Jan Chapman 604-444-4176.

The Fraser Region South and North held a meeting with Resources in April and it was agreed that New Foster Parents in the Fraser Region would form Support Groups and would be asked to attend for one year. The how's and where's have not yet been figured out but the concept will give support to new Foster Parents and hopefully encourage them to remain in fostering. The Fraser region is short of Foster Parents and many teenagers are being put on Youth Agreements. This may be good for some but others will not make it. The Fall will likely see more than less teenagers needing care. Tri City, Maple Ridge and Burnaby New Westminster have joined together to sponsor an education in the Fall for all Foster Parents in those districts. We look forward to Summer and a large Picnic in the Park.

Burnaby/ New Westminister

I have our next Chapter meeting with Mainstream Resources at the Roderick office May 14th. Please email the BCFFPA office at bcffpa@istar.ca if you would like to be added to the email list for Kids up Front. Just a little reminder that you need to be a member paid in full for 2009 to access these tickets as the costs to run the program come from membership dollars. For more information on what Kids up Front has to offer go to www.kidsupfront.com

South Fraser

The year seemed to have flown by. We have offered workshops galore, with Gerry Bock and Jordan Penner, "Attachment Disorder" one with Keith Saunders, "Working with the child with the most difficult behaviors". Then again "POWER or Enable" with Gerry Bock Jordan Penner. "Mental Health Issues" with Pamela Woodman.

Continuing the monthly meetings have been insightful to new and old foster parents alike. They are still in Langley or Surrey. Give the office a call for times and dates 604 533 1924.

Support continues for our region, with a high number of peer support cases for foster parents, taking us from phone calls to meetings. There are also a few ongoing protocols.

If you wish to book the summer trailer for your relief, at Hatzic Lake please call the office at 604 533

1924. Bookings will be going fast.

We will be moving into our new offices, in Aldergrove, after May 1st, please contact Russell at 604 584 8616 or Betty at 604 534 1092 for new address and phone numbers,

Fund raising efforts did not hit our target of 10,000.00 with the bad weather over the holidays. The "Christmas House" was only open 10 days out of a possible 40. We respectfully managed to still raise approx. 5,200.00 . This will go to our bursaries and general kids fund. Many new foster parents heard from our Welcome Wagon. A new project taken on this year. We welcome parents with Tim bits and just discuss you embarking on your career of fostering.

"Change for Change", is our fundraiser this year, we are asking for everyone to dig out those buried penny collections and get them back into circulation. We do accept other coins and bills too. You can call us and we will pick them up or you may drop them at our offices or call Russell if dropping them in Surrey is good. 604 584 8616

we look forward to a wonderful year... welcome all new foster parents.....

Ridge Meadows Local

Ridge Meadows local 2008-2009 season is a great success! After years of not being active we feel our renewed local is strong. We have had many community agencies at our meetings sharing new programs and reminding us about the strength of the existing ones. This has been extremely helpful to foster parents old and new. We will end this season with the foster parent picnic in June..... Ridge Meadows looks forward to seeing new faces !

Interior Delegate—Cheryl MacLeod

The Interior Region is still the only Macro region up and running and we have been working hard to keep it going. This year we have been working hard on developing a partnership with the Regional MCFD. We feel that this is a vital step in keeping a healthy BCFFPA. Foster parents need an advocate to work for them at the Regional Level and we are doing our best to see that this is done.

We continue to have monthly conference calls and on most calls we have representation from the contracted support agencies and MCFD. Each month we review what is going on in each area and how we can use what is working in other areas. We discuss what we can do in our area and what to forward to the Provincial board.

Most of the areas are having partnership meetings and training as often as they can. Several areas have had socials and are planning wind up picnics.

The Interior Macro Board appreciates the input of the foster parents and looks forward to another year working together as a team.

North Delegate—Sherrie Jones

It has been an interesting year with all the cut backs and high expectations of Foster Families to continue to offer services to foster children in a very cost effect manner.

There is concern within the region of level homes being closed and the use of new and regular homes being used as a cost saving measure to MCFD. There is concern that high needs children are being placed in these new homes and this leads to placement breakdowns and loss of new homes.

I am very pleased to announce that after 3 years MCFD has started the Partnership meetings in Dawson Creek. It is hoped that with the start of these meetings we can address issues as they arise and prevent concerns from escalating to major conflict. MCFD has gone above and beyond to ensure that all attending are welcomed into these meetings and all enjoy, flowers, gifts of appreciation and awesome food.

In the North we are needing to hold elections for Local and Regional Council. There have been a few people that have sat on both these Associations that are no longer fostering. I encourage anyone that is interested in holding a position in either of these Associations please contact me.

I continue to be apart of the North Partnership teleconferences that happen regularly. These meetings are very helpful in identifying issues, concerns and a venue to pass along information that pertains to the North Region as a whole. Due to cut backs there is only one in person meeting and all others are done by teleconference. I receive very little information from other areas of the North and I need to know issues, concerns or thank you's to be able to pass them along. Please feel free to contact me with any information that you would like addressed.

I hope that some foster parents will take advantage of the travel funds to attend the BCFFPA AGM in Vancouver May 22& 23/2009. This is a wonderful event that enables foster parents to voice their concerns and ideas and help shape the direction that the BCFFPA is moving in.

In closing I wish everyone a safe and fun filled summer and hope to meet some of you at the AGM.

Vancouver Island—Louise Dol

A short review of the year's concerns for Vancouver Island Foster Parents. An expression of Appreciation for all those who positively and professionally contribute to the well being of the children / youth in care. Thank you!

The inconsistencies for "Medical - Dental procedures / drugs". What are covered and how the payment will be made? The length of time to receive the payment.

The number of protocols have increased across the province. Vancouver's Taxi drivers have more rights than B.C. Foster Parents. B.C. Foster Parents need to be protected in a fair and equal manner. YES the children / youth must be protected. BUT foster parents must also be protected. Proof not Suspicion is needed Ensuring Rights and Responsibilities will go a long way to improve the level of trust in the B.C. fostering community.

This brings us to the matter of Recruitment and Retention of Foster Parents. How many B.C. Foster Parents would recommend fostering to others? The best and most effective recruitment tool is B.C. Foster Parents. Many foster parents have suggested an annual review of the performance and the working environment of B.C.'s Social Workers. All participants must be respected, supported and treated with dignity. Remember everyone's plate is very full.

Vancouver Island foster parents very much appreciate and value their fellow Team members - MCFD, FPSSS and the Aboriginal Agencies staff. Each can and must play an equal role supporting the children / youth in care on Vancouver Island. If you have a concern or an idea on how to support Vancouver Island Foster Parents please contact BCFFPA ---- our only Provincial Voice for Foster Parent's at 1 800 663 9999. We are here to support all of B.C. Foster Parents.

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations Business Plan 2008-2010

Ellaine Ashby—Executive Director

The BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations celebrates its 41st year of operations in 2008. Since its inception in 1967 the BCFFPA has continued to strive to be a membership driven, credible, proactive association. The Federation has seen many changes in its history in reaction to Ministry restructuring and changes in the needs of the fostering community.

The BCFFPA serves several roles; support to Foster Parents, support to the Ministry in assisting it to meet its goals and objectives, support youth in care, adoption professionals and Aboriginal Delegated agencies and support to the community and child welfare stakeholders at large. This is accomplished through an ever-strengthening communication network from the local and Provincial levels of the organization.

MCFD provides funding for a core base of services provided by the Federation to both MCFD and Foster Parents. These services include, but are not limited to, insurance administration, administration of the Provincial Fosterline, Communication and Networking, a Community Resource Database and Foster Parent Information and Support links. In addition to these core services, the Federation manages a grant provided by MCFD to continue the ongoing work of both the Provincial Foster Parent Recruitment and Provincial Foster Parent Retention Committees. The Federation continues to act as a conduit of information for Foster Parents, Ministry staff, Foster Parent Support Agencies and Community Partners. Several community partnerships have been undertaken in the 2007/2008 fiscal years. These include Idea Forums, joint conferences with regional agencies, and several sports and educational initiatives that benefit foster families and the children and youth they serve.

Communication continues to be one of the primary roles of the BCFFPA. Our communication strategies continue to raise the profile of the ministry, the organization and BC Foster Parents in general. The main communication methods utilized by the BCFFPA Board of Directors are teleconference, e-mail and direct mail. The BCFFPA web page saw a complete revamping in 2006 and continues to be updated to maintain relevancy for Foster Parents and other members of the child welfare community. As the organization has restructured and undergone many functional changes we continue to strive to build on our systems that allow Foster Parents to be a strong support for each other with a voice at all levels of the organization while encouraging them to work collaboratively on family preservation and/or permanency options for children who cannot return home.

The Federation continues its work in assisting Foster Parents to increase their capacity to effectively respond to the basic needs of vulnerable children and youth which will in turn assist those children and youth to achieve healthy development and greater resiliency. We will continue to assist Foster Parents to overcome challenges that must be met within and outside of their homes. The challenges include, ensuring ongoing cultural competency for themselves and the children and youth they care for, delivering positive advocacy on behalf of their placements, and continuing to improve public perception of Foster Parents, foster children and the foster care system as a whole. The BCFFPA aims to provide Foster Parents with the tools they need to resolve these challenges in a positive way. We continue to promote the building of trust and communication within the child welfare community.

This will in turn lead to resiliency for Foster Parents, empowerment of children and youth, and more positive relationships between all members of the child/youth's team, their birth families and communities as a whole.

SERVICES OFFERED

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 InfoLetters 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 database 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 Delegated Aboriginal agencies and regional Ministry staff including consultation and information about past BCFFPA work, and 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, and the Adoptive Families Association of BC 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 positive outcomes for children and youth and 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

In addition to Ministry contracted services, the BCFFPA provides services through fundraising initiatives and membership funds. These services include but are not limited to:

AGM – Training event and conference, which is 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 Foster Parents, Ministry, agencies, birth families and the general public to access. This database contains over 4600 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 associations to assist these groups in offering training and networking 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. One example of this is the BCFFPA Rider Insurance for Youth Justice Homes, which was developed by the BCFFPA in joint partnership with an insurance provider. This is a Youth Justice membership funded program.

Public Relations – responds to media requests, in order to obtain positive coverage for the field of fostering.

Camps for Kids Grants –funds subsidies to assist foster parent members to send their foster, birth and adopted children to camp.

BCFFPA Athletic Bursary – Special Needs to alleviate some of the costs Foster Parent members incur when their foster children engage in sports training to enhance their skill level in order to attend the Special Olympics.

Educational Bursaries –administers the BCFFPA Natural Child and BCFFPA Vocational and Technical Training bursaries for birth and adopted children of foster parent members, as well as the William Curtis, Merv Davis, and Gordon Menzies bursaries for former youth in care.

Training Material –develops training materials which are directly relevant to current conditions in the child welfare field.

Orientation kits for new Foster Parents –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.

Idea Forums

Through recent studies it has become evident that foster children often leave the system inadequately prepared to become contributing members of our communities as adults. Only 21% of system kids graduate from high school compared to 78% of other Canadian youth. Many end up on the street, on welfare, or involved in crime. Almost every child has the potential to grow up to become a positive contributor to our community. Foster children are unique individuals who need an individual child centered approach. We need to be asking the question “Then what?”, - and focusing our resources on preparing them for life after leaving the child care system, recognizing their abilities, assisting them to become independent from government welfare, and reducing the risk of a life of crime.

To accomplish this we have been holding Idea Forums throughout BC. To date we have held 18 Idea Forums in the Vancouver Coastal, Vancouver Island, Interior and North Regions. The meetings have been positively approaching the subject of how foster parents and communities can support children and youth in care and all youth to be healthy and positive members of their communities. Business, Health, Education and other professionals have attended these Idea Forums. The Idea Forms are a venue that can help educate the public around the roles of Foster Parents and MCFD staff in supporting children. Out of these Idea Forums the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parents Associations has launched www.communitychildren.ca to engage communities in British Columbia, - businesses, business associations, community groups, service clubs, governments, and individuals, - in conversations about how we can help foster children and youth find ways to become contributing members of our community when they grow up.

Safeguarding Foster Families

As part of our contracted services with the Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Federation has been traveling the province providing insurance training to foster parents and Ministry staff. When discussing the Legal Indemnity and Liability Insurance coverage, we have found that the lack of knowledge exhibited by both groups is staggering. There is a lack of understanding of the risk undertaken by caregivers should they fail in their fiduciary duty toward a child in their care, as well as the risk imposed on other individuals over 19 and living in the home, who have not signed a Family Care Home Agreement.

We have entered into lively discussions on what is acceptable risk for foster children as opposed to birth children. As well, we are sharing information regarding custodial agreements through 54.1 legislation and the repercussion to that. The Section 8 Kith and Kin agreements also require the support of the Federation and this training will include those individuals providing this service.

All information needs to be compiled into one document which can be easily accessed, read, and understood.

The Law Foundation has been approached for a grant to undertake the development of survey, training events and materials and a booklet for sharing with all foster parents who are currently fostering or when they are approved.

Triangulation Workshop Development and Facilitation

The BCFFPA provides training for to foster parents and would like to develop and facilitate education that relates directly to the needs of those individuals. An example of this is a Triangulation Workshop we are presently developing due to an need expressed by foster parents in several regions of the province. We have requested that the Ministry of Children and Family Development financially support this endeavor.

Board Orientation

The Board of the Directors of the BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations want to provide training to its Board. The Training would include Orientation so that all new Board Members understood their legal obligations and their responsibility on the Board. Training on Robert's Rules of Order and the application of the rules would be a part of the training. As well education on goal setting and creating a vision for the organization would aid the whole Board in carrying out their duties.

Fundraising

The BCFFPA Board wish to begin fund raising for a project that will serve foster parents and aid the Ministry of Children and Family Development. During the 2008/09 fiscal year we have raised a small amount of money and this made us aware of how difficult it is to attract funds and to present your projects to the general public.

The BCFFPA Board of Directors will support the initiatives of MCFD to assure children in care receive early assessment where it is deemed necessary. The Board of Directors would like to help in two ways; by raising funds and by raising awareness.

The Board of Directors would like to lead an initiative to give every child in care early assessment because we believe that many of these children would benefit and indeed we may see many more children finish grade twelve if they can receive early assessments.

Strategic Plan 2007-2010

The Market

The BCFFPA provides services to over 4000 foster families and out of care service providers, in addition to 9000 + children and youth in care . The individuals served live primarily in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley areas. Although there is a higher preponderance of foster homes in these areas, there exist a higher percentage of viable local associations in the Interior Region of the province. This is due in part to the positive networking structure built between the BCFFPA and the Agencies operating in those areas, which has come about as a result of the long-term positive relationship between the Agencies and the Federation.

There are 34 BCFFPA local associations across BC, with one Macro Regional Council operating in the Interior Region, and another Macro Regional Council under development in Northern BC. The BCFFPA also works together with 6 Foster Parent Support agencies providing support services to Foster Parents in all 5 Ministry Regions. Joint initiatives continue to be developed with these agencies in order to provide a full gamut of services to enable Foster Parents to continue to provide excellence in care.

The Federation is a member of the Federation of Child and Family Services of BC, an organization of 105 community service agencies providing services to BC Families. This membership provides excellent networking opportunities for the Federation and assists us in gathering information around available programs, and methods of delivery. We work closely with the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks, and the Adoptive Families Association of BC in an effort to expand available services and share information with all facets of the child welfare system. In addition, the organization also holds membership in the Child Welfare League of Canada, The Child Welfare League of America, the International Foster Care Organization (IFCO) and the Canadian Foster Families Associations, which is made up of Foster Parent Associations from every province and territory in Canada of which the BCFFPA is the oldest. This year the Federation celebrates its 42nd

year of service. We have already begun a joint initiative which will result in a consortium of family service organizations hosting the 2011 IFCO Conference.

BCFFPA Membership Program

The Federation continues to undertake many fundamental changes in its methods of retaining existing members and attracting of new membership. These changes have occurred through the raising of the Federation's profile by way of a more comprehensive communications plan and strong relationships with corporate partners. The organization's plan for increasing membership continues to be added incentives, in the areas of Provincial discounts, expanded educational opportunities, and recreational opportunities, to name a few. Working toward membership of a minimum of 50% of MCFD foster care providers by the year 2012 will expand the support base for Foster Parents, leading to greater empowerment, resiliency, and professionalism in the field and will lead to diminishing numbers of Foster Parents operating in isolation. We have reached our 2009 goal of 1,100 members and the year is still young. The membership committee continues to work hard to gather discounts for members and their families.

Board Governance and Strategic Planning

For organizations to perform well and maintain their reputation, sound governance is important. With shrinking public money, greater demand for services, exposure to liability, stronger accountability and questioning of the nature of charitable work, the voluntary sector must enhance their capacity to increase the credibility and effectiveness of the sector.

On a yearly basis the BCFFPA Board of Directors engages a professional to provide training in Board Governance in order to assist not only new Board Members, but also existing Board members to understand their roles, associated liabilities, and possible conflicts in their association with the Federation. As well the Strategic Plan for the organization will be reviewed and updated as necessary in order to enable the BCFFPA to proactively deliver services to members and Foster Parents as a whole.

Fundraising Plan Development and Implementation

The BCFFPA continues to develop its fundraising plan, however in these tough economic times it is proving difficult however we will continue to preserve. This has entailed the purchase of a database program to track donors and the engagement of a fundraising professional to develop and implement the plan initially. There is the possibility of contracting services for ongoing fundraising initiatives in the years following in order to continue to improve on the plan and increase the acquisition of funds going forward. In addition, the Federation is working on obtaining funds from various foundations. All fundraising will be utilized for the expansion of current programs and the implementation of programs to be developed by the Federation, thereby lessening the Federation's reliance on government funding to deliver some programs.

The also includes development and nurturing of media relationships in order to position the Federation as the provider of choice for information, the facilitation of communication between the President, or designate, and the media in order to ensure the media consults the Federation on issue related stories, development of referral sources, and the marketing of all information related to Federation programs. The target audiences will include Foster Parents, prospective Foster Parents, the general public, local media, business organizations, referral sources, and Internet users.

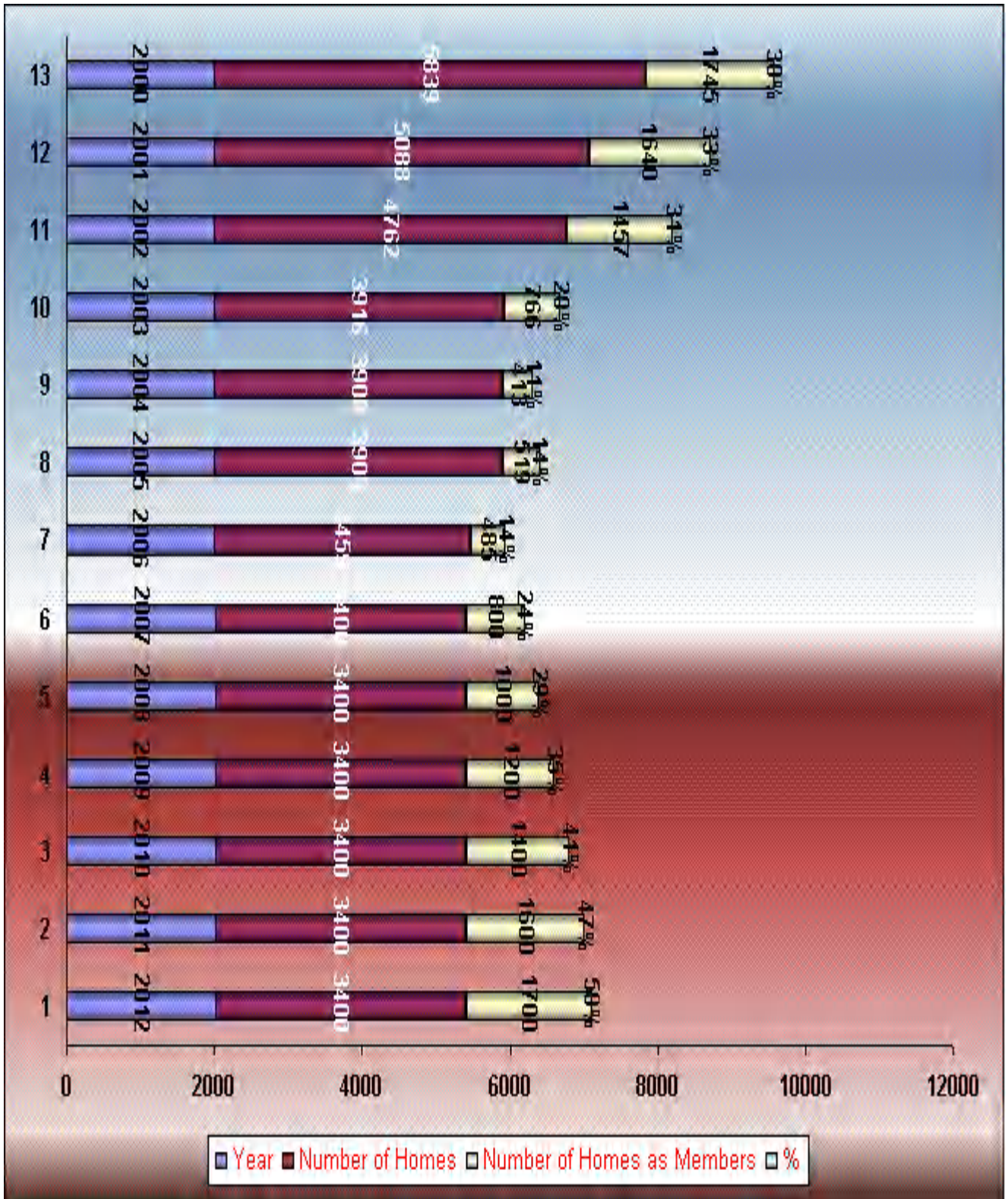
Support and Advocacy Programs

The BCFFPA will continue to provide peer support to Foster Parents on day-to-day issues, and Protocols upon request. We have taken on some larger issues in the past year with success, and will continue to do so. A self advocacy program for Foster Parents is being developed by the Federation which will aid Foster Parents in capacity building, thereby increasing Foster Parents ability to make their views known in a constructive way, and further developing the public and Ministry's perception of them as professional individuals able to provide valuable input into the service plan for the children in their care.

FOSTER PARENT INFORMATION-INTAKE STATISTICS

1027 Foster parent Information booklets mailed to potential Foster parents

Month	Van/Coastal	Fraser	Interior	North	Vancouver Island
April 2008	5	Simon-7 Upper-4 South-5	1	3	3
May 2008	2	Simon-3 Upper-6 South-4	3	4	5
June 2008	0	Simon-6 Upper-2 South-7	3	4	4
July 2008	0	Simon-6 Upper-1 South- 4	3	1	3
August 2008	1	Simon-5 Upper-3 South-4	4	2	3
September 2008	2	Simon-7 Upper-5 South-8	2	3	5
October 2008	7	Simon-8 South-6 Upper-3	1	4	5
November 2008	2	Simon-7 South-3 Upper-3	4	2	4
December 2008	1	Simon-5 South-1 Upper-1	3	2	3
January 2009	5	Simon-8 Upper-4 South-3	6	1	4
February 2009	0	Simon-9 Upper-3 South- 7	4	3	3
March 2009	3	Simon-8 Upper-5 South-7	5	2	4
TOTAL April 2008 to March 2009	28	178	39	31	46



BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations Outcomes April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

1. Community Capacity Building

- a. Communicate as needed with the Insurance Bureau of Canada to address the issues of discriminatory practices against Foster parents by Insurance Carriers.

i. Outcomes

Incidences of Foster Parents being denied home owner/tenant insurance are decreased

ii. Outputs

Service Units
Number of calls, e-mails, letters **32**

- b. Provide the Insurance Bureau of Canada and Insurance Brokers with information of foster parent insurance coverage through the BCFFPA Rider

i. Outcomes

Foster Parents find it easier to access personal home owner/tenant insurance

IBC has a good understanding of the types of claims arising and issues specific to foster parents

ii. Outputs

Service Units
Number of calls, e-mails, letters **397**

- c. Work with Youth Justice to develop a comprehensive Rider program for homes providing service to the Ministry which falls under MCFD Services

i. Outcomes

Caregivers who provide services to Youth Justice and who currently do not have any coverage for willful and malicious damage to be able to obtain coverage

ii. Outputs

Service Units
Number of changes to coverage **0**

The Federation has approached MCFD to extend this coverage currently being piloted in the Fraser Region to all homes providing youth justice services. Cost is \$5000. Awaiting a response

- d. Work with Risk Management and the BCFFPA Insurance Broker to develop a generic policy covering all caregivers who are unable to obtain primary insurance due to remote location, high incidence of claims etc.

i. Outcomes

All foster Parents regardless of their inability to obtain primary coverage due to remote location, type of housing, non-ownership on reserve etc., have access to this program

ii. Outputs

Recipients
Number of persons accessing the services **12**

- e. Continue providing information to Risk Management with regard to current methods of administration through the BCFFPA

i. Outcomes

Risk Management is aware of the procedures used, and ongoing issues arising in the administration of the insurance program

ii. Outputs

Service Units
Number of meetings with Risk Management via phone, e-mail, fax, and in person
11

- f. No disruption in resolving foster parent insurance claims with the move to a regional governance model

i. Outcomes

Regional Administrators are aware of :
Methods of Administration
Contact Information
Extent of Coverage
Program History

ii. Outputs

Service Units
Number of disruptions to claims **0**

2. Editing and Writing General

Produce and distribute four BCFFPA InfoLetters yearly in Partnership with MCFD

i. Outcomes

Foster Parents have access to consistent information regarding changes in the fostering system province-wide

ii. Outputs

of Service Units
Number of Issues **4**

iii. Product
Copies **14,100**

3. Editing and writing Web Site

Maintain provincial web page

i. Outcomes

Foster Parents have access to consistent up-to-date information pertaining to fostering parenting issues province-wide.
Foster Parents are able to access links to other sites related to fostering so that pertinent Ministry policy changes and other information related to foster care are readily available to Foster parents
Foster Parents can acquire answers to fostering related questions in a timely

manner.

Access to information becomes easier

Gives more professional appearance

Upgrades the profile of the BCFFPA and Foster Parents in general

ii. Outputs

of Service Units **135**

Copy of final Updated Webpage at years end **1**

4. Information and Referral

i. Administer the BCFFPA/MCFD Fosterline

i. Outcomes

Foster Parents have no cost access to information around supports available in their home community

The General Public has a central number for obtaining information on the process of becoming a foster parents

Assist MCFD with recruitment of new foster homes

ii. Outputs

Service Units calls, e-mails, letters **51,126**

j. Provide Foster Parents with information around community support services available to them while keeping up an awareness of current issues facing those individuals

i. Outcomes

Messaging of information to Foster Parents is consistent province wide

Foster Parents feel supported

Foster Parents are aware of services available to them

ii. Outputs

Service Units

Number of calls, e-mails, letters **34,278**

5. Training and Education

k. Provide BCFFPA Insurance Rider Training throughout BC

i. Outcomes

Foster Parents, MCFD staff and FP Support Agency Staff have access to easy to understand information sessions where questions can be asked and answered

ii. Outputs

Service Units Number of training sessions provided 11

Number attending training sessions **106**

l. Update BCFFPA Insurance Rider brochures and Questions and answers as necessary and distribute to MCFD offices

i. Outcomes

Foster Parents and Ministry staff have relevant and timely information regarding the methods of accessing the BCFFPA Insurance Rider, MIP and Legal

Indemnity Insurance

ii. Outputs

Service Units



Thank you for taking the time to join us
at our 2009 Annual General Meeting
and Conference

Regards
Melanie Filiatrault
President

