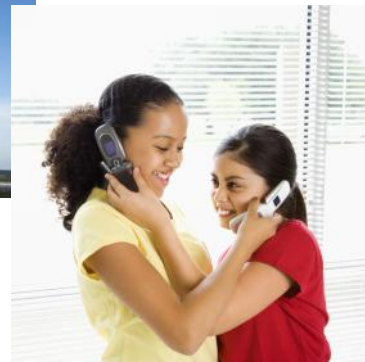
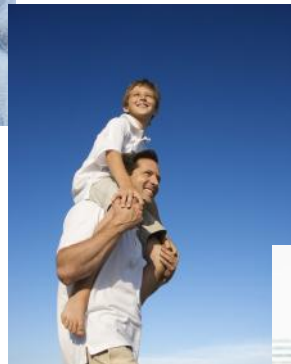




ANNUAL REPORT 2010





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



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Signing of the Foster Parents Rights

Picture 1: Honorable Mary Polak, Melanie Filiatrault, Heather Bayes and MLA Harry Bloy

Picture 2: Honorable Mary Polak and Melanie Filiatrault





Ministry of Children and Family Development
The British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations

~ Foster Parent Rights ~

- Whereas** we wish to acknowledge the special role foster parents have as caregivers for vulnerable children
- Whereas** we wish to acknowledge that the relationship between them, built on mutual respect, deserves recognition
- Whereas** the residence that foster parents share with the children and youth of British Columbia is exclusively their private residence
- Whereas** the Foster Parent Rights document and statements therein is not intended to create, infringe, amend, or change existing or future legal responsibilities or duties whether by statute or contract
- Whereas** we agree that, from time to time, we will meet to discuss the relationship between us and will do so with regard to the stated rights in this document and may seek to amend these rights by mutual agreement
- Whereas** we recognize the paramount consideration is the safety and well being of the child

1. The right to continuing professional development opportunities with respect to caring for children, and to participation in professional foster parent associations.
2. The right to be consulted and be able to have meaningful input into decisions affecting the foster parents home, family and other placement(s) in the home.
3. The right to be involved in the development of the child's plan of care and informed of changes to the plan.
4. The right to limit access to private spaces within their own home, to special possessions, and to private or personal conversations, in the same way their own children are limited.
5. The right to refuse a placement if they feel they cannot meet the child's needs regardless of the home level.
6. The right to be able to continue to participate in cultural, social and religious activities of their choosing, while honouring rights, values and beliefs of the foster child.
7. The right to be considered as a permanent family for a child, along with all other suitable homes if the Director determines that a permanent plan is in the child's best interest.
8. If requested and permitted by legislation, the right to be provided with notification of the serious illness, injury, or death of a former long-term placement, when this information is known.
9. The right to receive available information for the care of the child, including, but not limited to, any history of violence or illegal activity, as well as medical, educational, behavioural, personal care and relevant family information in addition to guardianship, custody and access arrangements. In the case of an emergency placement, information is received as soon as possible.
10. The right to be provided as soon as possible with reasons when a child is removed from a foster parent's home.
11. The right to be informed of standards expected by ministry staff and consequences of not meeting the standards.
12. The right to access information contained in any and all documents related to themselves which are held in the Director's custody, subject to all relevant legislation.
13. The right to access support of their choosing, and the right to be assisted in contacting the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations, the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, or any other support provider or agency on any issues concerning, but not limited to, Child in Care Standards and Conflict Resolution.
14. The right to be provided with reasons an agreement is terminated or suspended and the right to appeal the decision.
15. The right to be treated with consideration, trust, honesty, respect, acceptance, and fairness in all circumstances by ministry staff and community service providers and the right to request the ministry's assistance when situations arise that involve verbal or physical abuse of the foster parent by a child or youth in care or their family members.
16. The right to be informed of their Rights and the regional process or protocol for resolving differences or disagreements between the ministry and foster parents.
17. The right to receive services to support and stabilize a placement.
18. The right to be provided with access to support services when placements are terminated to minimize the foster parents' feelings of disruption and grief.

HONOURABLE MARY POLAK
 MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

MÉLANIE FILIÀTRULT
 PRESIDENT, BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION
 OF FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

May 2010 Report – President

Welcome to the 2010 AGM. We hope that you will enjoy mixing education, business and networking with your colleagues at this event.

This has been a very busy start to the year because of our Executive Director's illness. We struggle to fill the void left by Ellaine's absence from the office. Her wealth of knowledge was a tremendous asset in the day to day operations of the organization. Foster parents may send 'get well' cards to the office.

As noted in a previous newsletter, we achieved a monumental goal by signing the Foster Parent's Right's document with the Ministry last October. We again send our gratitude to Minister Mary Polak for diligent efforts in achieving this outcome.

I want to express my sincere thanks to members of the Board. I enjoyed working with you over the past year. I also offer best wishes for success to your new Board of Directors in this next fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Melanie Filiatrault



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

B.C. FEDERATION OF FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS
Meeting Standing Rules
Annual General Meeting
May 29,2010

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 29, 2010**

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------|---------------------|
| 1. | Meeting Called to Order | 9:00 AM | Melanie Filiatrault |
| 2. | Presentation-University Social Work Practicum Students
§ In home Practicum Placements | | |
| 2. | Welcoming Remarks | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| 3. | Introductions | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| | § Board of Directors | | |
| | § Staff (Lea Ann Bryant, Alysha Stoddard, Jaime Murray) | | |
| | § 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. | Financial Summary | | Les Toth |
| 7. | Auditors Report | | Brian Tipper |
| | § March 31, 2010 | | |
| 9. | Elections | | Barry Lynch |
| | a) Report of Nominating Committee | | |
| | b) Candidate presentations | | |
| ***** LUNCH AND VOTING 12:00 to 1:00***** | | | |
| 13. | New Business | | Barry Lynch |
| | § Motions from the floor | | |
| 14. | Voting results | | Barry Lynch |
| | a) Elections | | |
| 15. | Closing | | Melanie Filiatrault |
| | § Announcements | | |
| | § Closing Remarks | | |
| | § Adjournment | | |



Nominees for Election to Executive Committee
Two-Year Term

POSITION: **President**

CANDIDATE: Heather Bayes

NOMINATED BY: Melanie Filiatrault and Paul Filiatrault

FOSTERING EXPERIENCE

11 years, the last three years spent fostering at level 3, foster mostly teen boys

BCFFPA EXPERIENCE

Salmon Arm Local

- Rep to Area G
- President
- Vice President

Interior Region

- Interm Chair
- Chairperson
- Delegate Shuswap

Provincial

- Interior Delegate
- Vice President

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Parent committee, Enderby Cadets
Planning Committee, IFCO 2011
20 Years sales and wholesale, retail, marketing



Nominees for Election to Executive Committee
Two-Year Term

POSITION: Vice President

CANDIDATE: Sheila Davis

NOMINATED BY: Frances Gagnon and Debbie Drewitz

FOSTERING EXPERIENCE

26 years of caring and parenting infants and children up to 19 years old, individually and as family groups. Some children are still part of the family, and many still keep in touch and have families of their own.

BCFFPA EXPERIENCE

26 years of volunteering at the local, regional and Provincial level in almost every capacity. During the last 10 years, has worked as regional delegate, secretary on the BCFFPA Board. CFFA Director and has sat on many committee's with the CFFA.

OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

Has many years experience in a variety of offices.
Volunteered for many years with the Canadian Mental Association.
Volunteered many years for the Nanaimo Toy Drive.

**BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
Annual General Meeting
May 23, 2009**

Keynote Address - Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond Representative for Children and Youth. Mary Ellen spoke about the need for all foster parents to be members of the Federation in order to achieve a true collective voice, and can benefit from peer support, although she was unclear around what the barriers to achieving that may be.

The CYR is currently looking at the demographics of caregivers as to ethnicity and economic status. She is also looking at 25 serious or life threatening injuries or deaths among CICs.

There has been a 30% increase in youth agreements. The CYR would like to see stability for kids in care. In some parts of BC there is a higher probability of Foster children being charged with an offence. This may be due in part to conflict in their home environment. Foster Parents need to continue to be positive role models. Foster parents are encouraged to continue bringing forward issues.

1. Meeting called to order at 11:00 AM
2. Welcoming Remarks were delivered with Melanie F.
3. Introductions
 - a. Melanie introduced the BCFFPA Board of Directors to the assembly.
 - b. Heather Bayes introduced the staff
 - c. Sheila Davis introduced Betty Davis, and Paul and Melanie Filiatrault as Life and Honorary members.
 - d. Melanie then introduced the Parliamentarian Barrie Lynch.
4. Housekeeping
 - e. Notice of Meeting – met
 - f. Quorum of 43 voting members was met
 - g. Agenda was passed by the assembly
 - h. Rules of Order adopted by the assembly
5. President's Report

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 Rights of Foster Parents will be coming forward in a Private Members Bill
- 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.
- 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

Whereas this is currently no provision in the BCFFPA Constitution and Bylaws which relates to criteria for holding office at the Provincial level **and**;

Whereas there is a need to make the election process open to all members in good standing who have shown a commitment to the organization **and**;

Whereas there is a need for some knowledge of the workings of the BCFFPA Board of Directors in order to be an effective member of the Executive Committee prior to running **therefore**;

Be it Resolved:

To add to Article V Board of Directors Section 3 a) iii of the BCFFPA Constitution and Bylaws

- i. Any candidate for a position on the Executive Committee other than President, must have held a BCFFPA membership in good standing for at least three years immediately previous to running, and must have served for at least one year in the previous three years on a local, area, regional, or macro regional council, or on the BCFFPA Board of Directors.
- ii. Any candidate for the position of President must have served on the BCFFPA Board of Directors for at least two years previously

This will allow for some knowledge of how the Federation operates prior to holding an Executive position but will still allow for persons other than current board members to run for provincial office. It will also allow members who may have held positions on the Board in the past to run for President while still allowing for prior knowledge around the workings of the Board.

#2 Special Resolution

Brought Forward by: Kevin Murray

In the Policy and Procedures (dated 2007) on page eight strike items numbered 13 and 14.

Replace with “any paid member in good standing be allowed to be nominated, elected, hold, and perform the duties of the Executive positions on the governing board of the BCFFPA”

Further, I request that this special resolution be added to the Constitution and Bylaws of the BCFFPA.

h. Kula Zervos’ special resolution was deemed not to be a resolution and there-

fore was not part of the voting process.

- i. The Auditor noted that the other two special resolutions are in conflict
- j. Bonnie Thompson, and Paul Filiatrault spoke in favour of Resolution #1 – felt it is important to have some Federation experience prior to coming to the board.
- k. Jan Chapman, Kula Zervos, Claudette Roy, and Frank Hetherington spoke in favour of the resolution – opens up the opportunity for others to run. Heather Bayes spoke against the resolution.

9. Elections

- i. Louise Dol delivered the report of the nominating committee. Les Toth is the only person who ran for office. It still requires a yes or no vote to elect however

Lunch and voting – 12:30-1:30 pm

- 10. Martin Wright – Education and Health of Children and Youth in Care

A detailed report is available at www.bcfosterparents.ca

01/AGM/2009 :MSC:(Dianne Gamblin) **Move that the BCFFPA on behalf of foster parents, adopt consistently high expectations that children and youth in care reach their full potential of educational attainment. carried**

02/AGM/2009:MSC:(Marcy Perron) **Move that the BCFFPA on behalf of foster parents regularly convey these high expectations to our foster children and youth and to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. carried**

03/AGM/2009:MSC: (Heather Bayes) **Move that training materials be produced by MCFD for foster parents that support us in our efforts to maximise the well-being of our foster children and youth. Carried**

11. Resolution Report

- m. Delivered by Heather Bayes – the report is included in the annual report at www.bcfosterparents.ca

12. New Business

- n. Motions from the floor

04/AGM/2009:MSC:(Betty Davis) **BCFFPA negotiate with MCFD the relief payment for restricted, regular and Level 1 foster homes to be included in the monthly payment the same as Level w and 3 foster homes. Carried**

05/AGM/2009:MSC:(Grant Smith) **The BCFFPA request clarification from the Ministry**

of CF regarding the intent and application of the Caregivers Support Services Standards to Foster Parents and specifically with respect to CIC placement and payment schedules and apparent inconsistencies between that document and previous MCFD Policy /Practice. Carried

06/AGM/2009:MSC:(Frank Hetherington) The Provincial board check into MCFD policies concerning sibling groups payments and inform all foster parents of the policy. Also in this regard we want BCFFPA to discuss with the ministry to make no placements without a clear, mutual understanding of payments. Carried

07/AGM/2009:MSC:(Tammy Van Sickle) In the interest of retention MCFD provide relief foster parents who are put into the hospital, or who have to travel to personal or natural family medical appointments outside of their community. Carried

08/AGM/2009:MSC:(Tammy Van Sickle) Camp for Kids date be extended to the end of June as some communities can't register for camp until June 1. carried

09/AGM/2009:MSC:(Tammy Van Sickle) In the name of societal inclusion can the board please approach MCFD with regards to help funding yearly family vacations outside of the province, and school travel trips. Carried

10/AGM/2009:MSC:(Tammy Van Sickle) AGM menu's for lunch and dinner be thoroughly researched before ordered and health choices more of an option such as fruit plates veggie trays. Carried

11/AGM/2009:MSC:(Debbie Drewitz) BCFFPA ask that foster parents be given \$500 from MCFD toward Grade 12 graduation for Foster Children. Carried

12/AGM/2009:MSC:(Sandy Dowie) Direct the board to ask MCFD to review the policies and methods used by After Hours when receiving calls. Due to consistency issues in the way that calls are dealt with, both by the central After Hours office and also by the local. Mostly concerned with AWOL and the response. carried

13/AGM/2009:MSC:(Marcy Perron) The BCFFPA Board to review and clarify the Caregiver Support Service Standard in regards to relief and respite with MCFD. Carried

14/AGM/2009:MSC:(Claude Cuff) According to last year's financial statement monies sitting in the various bursary accounts, compared what was awarded, it seems they are not being utilized effectively. Of the roughly \$2,200 available last year, only 1/2 was awarded, still leaving approximately \$70,000 doing nothing more than collecting interest. I move that the board review the amounts being awarded for possible increases, review the criteria for eligibility, and where possible, give consideration to increasing the number of recipients. Upon doing that ensure the membership has received those decisions in a timely manner for the 2010 deadlines. Carried.

13. Voting Results

- o. Special Resolution #1 required 69.75 votes to pass, and passed with 70 votes which represents a 75% + majority of the 93 ballots cast
- p. Special resolution # 2 did not have the necessary votes to pass
- q. Les Toth was elected Treasurers with 82/87 votes cast in the affirmative

Kula Zervos asked why no CFFA rep was sent to the CFFA this year. This was due to financial constraints. It was clarified that two members of the board are going to IFCO through a funding grant from MCFD and through their own purchasing power.

Claude Cuff was asked to put all of the issues he believes are outstanding in writing so that the board can respond to them, as this has not yet been done.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm

2010 Resolution Report

01/AGM/2009 :MSC: (Dianne Gambling) **Move that the BCFFPA on behalf of foster parents, adopt consistently high expectations that children and youth in care reach their full potential of educational attainment. *This is ongoing work.***

02/AGM/2009:MSC: (Marcy Perron) **Move that the BCFFPA on behalf of foster parents regularly convey these high expectations to our foster children and youth and to the Ministry of Children and Family Development. *This is being done quarterly to MCFD***

03/AGM/2009:MSC: (Heather Bayes) **Move that training materials be produced by MCFD for foster parents that support us in our efforts to maximize the well-being of our foster children and youth. *All development of training materials is currently on hold due to budgetary issues. We will continue to lobby for this.***

04/AGM/2009:MSC: (Betty Davis) **BCFFPA negotiate with MCFD the relief payment for restricted, regular and Level 1 foster homes to be included in the monthly payment the same as Level w and 3 foster homes. *The BCFFPA continues to lobby for this. Further information will be shared with caregivers as it becomes available.***

05/AGM/2009:MSC: (Grant Smith) **The BCFFPA request clarification from the Ministry of CF regarding the intent and application of the Caregivers Support Services Standards to Foster Parents and specifically with respect to CIC placement and payment schedules and apparent inconsistencies between that document and previous MCFD Policy /Practice. *The Caregiver Support Service standards are in the final stages of completion. This document will supersede all previous documents once it is released in its final form.***

06/AGM/2009:MSC: (Frank Hetherington) **The Provincial board check into MCFD policies concerning sibling groups payments and inform all foster parents of the policy. Also in this regard we want BCFFPA**

to discuss with the ministry to make no placements without a clear, mutual understanding of payments. *The Federation has taken this matter to MCFD. Sibling groups are placed in bed specific resources and are paid at that rate. Sometimes MCFD will request to pay regular rate with an additional service fee for overages. Acceptance of this is at the discretion of the caregiver, and it is the responsibility of the caregiver to discuss finances with MCFD prior to accepting a placement. There is no policy provincially or regionally which would allow MCFD to pay the level rate for the first child in a sibling group, and regular rates for the others.*

07/AGM/2009:MSC: (Tammy Van Sickle) **In the interest of retention MCFD provide relief foster parents who are put into the hospital, or who have to travel to personal or natural family medical appointments outside of their community.** *This is being looked at*

08/AGM/2009:MSC: (Tammy Van Sickle) **Camp for Kids date be extended to the end of June as some communities can't register for camp until June 1.** *This change has been made*

09/AGM/2009:MSC: (Tammy Van Sickle) **In the name of societal inclusion can the board please approach MCFD with regards to help funding yearly family vacations outside of the province, and school travel trips.** *This is being looked into*

10/AGM/2009:MSC: (Tammy Van Sickle) **AGM menu's for lunch and dinner be thoroughly researched before ordered and health choices more of an option such as fruit plates veggie trays.** *This is taken under advisement*

11/AGM/2009:MSC: (Debbie Drewitz) **BCFFPA ask that foster parents be given \$500 from MCFD toward Grade 12 graduation for Foster Children.** *This is being addressed.*

12/AGM/2009:MSC: (Sandy Dowie) **Direct the board to ask MCFD to review the policies and methods used by After Hours when receiving calls. Due to consistency issues in the way that calls are dealt with, both by the central After Hours office and also by the local. Mostly concerned with AWOL and the response.** *This is being addressed*

13/AGM/2009:MSC: (Marcy Perron) **The BCFFPA Board to review and clarify the Caregiver Support Service Standard in regards to relief and respite with MCFD.** *Caregiver Support Service standards continues to be worked on with input from BCFFPA. A letter addressing this issue will be sent to MCFD.*

14/AGM/2009:MSC: (Claude Cuff) **According to last year's financial statement monies sitting in the various bursary accounts, compared what was awarded, it seems they are not being utilized effectively. Of the roughly \$2,200 available last year, only ½ was awarded, still leaving approximately \$70,000 doing nothing more than collecting interest. I move that the board review the amounts being awarded for possible increases, review the criteria for eligibility, and where possible, give consideration to increasing the number of recipients. Upon doing that ensure the membership has received those decisions in a timely manner for the 2010 deadlines.** *The BCFFPA Board of Directors made the decision to award \$500 per year per year which is taken from overall interest earned. Interest rates are currently at an all time low and would not be significant enough to provide any assistance if the awards were based solely on the interest incurred from those bursaries. The Federation continues to be fiscally responsible in increasing the principle of the bursaries.*

BCFFPA
ANNUAL REPORT
2010

43 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** 1980 - 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** 1984 - **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** 1988 - 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** 1990 - 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** 1993 - The **Levels of Care** was implemented jointly with the Ministry for Children and Families.
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.*
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** 1997 - 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**.
1998 - **FosterCare 2000** was developed to address improvements to the Foster Care system into the next century.
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 **21 children and youth** in care **went to camp** and three Educational Bursaries were awarded! In 2008 we were able to sent 30 children to camp and issue bursaries to two former foster children and one birth child of a foster parents

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 care-giving. 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 attempting to have it included in the mandatory Caregiver Support Service Standards.

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2009

The Ministry and the BCFFPA signed a historical document that gives foster parents some rights. Such as #2 on the Foster Parents rights document : The right to be consulted and be able to have meaningful input into decisions affecting the foster parent's home, family and others placement(s) in the home, and # 11: The right to be informed of standards expected by Ministry staff and consequences of not meeting the standards.

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	Louise Dol, Port Alberni

APPOINTEES

Canadian Foster Family Liaison	Sheila Davis, Nanaimo
Ministry Liaison to Board of Directors	Michele Haddon, Victoria

REGIONAL DELEGATES

Vancouver Coastal	Peter Dueck, Vancouver
Fraser	Debbie Drewitz, Burnaby
Interior	Marcy Perron, Kelowna
Northern	Sherrie Jones, Pouce Coupe
Vancouver Island	Sheila Davis, Nanaimo

FEDERATION PROVINCIAL OFFICE STAFF

Interim Executive Director	Lea Ann Bryant
Administrative Coordinator	Alysha Stoddard
Reception/Office Assistant	Jaime Murray

Reports

Personnel Report—Heather Bayes Vice President

Our staff are completely settled in to the new offices in Maple Ridge and have adjusted to the short commute times. We have had some challenges this year that we continue to work on.

At the time of writing this report Ellaine Ashby, our Executive Director, has been off due to illness. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery. Prior to her illness Ellaine has exceeded the contracted amount of Insurance training through out the Province, training both MCFD staff and foster parents. She has also continued to make her job look easy but with her sudden illness we have discovered how much she actually does to aid the foster parents of BC as well as the BCFFPA.

Lea Ann Bryant is our Administrative Assistant and while Ellaine is out our Acting Executive Director. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lea Ann for all the extra work she has taken on as well as appreciate how steep the learning curve is.

Alysha Stoddard is the office assistant/receptionist. Alysha is still in college and working part time with the BCFFPA, she will be back to more hours at the end of the school term, just in time for the AGM and summer holidays.

Canadian Foster Families Association Annual Report by Sheila Davis, Provincial Director

Our CFFA President, Sheila Durnford, gives us representation on a new Foster Parent Project partnered with the Child Welfare League of Canada. It is a 3 year initiative, Every Child Matters: An Action Plan for Foster Parenting Abused and Neglected Children. Their goal is to create opportunities for foster parents to access new information, resources and supports to improve their fostering experience. Sheila also represents foster parents through the CFFA on the 2011 International Foster Care Organization (IFCO) Conference Planning Committee, strengthening Foster Parent partnership with other organizations and groups.

The CFFA has 2 face to face board meetings in a year, the AGM in late May and another meeting in October. The Alberta Foster Parent Assn. has kindly provided the venue for the October meetings. They worked hard on their goal of attaining a foster family campground and invited the CFFA to use it for their October Board Meetings. It is a wonderful camp and is now fully paid for and easily accessed as it is located about 2 hours north of Calgary. The CFFA board members are very impressed and inspired by what has been achieved.

Sheila Durnford and other members of the IFCO Committee attended the IFCO Conference

2009 in Dublin, Ireland. Delegates were sent by over 37 countries including youth delegates as well.

The 2010 CFFA Conference and AGM, Walking Together - Voices for Change, will be held in Saskatoon, Sask. June 7 - 13 inclusive. It is being hosted by the Saskatchewan Foster Families Assn.

For more information on the CFFA and the work they do visit their website at www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca. Their newsletter can be downloaded from the website as well as announcements on new matters and events. You may also contact me at sheila_davis10@yahoo.com

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

The 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 \$500,000.00. 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 broker that you are fostering, as the insurance company needs to know this information. Have your broker put a note on your file and have them check with the insurance company to ensure that there are no restrictions. If you have problems or difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage please feel free to call Cary Augustini at our office at 1-877-477-2276 (Toll Free) or via email at caugustini@megsonfitzpatrick.com

I was personally honoured to travel throughout the province with your executive and discuss the insurance program with many foster parents. We travelled to the Kootenay's, Vancouver Island, and the Fraser Valley this year having gone to the Okanagan, Prince George, Quesnel and Fort St John in the previous term. 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 Delegate– Peter Dueck

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men” by Fredrick Douglass
(borrowed from NeuroDevNet)

The year ended nearly as it started; close to 9000 children were in care in BC. The majority of these children were in family foster homes but too many were not. Presumably most of these children received adequate care; some got exceptional care and some did not fair well. Nevertheless, we all worked hard to give credence to the Ministry’s stated purpose; ... to help the most vulnerable children and families to succeed and thrive”

Vancouver Coastal:

There is little to report concerning the activities of BCFFPA members in the Vancouver region. There are only about 60 members and very few attend member meeting on a regular basis. This is not to suggest that these meetings are boring and of no value. What seems clear is that very few foster parents in Vancouver or for that matter, anywhere in the province, see great value in Association membership

Ministry changes and their practice ramifications are of great interest because of their impact on foster parents. One important new initiative is CAPP (Child and family Support, Assessment, Planning and Practice) “CAPP is designed to support better outcomes for children, youth and families by providing staff with consistent, developmental approach to their practice. A developmental approach focuses on building relationships, identifying needs and providing the opportunity, environment and resources for people to meet their needs. CAPP involves an assessment, the development of a plan, working directly with children and families, and evaluating progress,” CAPP is rooted in the ministry’s earlier “Action Plan”, Strong Safe and Supported: A commitment to BC’s Children and Youth’, It would appear that the “Action Plan” is at least partially the result of the Hughes Review. The Plan, according to the website, is structured on 5 pillars: Prevention. Early Intervention and Support, The Aboriginal Approach, and the Quality Assurance.

Other Events/Notes:

April 14-17: The 44th National Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD: Facing the Future Together: Where do we go from here?

This UBC conference is important and helpful in transmitting the latest research and practice. Foster parents should present and attend. This year there are no bursaries by UBC, the Ministry, or the BCFFPA. Hopefully some foster parents who are independently wealthy will decide to attend! NeuroDevNet: late last year this organization was granted 20 million dollars (over 5 years) to study children’s brain development. Fortunately for those of us who care for children with brain disabilities, FASD, autism and cerebral palsy are included in the organization early focus. NeuroDevNet shares the view that FASD “represents a public

health problem of epidemic proportions” Research suggests that as many as 1 in 100 births may be affected by FASD or some related defect. In addition to traditional research, Nuero-DevNet is also interested in looking at new ways to build stronger, more capable FASD children. NueroDevNet is new. Little is known about the organization at this time but your association will find out more and be as helpful in there research as possible.

Conclusion:

“We live under the same sky but have different horizons”- Chancellor Konrad Adenauer We must all work together to improve the quality of life for the children in our care.

**Fraser Regional Delegate-Debbie Drewitz
Burnaby/ New Westminster**

We will be resuming our local meetings in April, the first meeting being April 6th at 7pm. The meeting will be the first Tuesday of the month. Please confirm via email drewitz@telus.net or 604-294-2399 if you will be attending. I would like to encourage all foster parents to become a member of the BC Federation of Foster Parents. One of the benefits being Kids up Front. We receive free tickets for all kinds of events. Visit www.kidsupfront.com to see what it is all about. If you email me your email address I will add you to my data-base. But remember you can be in my database but must be a member paid in full to receive the free tickets. I would also like to send a BIG Thank you to VANOC , Margaret Dickson and her team worked very hard to warm the hearts of many of our children, youth and families during the 2010 Celebrate- Olympics and Paralympics

" This will confirm that we allocated 885 tickets from our Celebrate 2010 program to the BC Federation of Foster Parents Associations. We worked with more than 300 community organizations to distribute the tickets broadly and equitably and simply could not have done it without each and every one of them. I'd like to particularly commend you and the BC Federation for being so effective in responding to our last minute ticket opportunities – sometimes distributing tickets on a few hours notice. A significant number of tickets were distributed in this way and the BC Federation was one of our primary resources. We also appreciate you passing tickets along to other organizations that fit the program criteria when you ended up with more than the BC Federation could immediately use. The important thing was to ensure that all the tickets were used in the end by those who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend, however we could reach them.

Thanks once more for your flexibility and good cheer in helping VANOC execute this program."-- Margaret Dickson, Director Inclusion VANOC

Debbie Drewitz- President Burnaby/New Westminster Local

Tri-city Local of BCFFPA has grown over the year. There are presently ten full time members. We meet at 2950 Dewdney Trunk Road in Coquitlam at 7 P. M. on the last Thursday of each month. We welcome all Foster Parent from Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody. We share a common interest in Fostering and the result of our meetings is good companionship, education, and a Professional association that understands the difficulties and the joys of caring for children in the Ministry of Children and Families Development. Our goals for 2010 2011 are to encourage membership and to stress the help of the association for each member. For all the Foster Parents in our area we welcome you and ask you to consider membership with Tri-city Local. Jan Chapman President Tri City 604 444-4176

Ridge /Meadows Local Report

Local meetings are held once a month from September through to June. Our Local is providing ongoing training combined with our regular meetings. All Local Meetings are held at the Federation Office in Maple Ridge.

Some of the workshops offered are as follows:

Back to Basics: Information on documentation, incident reports & logging.

Essentials for everyone: Personal wellness & taking care of ourselves.

Nutrition: How to provide healthful food, including Diabetic information

Getting Ready for Young Adults: ins & outs of agreements with young Adults. Geared for youth getting close to Post Secondary Schooling.

Anxiety: Anxiety disorders

Streetwise: Diane Sowden, Founder of the Children of the Street Society. Sexual exploitation, general awareness

Some of our Annual Events:

December: The Local puts on a Breakfast with Santa which is very well attended. The Maple Ridge Lions Club sponsors this wonderful event. Without the support of the Lions Club we would not be able to offer our Children in Care this Wonderful Event.

June: Annual Wind up Picnic which is well attended by both Foster

Families & Ministry Personnel

September: The Maple Ridge Lions along with the Fresh Water Fisheries for the Local Foster Children

Report from Russell Pohl

Well it has been a quiet year here out in the Fraser. We have had several great workshops and many more planned for the up coming year. The AGM will have happened with all position up for grabs. the trailer is again up for rent for the season at Hatzic lake and a great value for a summer get away. The newly passed foster parents rights were very well received and should be something we are all proud of. We have had several partnership meetings that we have we have been working on. We will be moving our offices again as we have found something more economical and more central for our needs. Please call our offices for new address. 604 533 1924

Interior Delegate Marcy Perron

This has been a very active and productive year for the Interior Region. Penticton has spent several months preparing a Co-Parenting Review that is to be used when a child leaves your care. They are in the process of introducing this review to other areas for their use as well.

Kelowna and Kamloops are both working with their respective Universities to ensure that the students involved in the social worker program have a more in-depth knowledge of the ongoing training, skills, and responsibilities required by foster parents.

All areas in our region are working together with their local school district to try and ensure our children are given equal opportunities to learn and stay in school. We are also actively voicing our concerns regarding the closing of schools that affect the student/teacher ratio, and more importantly, the time our children will have to spend on busses to and from school.

Areas are also active in setting up courses for foster parents, trying to increase the number of foster parents in attendance at our general meetings, and increase our membership base. We are also continuing to work towards a true partnership among all parties involved in our children's lives.

Once again we would like to acknowledge the hard work done by the Fab Four in our area Joan, Noelle, Betty, and Judy who are always there to support us.

On a final note REMEMBER that the AGM is in Kelowna this year and you are all invited!

Marcy Perron.

Northern Regional Delegate-Sherrie Jones

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

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

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

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

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

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

With the upcoming AGM I would encourage as many Foster Parents as possible attend this event and if unable to attend, ensure that you take advantage of your mail in votes. Your vote is your say on how you see the future of our Association and that we will be around for years to come.

I look forward to meeting some of you at our AGM in Kelowna in May and if unable to attend I hope to hear from you by phone or email.

Yours in Fostering

Sherrie Jones-Northern Regional Rep

Vancouver Island Delegate Annual Report by Sheila Davis

With there being some new foster parents starting out and some protocols arising , I have been urging foster parents to educate and inform themselves. A good resource is the Infoletter produced and published by our professional association. The websites the BCFFPA has developed over the years also provide good information and support. If you wonder what the BCFFPA provides for foster parents in general and members in particular, it is worthwhile for you to read your Infoletter, access the websites, attend workshops, etc. Please do not foster in isolation.

In September a Partnership Meeting was held in Nanaimo. Some concerns were the cut backs, the dwindling support services for children in care and their foster parents and the ongoing recruitment of new foster parents at a time when many current foster homes are not being fully utilized. There was also an update from the IFCO 2011 Conference Planning Committee. It's going to be a wonderful opportunity, even a once in a life time opportunity, for all foster parents to attend a world wide foster parent conference, not only in Canada, but right here in our own province! CLBC foster homes are now back to the mainstream offices.

In October during Foster Parent Appreciation Week many events were held to honour foster parents here in Vancouver Island Region. They were hosted by MCFD or FPSSS, the regional agency. The events ranged from teas, luncheons to dinners with some extra excitement generated by door prizes.

Some issues common throughout Vancouver Island:

- some children remain in care longer while the search is being done for healthy relatives who are willing to take them into their homes and families
- some children and babies are still having to wait in foster care longer than hoped while waiting for adoptions to take place
- some foster parents are finding they need to be more proactive than in the past
- some foster parents would appreciate the mini forum type of meeting with resource workers where they could discuss issues and have a question and answer period

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact me:
250-754-1485, fax 250-716-1754 or e-mail - sheila_davis10@yahoo.com
or the Federation office at 1-800-663-9999

Information websites are: www.bcfosterparents.ca, www.inyourgrasp.bc.ca, www.ifco2011.com

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

ear 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 2009/2010
987 FOSTER Parent information booklets mailed to potential foster parents.

Month	Van/Coastal	Fraser	Interior	North	Van Island
April 2009	3	Simon-2 South-5 Upper-3	3	1	2
May 2009	3	Simon-3 South-4 Upper-2	5	1	1
June 2009	2	Simon-2 South-7 Upper-3	2	2	1
July 2009	4	Simon-3 South-3 Upper-2	2	1	1
August 2009	2	Simon-3 South-2 Upper-2	2	2	1
September 2009	3	Simon-2 South-5 Upper-3	3	1	2
October 2009	3	Simon-3 South-4 Upper-4	3	2	1
November 2009	2	Simon-2 South-5 Upper-4	3	2	1
December 2009	2	Simon-1 South-2 Upper-1	2	1	1
January 2010	3	Simon-3 South-4 Upper-4	3	1	3
February 2010	4	Simon-4 South-6 Upper-3	2	1	4
March 2010	4	Simon-5 South-7 Upper-3	2	2	4
Total	35	121	32	17	22

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
Outcomes April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010
SCA XT0904001

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 **29**

Administrative costs \$ 627.55

- 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 **405**

Administrative costs \$ 466.09

- 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 **16**

Administrative costs \$ 372.85

- 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 7

Administrative costs \$ 100.22

- 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

1943 hours \$28,124.51

Administrative costs \$ 8,173.78

2. Editing and Writing General (SU 16,729-P4)

- g. 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

Printing and Postage \$24,227.32

Administrative costs \$17,520.00

rent, utilities, supplies, paper, wages/benefits

3. Editing and writing Web Site SU 180-P1)

- h. 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 127

Copy of final Updated Webpage at years end 1

2246 1998.03

Administrative costs \$ 614.27

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 **49,543**

2397 hours \$42,834.39

Administrative costs \$15,070.90

rent, utilities, wages, supplies, printing, postage, web support

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 **36,978**

1822.24 hours \$72,889.60

Administration Costs \$21,476.53

rent, utilities, Office supplies, wages, web support etc.

5. Training and Education (SU 1212-R50)

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 **13**

Number attending training sessions **165**

627 hours \$20,444.19

Administrative costs \$ 8,043.76

printing, supplies, travel, accommodation

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

Number of updates to the Rider Brochure **1**

12 hours \$255.99

Administrative costs \$126.54

Number of updated brochures distributed **1057**

9 hours \$201.30

Administrative costs \$119.31

Thank you for taking the time to join us
at our 2010 Annual General Meeting
and Conference

Regards
Melanie Filiatrault
President