



Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

Sharing Circle

2011 Spring Edition



Becoming a Caregiver
Annual General Meeting

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FAFP Mission

The Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (FAFP) recognizes and affirms that Aboriginal children have the right to grow up within their own communities and cultures.

FAFP represents caregivers providing quality care for Aboriginal children in a nurturing, culturally appropriate environment.

FAFP is committed to providing the support and services needed to help ensure this fundamental right is respected.

Charitable Tax # 87189 7427 RR0001



Visit Us Online at
www.fafp.ca

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Faye Poirier (Trail) – *President*

Rick Poitras (Penticton) – *Vice President*

Marilyn Heese (Surrey) – *Secretary*

Doreen Point (Powell River) – *Treasurer*

Eleanor Horvat (Aldergrove) – *Member-at-Large*

Jennifer Donison (Victoria) – *Member-at-Large*



Roxy in Nas Valley.



Sade Scott

Reflections

The Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents have been working with the caregivers of Aboriginal children and youth in care for 15 years and yet there are many who do not know all that entails.

Although, when speaking with those who ask what we do; we usually give the short version – we recruit, train and support caregivers who work with those in care.

This very simplistic response doesn't begin to explain the many varied few FAFP staff perform day in and day out. We are involved in many partnership committees, meetings and are affiliated with a number of societies in the same field.

We attend provincial meetings dealing with recruitment retention and education collaborating on how best to provide our collective services. At present we are involved in the Residential Redesign Advisory Committee. For the last year and a half we have partnered with provincial agencies preparing for the upcoming International Foster Care Organization 2011 Conference to be held in Victoria from July 11-15, 2011. We expect 600 attendees from around the world.

We work with a number of agency groups such as the 130 member Federation of community of Social Services, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council, Canadian Foster Family Association, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centre's, Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC.

Recently we have been expanding our training programs and have been researching how best to provide service to the caregivers so they can do the most important job possible – caring for the children and youth.

All My Relations,

Gary Mavis

Executive Director
Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents



Acknowledgments

The Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents would like to raise our hands in thanks to the following for their funding, in-kind contributions and / or support:

Ministry of Children and Family Development

Kids Up Front

Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society

Hollyburn Family Services

Federation of BC Youth In Care Networks

Blok Printing

Roxane Alec

Secwepmc Child & Family Services

Elder, Old Hands

Elder, Alannah Atley

Elder, Ernie Phillips

Clayton Gordon

Bradley Dick

Jeff Szeto

Holly Frost

And a very special thank-you to all of the caregivers, service providers and community supports who go above and beyond to improve the lives of Aboriginal young people in and from care in our province!

KIDS UP FRONT

Kids up Front continues to provide the Federation with ticket opportunities for foster parents and their children to participate in a variety of sports and entertainment events in the lower mainland.

We are continuing to update our foster parent contact lists and if you live in the lower mainland and are interested in be advised of these events, please contact Roxane – our Administrative Assistant - @604-291-7091 and provide her your phone number and email address.

If you live outside the lower mainland and are planning to visit, please provide you contact information to Roxane know and she will try to find event tickets for the time you are here.

Kids Up Front - a Valued Partner

Did you know we are a partner agency with Kids Up Front Foundation (Vancouver)? Thanks to Kids Up Front, our kids have the opportunity to experience a variety of sports, recreation and arts & cultural events that otherwise would not be possible. Since 2004, Kids Up Front has been providing quality entertainment and educational experiences to kids and families across Greater Vancouver by redistributing unused event tickets and by creating special events to help heal, bond and unite. Thanks Kids Up Front!



For more information, visit: www.kidsupfront.com



Annual General Meeting in Pictures



Elder dancing.



Board members with honouring blanket.



SECWPEMC honouring grandmothers.



Rick Poitras speaking at the AGM.



Keynote Speaker Deb Canada, CEO Metis Commission

FAFP Caregiver Education Program

The FAFP has independently developed a training program for caregivers of Aboriginal children in care through its work with various Delegated Aboriginal Agencies throughout BC. This training is unique as it presents information, education and support from a spiritual, culturally supported and entrenched teaching style. The training includes local culture, traditions and ceremony as well as support from local Elders and the communities.

The FAFP believes that this training is critical for caregivers of Aboriginal children in care as it focuses on the unique needs, experience and challenges of those children. The focus is on practical, caregiving techniques and supports which enhance the outcomes for children in care.

Given the success of this program to date in the Vancouver/Coastal Region, the FAFP seeks support to deliver the Caregiver Education and Support program on a provincial level for all caregivers providing care for Aboriginal children in care in BC.

Please contact Gary or Gary at 604-291-7091 or 1-866-291-7091



Child welfare conference.



Foster parent training in Kamloops.

FAFP INTERIOR REGION REPORT

Spring is finally here!! The interior region office is moving!! My office will be moving from Westbank into Kelowna. I will now be located in office space from Métis Community Services society on Pandosy Street. I have added my new address to the bottom of this report.

In February I attended "Wraparound Training in Indian country" put on by Okanagan Nation Alliance. It was a great four day workshop on how we should be doing our work with our families in our communities.

Gaye and I facilitated an Aboriginal Pre-Service for Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency in Kamloops. 24 foster parents attended. By the time you read this newsletter, I will have facilitated my first Aboriginal Pre-Service in Vernon. Thank you to the 28 prospective and current foster parents who have attended these sessions.

Gaye Smith came up from Vancouver to Merritt in

FAFP VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION UPDATE

The fall has come and gone so quickly. Much has been done, and yet there is so much more to do. I am looking forward to the winter and spring and the opportunities to continue supporting the foster parents of Aboriginal children.

I have spent much of my time during the fall season networking and meeting people from the various agencies on Vancouver Island. I have met with both MCFD staff as well as personnel from many of the delegated agencies on the island. I have travelled to Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Campbell River. At all these visits, I have been well received and in most instances we have discussed the possibilities of working together to increase the recruitment, training or support for foster parents of Aboriginal children.

Some dates have been set for recruitment drives, and for pre-service training. We are beginning to work on developing a series of support and informational groups for foster parents. It is our intent to make these meetings both supportive around the issues foster parents are facing as well as providing them with relevant training and support materials and information.

We had a successful AGM in Kamloops in October. Many good ideas came forward from the gathering that we are now actively perusing. One idea was to work with BCFFPA to offer seminars on Insurance Training. These seminars will happen in both Victoria and Nanaimo. More information will be available soon.

mid-March, to facilitate another Pre-Service training.

The next few months are getting busy. FAFP has been getting requests from different areas of the Interior region to present a number of workshops. I will be putting all of the upcoming trainings on our website – www.fafp.ca and click on the Interior region.

Mark your calendars for the Roots Gathering on May 27, 28, and 29, 2011. This exciting weekend has lots of Aboriginal culture and many new things are being planned for weekend activities, there is camping available for the weekend. This weekend of fun takes place at the Armstrong fair grounds in Armstrong BC... Hope to see you there ...it is free and so much fun!!

All my relations,

Sheila Martial-Ridden

Sheila Ridden

Interior Region Coordinator

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

October was Foster parent Appreciation month. I attended several luncheons and dinners in recognition of the foster parents on Vancouver Island. I was often called upon to say a few words on behalf of the Federation. This was another great way to meet both organizational and ministry officials as well as many of the active foster parents and connect with them. I have been involved some regional meetings, maintaining a voice for Aboriginal children in care. I have also participated in some MCFD foster parent training, informing new foster parents about the supports and services available through FAFP.

The Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents has now contracted with Steve Sands from Victoria to offer some cultural teachings including operating a sweat lodge out in Sooke. We will be making more information available to agencies in the near future.

There is still much work to do here on Vancouver Island. I am optimistic that we can achieve many of our goals and objectives in the next few months. I am looking forward to my time as the Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator.

Respectfully Submitted

John Hugi

John Hugi

Vancouver Island Interim Regional Coordinator

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

VANCOUVER COASTAL & FRASER REGION / EDUCATION REPORT

It has been a long while since the last printing of our newsletter. With staff leaving and some coming back, it has taken some time to get this latest edition going.

We had another very successful AGM in Kamloops in October of 2010. We were also please to be partners with the Secwepmc Child & Family Services Society in presenting the Child Welfare Conference at the same time as our AGM. Very busy time for both of our agencies! Lots of pictures have been included in this issue!

Congratulations to Bradley and Lila Lachmuth who we honoured on behalf of all foster parents caring for Aboriginal children in BC. Thank you for all the work you do in caring for our children!

Thank you again this year to Bradley Dick who conducted our honouring ceremony as well as singing and sharing his traditional songs. You honour the Federation with your participation and support.



Our Research Project for the Caregiver Education Program is now completed and we are in negotiation regarding how we can implement this program provincially. We are looking to have lots of support from the Delegated Agencies and foster parents to help us make this a reality. The success of this program within the Vancouver/Coastal region has encouraged us in our endeavour to promote this program in this Provincial way.

This spring will start another busy year of trainings and we are working to set up the schedules in the regions. Please check our website for what trainings and workshops will be available in your area. www.fafp.ca

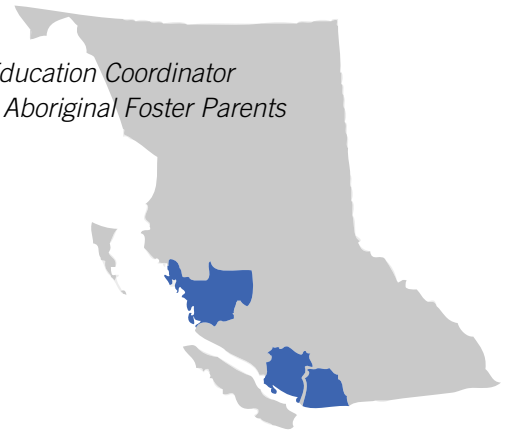
Our next issue will carry the details of our upcoming AGM in October 2011. We will also continue to update our website with AGM details and other important information for foster parents and other caregivers.

All My Relations

Gaye Smith

Gaye Smith

*Region and Education Coordinator
Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents*

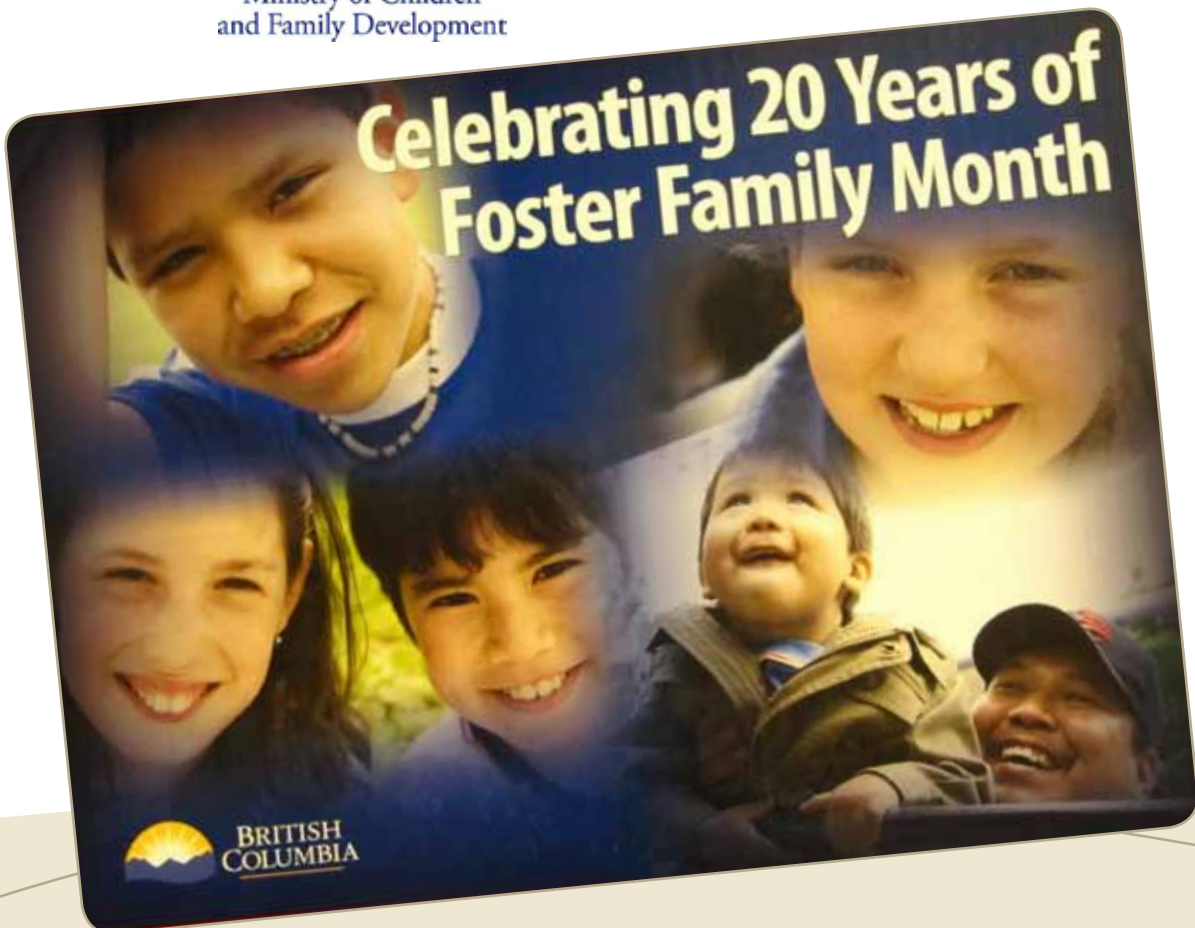


Foster Parent Recruitment

The FAFP has taken on an exciting new contract for the Ministry of Child and Family Services. We will be involved in recruiting new Foster Parents in the Circle 5 Region. We have hired Laurie Crosby as our new Recruitment Coordinator Circle 5 Region. Wish our new Foster Parent Recruiter luck! Keep up to date and get more information by calling our receptionist Roxanne.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Foster Parent please don't hesitate to call us at 604-291-7091.

With many thanks!



RESIDENTIAL REDESIGN AND REVIEW UPDATE

Report from the GM: Residential redesign

Findings from the joint B.C. committee working on child and youth residential redesign will be released in March, with an on-line survey and series of interviews and working sessions to follow later in the spring.

The committee is co-chaired by Alan Markwart, senior executive director of provincial services for the B.C. government, and the Federation's Jennifer Charlesworth. The findings report is the result of consultations last year with more than 600 people involved with the residential system, including service providers, the Ministry of Children and Family Development staff, foster caregivers and youth.

The report avoids drawing any conclusions or making recommendations, noted Alan Markwart during a presentation Feb. 17 at the Federation's general meeting. Key focus areas that have emerged to date are: achieving permanency for those involved in the system; providing access to a wider array of supports; recruitment, training, retention and support of foster caregivers; and working together effectively.

Two working sessions—one on permanency/foster caregiver supports, the other on access to a wider variety of supports—will be held in March and April. All committee efforts will eventually inform a new five-year residential-care plan for B.C.



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC



FPC IFCO Bursaries for Distribution

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations Helping Foster Parents and Youth Companions Attend IFCO 2011



2011 is the year that BC foster parents have the unique opportunity to attend an international conference taking place in our own province. IFCO 2011 takes place in Victoria from July 10-15, 2011. The week-long IFCO conference provides foster parents and service providers with an opportunity to learn, share and network with others from around the world.

Your BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations has established bursaries for up to 30 foster parents to assist with the cost of attending the conference. We invite you to submit your application for a chance to be awarded a bursary. Up to 6 foster parents will be chosen at random from eligible applications. We hope to see you there!

BCFFPA holds its 2011 Annual General Meeting in Victoria on July 9, 2011, just the day before the IFCO Conference begins! Please join us for the morning meeting and evening banquet to celebrate the beginning of an exciting event! For more information about our AGM, please contact our Provincial Office at 1-800-663-9999 or check out our website at www.bcfosterparents.ca.

Regional Boundaries Per MCFD	Amount Per FP	# of FPs	Total Per Region
Island Region	\$600	6	\$3,600
Vancouver Coastal Region	\$1000	6	\$6,000
Fraser Region	\$1000	6	\$6,000
Interior Region	\$1400	6	\$8,400
<u>North Region</u>	<u>\$1800</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>\$10,800</u>
Total Bursaries		30	\$34,800*
Total Assistance for FBCYICN Distribution (youth companions/chaperones)			\$5,000

Total in IFCO Bursaries for Foster Parents and Youth Companions/Chaperones	\$39,800
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* BCFFPA reserves the right to redistribute foster parent bursary funds should there be less than 6 applicants per region.

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations Helping Foster Parents and Youth Companions Attend IFCO 2011



Criteria for IFCO Foster Parent Bursaries

- Fostering for MCFD, Delegated Agency or Aboriginal Band in BC
- Must have an open and active fostering contract or be foster-to-adopt at present, verifiable through MCFD, Agency or Band
- Must provide name and contact information for resource worker or other relevant proof of foster status at time of bursary application
- All bursary applications must include:
 - i) Full name, complete mailing and physical residential address, contact phone number(s) and e-mail address (if available) of applicants (please submit only 1 application per foster family)
 - ii) photocopied proof of IFCO registration or hotel booking OR written intention of registration (follow up with copy of registration confirmation will be required)
 - iii) dated signature page of most recent Home Care Agreement/Contract, or letter stating fostering status with Aboriginal Band.
- Early bird registration (\$599 conference fee) closes on March 31, 2011. If you have pre-paid your registration fees you may still apply for the bursary.
- Full application package must be received by the BCFFPA Provincial Office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 10, 2011. A random draw of all eligible applications will be held on May 13, 2011.
- Bursary cheques will be mailed to recipients by June 1, 2011

Please send your IFCO Foster Parent Bursary application to:

BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
207-22561 Dewdney Trunk Road
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3K1

OR, send by e-mail to: office@bcfosterparents.ca
OR, fax to: 604-466-7490

Criteria for IFCO Youth Companion/Chaperone Bursaries

- Youth Companion/Chaperone Bursaries and criteria for these bursaries will be established and distributed by Federation of BC Youth In Care Network. www.fbcyicn.ca



**Our Spirits Are Strong InSide
Activities we have done:**

Cultural Youth Program

- Drum Making
- Sweatlodge Ceremonies
- Traditional Coneoing
- Button Blanket Making
- Youth Politik Conference
- Learning Traditional Songs
- Leadership through the Arts workshop
- A day trip to Victoria: Royal BC Museum

Youth Advisory Committee

- Leadership Workshop
- Mentorship Workshop
- Facilitation workshop
- Workshop development
- Public Speaking Workshop
- Communication Workshop
- Facilitating workshops in the community

Children's Program

- 10 weeks of Regaila Making workshops
- 5 weeks of Button Blanket Making workshops
- 1 day Medicine wheel workshop
- 1 day drumming workshop



If you or your child have any interest in our programing please contact Sade Scott at the FAFP office



After Hours Line (MCFD)

For emergencies outside of regular MCFD office hours (8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday).

Vancouver, North Shore & Richmond: 604.660.4927
Burnaby, Delta, Maple Ridge, Langley: 604.660.8180
Rest of BC: 1.800.663.9122

Foster Parent Support Line (MCFD)

A confidential service professionally staffed to provide assistance to caregivers throughout the province. This service is available Monday through Friday from 4:00pm to 12:45am and weekends and holidays from 8:00am to 12:45am.

Toll Free: 1.888.495.4440

Representative for Children and Youth of BC

If a caregiver is concerned that a child or youth may have a need or issue that is not adequately being addressed, the representative's office may have a role.

www.rcybc.ca

Toll Free: 1.800.476.3933

In Your Grasp

An online resource database of community organizations and supports available throughout the province.

www.inyourgrasp.bc.ca

HealthLink BC / BC NurseLine

Access to non-emergency health information and services 24 hours every day.

www.healthlink.bc.ca

Toll Free: 1.866.215.4700

Lower Mainland: 604.215.4700



**Eagle's Nest
Aboriginal Preschool**

Our play-based preschool program for 3-5 year old Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit children currently has spaces available and we are also registering children for September 2011. We deliver curriculum in an Aboriginal context that fosters social, emotional, physical, spiritual, cognitive and creative development.

We provide a daily nutrition program for the children, and families may also be eligible for our bus service. There is no cost for our program and we are located in Vancouver.

For more information, please contact:

Julie (604) 253-3354



Quest Food Exchange

Quest Outreach Society picks-up quality, unmarketable food from the food industry and redistributes it to social service agencies. Quest receives a wide variety of food from its donors for various reasons including seasonality, mislabeling, over-supply, blemished produce nearing expiration date, and over-production.

The type of food also varies and includes:

dairy products
carbohydrates (eg. pasta, rice, grain and bread)
fresh / canned fruits and vegetables
snacks
beverages
meat
soy products

The social service agencies then make the food available to their clients through food hampers, meal programs, and / or community kitchens. Quest Food Exchange operates a small network of warehouses and low-cost grocery stores as well as a commercial kitchen in Vancouver's downtown.

Quest distributes food in four ways:

Bulk Food – Quest can provide food to stock your community food cupboard, food bank, community kitchen, residence programs, and / or any other food program.

Catering – Quest's commercial kitchen can prepare a wide variety of custom meals for your clients, special events, and on-going meal programs.

Food Hampers – Quest food hampers are a great item for emergency food requirements for your clients. There are two sizes – individual and family – each containing enough food for about three days.

Client Shopping Service – For clients who would like to have more control over their food, this program allows them to be referred by a social service agency to Quest's low-cost grocery store where they can shop for their groceries.

Quest has low-cost grocery stores in Vancouver and Surrey.

For more information about the Quest Food Exchange Program visit: www.questoutreach.org

Phone: (604) 602-0186

Email: questoff@telus.net

TRADITIONAL FIRST NATIONS MEDICINES

First Nations people have had medicines to cure all kinds of ailments and sicknesses from time immemorial. These medicines were derived from the land: from plants, roots, trees, flowers and so on. There were traditional ways of preparing and using the medicine and this information was passed on from generation to generation.

Today we are seeing that many communities are looking to their past at ways of healing. Here are 4 types of medicines that are common among many First Nations groups.

The Four Sacred Medicines

Sweetgrass (the North) is used by almost all Aboriginal peoples in North America for ritual cleansing. When Sweetgrass is walked on, it bends but does not break. Hence, it has been associated with virtue: an injustice can be returned by a kindness, by bending, not breaking.

Tobacco (the East) is held as a sacred plant by most First Nations peoples. Tobacco connects us to the spirit world; it absorbs prayers and carries them to the spirit world. If a request is accompanied by an offer of tobacco that is accepted, the promise must be honored. Tobacco can also be used to thank the Creator for his gifts: if you enjoyed good weather, you could leave some tobacco on the ground, and say thank you for the gift. Tobacco is generally not smoked, except on special ceremonial occasions.

Cedar (the South) is used for purification and (taken as a tea) to attract positive energy, feelings, emotions and for balance. Its vitamin C content helped prevent scurvy when fruits and vegetables were unavailable during the winter months.

Sage (the West) is a women's medicine, conferring strength, wisdom, and clarity of purpose. It is a powerful purifying medicine that drives away negative energies. Sage can be found braided and hung in people's homes, perhaps tied with a ribbon in one of the colors of the medicine wheel. The threefold braid represents body, mind and spirit. Retrieved from: (http://www.med.uottawa.ca/curriculum/iph/data/Aboriginal_Medicine_e.htm)

For more information on Traditional First Nations Medicines and ways of healing you can talk to Elders or other family members that have the traditional wisdom. You can also read books from your local book store or library or take a look at these websites:

Aboriginal Medicine and Healing Process

http://www.med.uottawa.ca/curriculum/iph/data/Aboriginal_Medicine_e.htm

Traditional Medicine: First Nations Health Council

http://www.fnhc.ca/index.php/initiatives/community_health/traditional_medicine/

Turtle Island Native Network

<http://www.turtleisland.org/healing/healing-wellness.htm>



Cultural Journals

There are new and updated Cultural Journals for foster children. The purpose of the Cultural Journals is to track your child as they grow and learn about their Aboriginal Culture. This interactive and fun booklet is available for all Children and Youth in Care. By providing your Aboriginal child with access to information and events about their culture you are contributing to their sense of identity and well being.

Everyone deserves to have a sense of belonging and to know about their traditional culture. If you are interested in getting a new Cultural Journal for your child(ren) or youth please call Gaye at 604-291-7091.

There will be a small charge for these journals and we are looking to find out how many foster parents, social workers, etc. would be interested in making this purchase before we go to print. Thank you all for your assistance with this project.



Foster Parent Log Books

This recording journal is valuable not only to the Foster Parent but as well as for the child or youth and their future. You can record basic information as well as milestones and successes in your child's/youth's life.

These will be memories in your child(ren) life that they can look back on and cherish.

These journals will also help you the caregivers maintain that permanent record both for yourself and the agency/ministry you are contracted with. As we all know, keeping accurate records provides that Safeguarding option caregivers need.

Just a reminder, that the FAFP is providing these Log Books so that Foster Parents can maintain their contract agreements with their Delegated Agency and MCFD. We hope to have these available on line and/or print available soon.

For more information about the new Foster Parent Log books please call Gaye at 604-291-7091.



IFCO 2011 is Coming to Canada!



2011 World Conference



IFCO 2011—International Foster Care Organisation
XVII Biennial World Conference—July 10th to 15th
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

And You're ALL Invited!

XVII Biennial

2011 IFCO World Conference

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

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

What you can expect:

- A Fun and Active Children's Program
- An Exciting Youth Program
- An Outstanding Adult Program
- Excellent Networking Opportunities
- A Warm Welcome in Beautiful Victoria and a Truly Memorable Experience

Website & Contact Information:

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

International Foster Care Organisation Conference July 10 - 15 | Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC, Canada

[Register Here](#)

[Conference details](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[Keynote • Plenary • Presentation](#)

Toll free 1-888-922-8437 / www.ifco2011.com

Message from the IFCO 2011 Conference Planning Committee:

We are committed to delivering a dynamic conference that will provide opportunity for ALL delegates to take part in meaningful educational experiences, numerous networking opportunities, and a variety of entertaining social activities. Our theme of "*Fostering Hope - Together We Can Make A Difference*" is in recognition of the crucial role we all play in the life of a child: Parents, Foster Parents, Social Workers, Clinicians, Teachers, Child Care Workers and Extended Family are just a few of the people involved in a child's life. *Working Together as a Team - In Partnership - We Can and Do Make a Positive Difference!*

IFCO 2011 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society
- BC Ministry for Children & Family Development
- Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks
- Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents
- National Youth in Care Network
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
- Hollyburn Family Services
- Interior Community Services
- Canadian Foster Families Association
- Caring For First Nations Children Society
- Axis Family Resources Ltd
- BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations
- Adoptive Families Association of BC
- Okanagan Foster Parent Association
- Child and Family Counseling Association
- Thompson Rvs University-Sch of Social Work
- Indigenous Child Welfare Research Network

REGISTER EARLY!!

Register by March 31st and Save Up To \$160.00 (23%)

Adult Program:

\$599 Early Bird – \$100 Discount!

- **PLUS 10% DISCOUNT on Early Bird for IFCO members**
- **23% Savings for Early Bird IFCO Members!**

\$699 after March 31, 2011.

Youth Program | 14-24 years:

• \$349 EARLY BIRD – \$50 Discount!

\$399 after March 31, 2011.

Children's Program | 4-13 years:

• \$249 EARLY BIRD – \$50 Discount!

\$299 after March 31, 2011.

Who Can Foster Aboriginal Children?

To become a caregiver of Aboriginal children and youth, you must be over the age of 19 and have the maturity to provide care and guidance to children and youth. Although you do not have to be Aboriginal, it is preferred that you have a clear understanding of or willingness to learn about Aboriginal culture and traditions, and are committed to sharing these teachings with Aboriginal children in your home.

Single people, couples and families– with or without children– can all become caregivers. Your financial situation should not prevent you from applying. You do not need to own your own home, but should have additional rooms available to respect the privacy of the children and youth that will be staying with you.



Why Do We Need Aboriginal Foster Parents?

Aboriginal children currently make up more than 53% of the children in care in BC. They are not only separated from their families, but many times are also separated from their language and culture. In ideal situations, all Aboriginal children would be placed in Aboriginal homes, preferably from their same nation, where they will receive parental and cultural guidance.

Having a secure cultural identity has proven to make children more resilient through this tough time in their young lives. Also, living in a home similar to their community and culture will often make their transition home easier.

Sadly, there are not enough Aboriginal homes and many First Nations, Métis and Inuit children in care are growing up without fully knowing who they are and where they come from. That's why Aboriginal caregivers are urgently needed.

For more information, go to www.fafp.ca or contact us at:

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents
Toll Free: 1-866-291-7091
Email: info@fafp.ca



BLOK
PRINTING LTD.
4185 McConnell Drive
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 3J7
P: 604.420.1231
F: 604.420.8868
www.blokprinting.com

Membership Application / Renewal



Please complete and return to:

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3H4 1-866-291-7091

NAME(S): _____ **PHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

E-MAIL: _____ **REGION:** _____

I provide:

Restricted ___ Regular ___ Level I ___ Level II ___ Level III ___ Contractor ___ Youth Justice ___ Other ___

Child Care Agreements: MCFD ___ Delegated Agency ___

Cultural Background: Aboriginal ___ Other (Non-Aboriginal) ___

Community Location: On Reserve ___ Rural ___ Urban ___

Foster Child Information: Aboriginal (Métis, etc) Yes ___ No ___

New Membership: ___ **Renewal Membership:** ___ **(General and Associate memberships are 5 year terms)**

General Members are those who are caring for Aboriginal Children. Associate members are those who support FAFP.

General Membership: \$10.00 ___ Couple \$20.00 ___

Associate: \$5.00 ___

Couple: \$10.00 ___

Corporate: \$50.00 ___ (renewable yearly)

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

Publication Mail Agreement# 41442532

Please complete and return to:

Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents

3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3H4 1-866-291-7091