

# The Island Connection

Serving Vancouver Island Foster Parents through Peer Support, Education, Networking & ongoing Training

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*Foster parents foster hope.  
You're there for the children.  
We're here for you.*

CPC PUB #40780167



FPSS Society is CARF Accredited

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society or the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

NEWSLETTER:

Is published 5 times per year and mailed free of charge to any foster home & MCFD office in the Vancouver Island region.

**ADVERTISING INFORMATION:**

Margaret Howley, Executive Director  
Tel: 778-430-5462 / Fax: 778-430-5463  
mhowley@fpsss.com

**Call Us  
TOLL FREE AT  
1-888-922-8437**  
Visit our website at  
**www.fpsss.com**

## Do You Need Help or Information?

The following numbers are provided for your convenience. Please feel free to call these numbers when you need assistance.

### EMERGENCY "After Hours" Duty Worker (MCFD)

Contact Number: 1-800-663-9122

- Foster Parents are encouraged to call this number in the event of an EMERGENCY or CRISIS concerning a child in their care, occurring after regular office hours.

### FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT LINE (MCFD)

Call Toll Free: 1-888-495-4440

Weekdays: 4:00pm to 12:45am

Statutory Holidays & Weekends: 8:00am to 12:45am

If you have a n immediate concern relating to child in your care we are here to help you and will provide:

- Fast response for urgent issues outside regular office hours.
- Professional support, information and consultation.

### PROTOCOL SUPPORT WORKER TEAM (FPSSS)

TOLL FREE 1-888-922-8437

The FPSS Society office can arrange for a support person to help you through a Protocol Investigation.

- The support person can answer your questions, attend any interviews with you, and give you information about the investigation.

### FPSS SOCIETY COORDINATORS (FPSSS)

TOLL FREE 1-888-922-8437

Weekdays 9:00am to 4:00pm—Closed Weekends and Statutory Holidays

The FPSSS Coordinators are available 5 days a week to assist you.

- There are three FPSS Society Offices—Victoria (778-430-5460), Nanaimo (250-390-9686), Campbell River (250-286-0555), and one Local Coordinator in Port Hardy (250-949-7397) and one in Port Alberni (250-724-9655).
- Coordinators are available to assist foster parent in obtaining current information; support services for caregivers; on-going training and development opportunities; peer support and mentoring; and BC Foster Care Education Program information.



The Island Connection is now accepting advertising from local Vancouver Island merchants and businesses.

*Do you have goods or services that would be useful and beneficial to foster parents and/or community service providers?*

Why not place an advertisement in this publication—The Island Connection? Businesses extending a discount to foster families will receive a 10% discount on advertising costs.

Newsletter Distribution: all Vancouver Island foster families, ministry offices and posted to our website.

Contact Margaret Howley at 778-430-5462 or Toll Free at 1-888-922-8437 for information about our extremely affordable pricing. Some restrictions apply.

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space will be used to offset printing costs and Foster Parent Special Events.

The following is a listing of Ministry approved homes willing to provide Relief Care for foster parents. This list is for information purposes only. Foster parents must make their own arrangements *with the prior knowledge and approval of their Resource Worker.*

### SOUTH Island Relief Care Listing

CAREGIVER	PHONE 250-	TYPE OF HOME
Baldwin Lori	381-6971	Regular/ 0-8 yrs
Ryan Melissa & Kevin	642-3008	Regular/ 0-5 yrs
Sabadash Sheila & Ed	360-0622	Regular/0-14 yrs
Buhr Johanna & Darren	391-1878	Regular/0-5 yrs
Morley Sandy & Bob	478-8490	Level 2/0-5 yrs
Morin Heather & Bill	479-9975	Level 1/0-14 yrs
Kitcher Julie	294-0275	Level 1 / 0-12 yrs
Dyble Rob & Susan	642-5774	Lev 1 / 6-12 yrs boys
Johner Lynette	474-4083	Level 1/ 2-12 yrs
Adams Karen	652-0727	Level 2/ 0-12 yrs
Batten Linda & Doug	642-2579	Level 2/ 0-12 yrs
Moore Kelly	920-9206	Level 2/ 0-8 yrs
Cameron Connie & Gord	385-4673	Level 2/ 0-9 Girls
Case Sandy & Rob	478-2782	Level 2/ 0-5 yrs
Beattie Kerston	475-3639	Level 2 / 0-12 yrs
Shumard Laura & Steve	478-1973	Level 2/ 0-5 yrs
Henderson Carol Henderson	474-7470	Level 2/ 0-12 yrs
Jane Foster Barb Csinos	360-2900	Level 3/ 5-10 boys
Fast Kathryn	475-1838	Level 3 / 7m-7yrs
Hayward Terri	590-5051	Level 3
Fisher Heather	885-2776	Level 3
Clifford Shandra	727-6542	Level 3/ 0-10 yrs
Gerry David & Grace	383-0818	Level 3/ 0-12
Dewar Maria & Bob	478-6503	Level 3/ 5-19 boys

### CENTRAL Island Relief Care

Please Note: Central Island area Foster Parents are encouraged to contact their Resource Social Worker, or the **Child's Social Worker** when seeking relief care from Ministry approved caregivers.

### UPPER Island Relief Care Listing

Cole Jacqueline	339-6710	Level 2
Anderton Ev & Warren	338-4064	Level 3
Caine Naomi	898-8218	Level 2
Smith Karen & William	897-3688	Level 2

### The Relief Foster Care Rates

Restricted (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs)	\$36.79
Restricted (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs)	\$40.33
Regular (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs)	\$36.79
Regular (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs)	\$40.33
Level 1 (all ages)	\$55.60
Level 2 (all ages)	\$68.35

# Lend a Hand!

Join the IFCO 2011 World Conference  
CREW of Volunteers!

The IFCO 2011 Conference Planning Committee is currently recruiting volunteers to help with the upcoming World Conference to be held in July 2011. (see pages 16 & 17)

This opportunity will be of interest to local foster parents, social workers, and other individuals involved in the Child Welfare community. (Must have a current, clean Criminal Record Check)

We need people to provide volunteer services in the following areas: Translators, I.T., ambassadors, child-minders, workshop hosts, registration desk, information desk, runners, set up / tear down, certified First Aid attendants, and more.



Please contact Sandy Case at 250-478-2782 or Margaret Howley at 778-430-5459 to sign up and/or learn more about this exciting and fun opportunity to "Lend a Hand"!

### GUIDELINE TO THE FAMILY CARE RATE—2009\*

Basic Foster Care Costs (per month)	Ages 0-11 years	Ages 12-19 years
Food	135.04	183.35
Housing	149.51	183.35
Transportation	67.52	76.89
Personal Needs	14.46	17.74
Recreation	33.78	35.50
Clothing	81.98	94.63
Sub-total	482.29	591.46
Additional Family Care Costs	Ages 0-11 years	Ages 12-19 years
Education	25.72	31.85
Babysitting	86.81	57.33
Transportation	61.09	60.51
Personal Spending	41.79	54.14
Gifts/ Activities	61.09	60.51
Equipment/ Recreation	45.03	54.15
Sub-total	321.53	318.49
Total Maintenance (per month)	803.82	909.95

\*The amounts in each category are estimates of what is required for most children. Actual costs will vary between categories, with some caregivers spending more in some categories but less in others. The total amounts should be sufficient to cover the actual costs for most children.



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

*It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking **National Foster Family Week**, from October 17 – 23, 2010.*

*This week recognizes the important role and contributions of foster families in Canada. Foster families step in voluntarily where family structures can no longer cope and children are unable to live in their own homes. Whether the placement is for a few days or for many years, foster parents make a positive difference in the lives of children with complex needs by providing a stable, nurturing environment.*

*I would like to commend the many thousands of Canadian foster parents who generously expand their family circles to include children in need. The path you have chosen requires extraordinary patience and love, and the rewards are often intangible or fleeting, but you may take satisfaction in knowing that your selfless actions are helping to shape our nation's future.*

*On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer you my best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable week.*

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.*

OTTAWA  
2010

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FOSTER FAMILY MONTH

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
 For Immediate Release  
 2010CFD0021-001191  
 Oct. 4, 2010

VICTORIA – Foster families are celebrating a major milestone this year – **it’s the 20th year of Foster Family Month being proclaimed in British Columbia**, announced Children and Family Development Minister Mary Polak.

Originally proclaimed as a week in October 1990, Foster Family Month has grown to include many regional, community and **provincial events. An event to honour B.C.’s more than 3,400 foster families** – and recognize the integral role they play in supporting vulnerable children and youth – was held today at the Legislature.

**“Foster parents invest so much into helping children and youth through a tremendously difficult time in their lives,”** said Polak. **“They aren’t just providing a home and a bed** – they are opening their hearts and providing children a safe, nurturing and supportive home when they are unable to be with their own families. Foster parents really are the cornerstone of our services to support children in care - **and we simply couldn’t do our work without them.”**

**Jordan Batchelor, who spoke at today’s event, knows first-hand** the rewards of living with a caring foster family. Now 21, Jordan was adopted at 14 by his foster parents – the same parents who cared for, supported and believed in him for the first 14 years of his life. Now entering his 4th year of university, Jordan plans on pursuing his doctorate.

**“The care I received while in the foster system helped me to overcome the adversity I encountered,”** said Batchelor. **“Without those willing to open their homes and hearts I never would have had the opportunity to grow up with the support I received. It’s inspiring to see the love and commitment that is given to ensure every child and young person has the tools to allow them to reach their full potential.”**

Children and youth in care arrive in foster family homes with a diverse range of challenges, but all share the need to be supported by caring adults who will nurture their development and provide a stable living environment. Fostering enables children, youth and their families to come through some of the most challenging situations and, by building on their strengths, helps to develop the resilience they need to reach their full potential.

The B.C. Federation of Foster Parent Associations (BCFFPA) and the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (FAFP) offer support and encouragement to – and a voice for – **B.C.’s foster parents. In partnership with the government, both organizations focus on public awareness and recruitment and retention of foster parents to help build the best system of care for B.C.’s children and youth.**

**“It is my honour to thank the foster parents of British Columbia for their continued support of the children and youth of this province,”** said Heather Bayes, president of the BCFFPA. **“The care and safety that you supply generously to children in very difficult circumstances is very much appreciated.”**

**“There is always a need for more foster families of Aboriginal backgrounds, so that Aboriginal children in care can maintain their cultural identities and community links,”** said Gary Mavis, executive director of the FAFP. **“We recognize that Aboriginal children have the right to grow up in their own culture, and we absolutely encourage interested individuals from Aboriginal communities to apply to be foster parents.”**

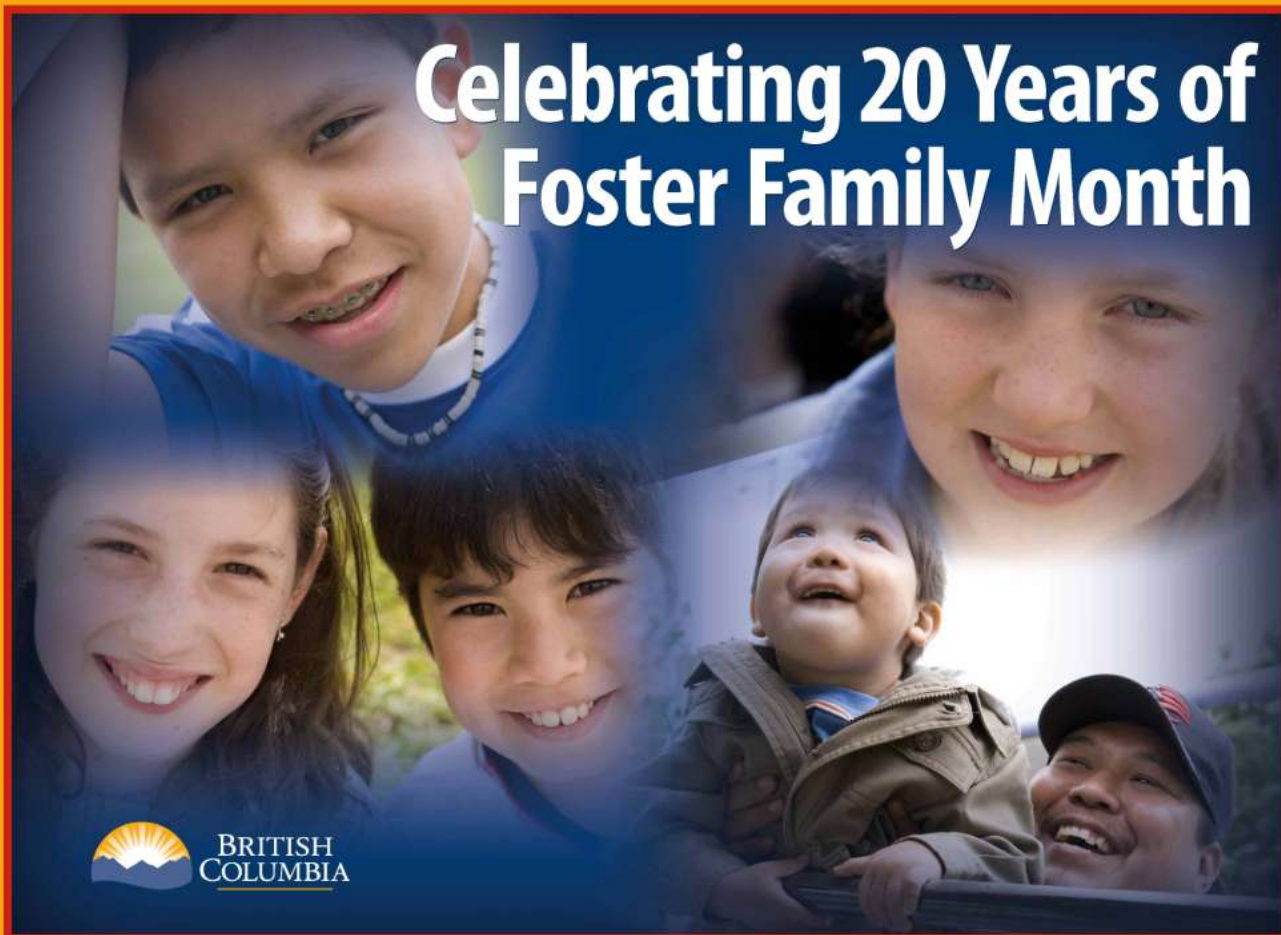
There is a continual need for more individuals and families to open their hearts and their homes to help children and youth. The most important qualification someone can bring to this role is a desire to provide a supportive, caring home environment **and to make a positive difference in a child’s life. Anyone, 19 years of age or older, who wants to share their home with a child in need can apply to be a foster parent.**

**For more information on fostering, please visit the Ministry of Children and Family Development’s website at [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster) or call the Foster Line toll-free at 1 800 663-9999.**

For more information on the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, please visit [www.fafp.ca](http://www.fafp.ca).

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Contact:  
 Christine Ash  
 Media Relations Manager  
 Ministry of Children and Family Development  
 250 356-1639



## BACKGROUND

Ministry of Children and Family Development  
For Immediate Release—2010CFD0021-001191  
Oct. 4, 2010

### ABOUT FOSTERING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Facts about foster families in British Columbia:

Foster family homes are the primary placement resource for children in care. B.C. has approximately 8,400 children and youth in its care, and of those, about 6,000 children and youth are placed with approximately 3,400 foster families across the province.

- About 35 per cent of children in care who are adopted in B.C. are actually adopted by their foster family.
- Delegated Aboriginal agencies, the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents (FAFP) and the ministry are working to increase the number of Aboriginal foster homes and build the capacity of Aboriginal communities to provide support for vulnerable children.
- There is always a need for more foster families of all cultural, social and ethnic backgrounds, so that children in care can maintain their cultural and community connections.
- Anyone, 19 years or older, who wants to share their home with a child in need can apply to become a foster parent.
- Foster parents must be in good physical and mental health, and they receive training and undergo background, criminal record,

and reference checks. On average, the approval process takes three months.

- Once the approval process is completed successfully, newly approved foster parents must sign an agreement outlining their responsibilities and complete the 53 hour B.C. Foster Care Education Program within two years.
- There are different types of foster homes: restricted foster parents care for children they know or are related to their family, regular foster parents provide care for up to six children of varying ages and needs, and specialized foster parents provide care for children with more challenging behaviour or developmental needs.
- Support, education and advocacy services are provided through the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations ([www.bcfosterparents.ca](http://www.bcfosterparents.ca)), the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents ([www.fafp.ca](http://www.fafp.ca)) and regional foster parent agencies.

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Contact:  
Christine Ash, Media Relations Manager  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
250 356-1639

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

# Celebrating 20 Years of FOSTER FAMILY Month

Submitted by Margaret Howley



Steve Batchelor, Bev Batchelor, Jordan Batchelor and The Right Honourable Minister Mary Polak

On October 4th, The Right Honourable Minister Mary Polak hosted a ceremony at the Parliament Buildings to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Foster Family Month, and to acknowledge and sincerely thank foster parents for the crucial role foster families play in the lives of children and youth in care.

*“Foster parents invest so much into helping children and youth through a tremendously difficult time in their lives,”* said Minister Polak. *“They aren’t just providing a home and a bed – they are opening their hearts and providing children a safe, nurturing and supportive home when they are unable to be with their own families. Foster parents really are the cornerstone of our services to support children in care - and we simply couldn’t do our work without them.”*



Guest speakers also included MLA Ida Chong, BCFFPA President Heather Bayes, FAFP Vice President Rick Poitras, and former child in care Jordan Batchelor. All spoke in praise of foster families and the difficult role they fulfill.

The event was attended by several local foster families, ministry and support agency staff, including ADM Chuck Eamer, RED Mark Armitage, Residential Resources TL Veronica Berlando, FAFP ED Gary Mavis, BCFFPA ED Jayne Wilson, FPSSS ED Margaret Howley, and FPSSS Regional Coordinator Dan Malone. The poster pictured above and below was unveiled to commemorate the occasion, along with refreshments and a beautiful cake.

## Jordan’s Speech:

I’m very proud to be speaking to all of you for the 20th Anniversary of Foster Family Month. I’m so happy that each year we recognize all the time, effort and hard work that is put in by the fostering community. First of all, I must give thanks to my biological mother, while unable to support me, she had so much faith in my mom and the foster care system as a whole, that when I was born she was able to make the toughest decision a mother could make. I would also like to thank Lois and Peter, whose care I was in for a very short time, and Gail Clark whom I consider to be my favorite aunt.

In 1995 my foster parents, now my mom and dad, got married. However, it’s not until now that I realized the significance of this event. Not only did that secure the family structure to allow my adoption to proceed, but also created a loving and diverse family in which to thrive.

My mom and dad have been there for me through the good times and the bad. I didn’t always make the best decisions, as fetal alcohol

syndrome inhibited my thought processes, and this was always a challenge to them. Despite this, they rose to the occasion and helped me learn and make the right decisions. While living in a foster home had its challenges, it is a part of my life that has allowed me to have so much respect for those around me, and to be the best I can possibly be, for myself, my family, and my community.

With the fantastic support from my parents, I worked hard, graduated high school and set my sights on bigger things. University. For me, university isn’t just about the education received. The choice of what to study was influenced by living in a foster home as my drive to understand people better and study anthropology stems from learning how diverse people are which I gained growing up with other children and youth from all walks of life. I look at University as a stepping stone. The stone before was influenced by being a foster child and the stone ahead is to learn more about human nature and its differences to combine my understanding and knowledge to take me around the world to help in other locales.



In closing, I would like to thank everyone in the community, from foster families, to those that provide support services, to the ministry for ensuring the system is as smooth and uniform as possible. It takes many little pieces to ensure that one person has the support they need, and the foster system shows that people can come together to support a common cause. Just imagine, if a woman in 1989 had enough belief in the system then to make the hard decision to give up her newborn child think about the support and dedication that is now present in 2010. The foster community is always growing, and becoming stronger and foster parents everywhere will continue to help the community grow, and while in a perfect world foster parents wouldn’t have to exist, they do, continuing to help make the world a better place. I’m glad I could join you in celebrating the 20th anniversary, and here is to many more. Thank you.



Heather Bayes, Rick Poitras, Jordan Batchelor and Minister Polak

# South Island News & Events

Foster Parent/MCFD Advisory Meeting  
 FPSS Society Office, #145-735 Goldstream Avenue  
 Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am  
 Our local executive meets with Ministry Staff to discuss issues and concerns that are presented to them by foster parents.  
 If you have anything you would like added to the agenda please contact Sandy Case at [slcase@shaw.ca](mailto:slcase@shaw.ca).

Lifebook Work Session – Show and Tell  
 FPSS Society Office, #145-735 Goldstream Avenue  
 Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
 Please bring your Lifebooks to this work session and be prepared to **share your “Hassle Free” approach/ideas/strategies to share with others.**

Coffee/Support Mornings  
 345 Wale Road, Youth Room  
 Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am  
 Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am  
 This is a great opportunity for foster parents to support and network with each other on a regular basis. Free on-site babysitting provided.

Foster Parent/Resource Team Meeting  
 MCFD Office, 345 Wale Road in the 2nd Floor Boardroom  
 Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am  
 Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am  
 This is an opportunity for all foster parents to meet with resource social workers and be informed of Ministry updates, staffing changes, policy changes, and have their questions answered. There will be a different guest speaker at each meeting. Free on-site babysitting provided.

## Discovery Youth and Family Substance Use Services - South Island

Speaker: Daniel Cook

FPSS Society Meeting Room  
 #145-735 Goldstream Avenue  
 Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
 To register please contact Dan Malone  
 at 778-430-5460 or [svicoordinator@fpss.com](mailto:svicoordinator@fpss.com)

- Provides counselling for youth who are experiencing difficulties related to their own or another person's substance use.
- Offers counselling for parents, family members, and caregivers who are affected by their youth's substance use and for families to help them resolve conflicts and increase resiliency.
- Assists clients to identify, acquire and organize other beneficial services, supports and resources (e.g., residential treatment, physical health care, supportive recovery options, psychiatric consultation).
- Program uses a variety of models and approaches based on the client's theory of change and/or potential fit for the clients.

All caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## FOSTERING 101

FPSS Society, #145-735 Goldstream Avenue  
 Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to 9:30pm  
 (6:30-7:00 Meet & Greet)

SIFPA & FPSSS would like to invite you all to an interactive meeting with lively discussion on current fostering issues.

1. Head Lice: What to do if your children get it and how to prevent it - Speaker: Violletta
2. Ministry Expectations - Facilitating Sibling Visits - Transitioning children from one home to another. Speaker: Sandy Case

Please RSVP to Sandy Case  
 at 250-478-2782 or [slcase@shaw.ca](mailto:slcase@shaw.ca)

## Christmas Events!

Annual Foster Parent Christmas Dinner at The Keg  
 3940 Quadra Street Keg  
 Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm  
**Let's Kick Off the Holiday Season!**  
 RSVP to Nicola MacKay at 250-744-4119 or  
[Nicola.MacKay@telus.net](mailto:Nicola.MacKay@telus.net)

Foster Family Christmas Party  
 Eagle Ridge Recreation Centre, 1089 Langford Parkway  
 Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm to 4:00pm  
**Admission- Potluck Lunch item and food bank donation**  
 Live Entertainment, Visit from Santa - Gifts for all children,  
**Children's Craft Table & Face Painting, and Silent Auction!**  
 Please RSVP to Darlene by November 20<sup>th</sup> at 250-888-1595  
 or [younger\\_younger@shaw.ca](mailto:younger_younger@shaw.ca)

**Children's Christmas Shopping Night**  
 FPSS Society Office, #145-735 Goldstream Avenue  
 Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to 9:00pm  
**Bring your kids, and bring your loonies!**  
 Children can buy gently used items and get them wrapped for their families for Christmas. Any donations for this event would be greatly appreciated, please call Sandy Case at 250-478-2782 or email [slcase@shaw.ca](mailto:slcase@shaw.ca)

Christmas Potluck Luncheon  
 345 Wale Road in the Youth Room  
 Friday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am to 1:30pm  
**Bring your favourite holiday dish for the table!**  
 Babysitting provided.



Perpetual Bottle Drive  
 First drop off day – Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, anytime.  
 Victoria—**Julie Kitcher's** at 4109 Cortez Place  
 or Westshore—**Sandy Case's** 2842 Hagel Road.  
 We appreciate any donation no matter how big or small. Bottles may be dropped anytime throughout the year at Julie Kitcher's.



# Graceful SOLUTIONS



**Strategies for Wellbeing**  
Grace Gerry CPCA

## Are you...

Dealing with loss or transition? Running on empty? Gaining weight due to stress?

*Wouldn't it be nice to feel centred, strong and peaceful again, even shed some pounds?*

Grace Gerry is a counsellor with experience of fostering and social work so she really understands!

Working with her will make a difference!

*Call or email Grace today & set up a Complimentary Session to decide*

(250)370-2254, [gracegerry@shaw.ca](mailto:gracegerry@shaw.ca) or [www.gracefulsolutions.ca](http://www.gracefulsolutions.ca)

## COBS BREAD

Foster parents are reminded to state they are South Island Foster Parents if they are making a purchase at **Cobb's on Millstream or at Westshore Town Center. Cobb's will donate 5% of foster parent purchases to SIFPA at the end of the year.** Thank you all for helping us with this fundraiser which in turn contributes to the activities that SIFPA puts on for your children.

## Peer Support Service

SOUTH ISLAND

Friendly, non-judgmental, and confidential support to local caregivers regarding family issues, behaviour management guidance, personal support, and debriefing.

Whether you need an objective sounding board from someone who understands what fostering is all about or someone to help you trouble shoot a crisis situation.

You are invited to call Vicky at 250-661-3348 Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 8:00pm or email at [vbridge@shaw.ca](mailto:vbridge@shaw.ca)

[www.applausehairstudio.com](http://www.applausehairstudio.com)



## Applause

Applause is much more than just hair. We offer skin and nail treatments, esthetic services, and opportunities to learn the latest in hair and skin care from our professional staff.

Come see us for a complimentary consultation — the coffee is always on.

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Foster Parent Discount  
On Any Hair Care Service

HAIR AND ESTHETICS STUDIO | *Your best look deserves Applause!*

300 - 1913 Sooke Rd, Victoria, BC V9B 1V9 | 250.478.4322

# Central Island News & Events

## NANAIMO & AREA

### Infant Massage

Speaker: Angie Garnett, Nanaimo Child Dev Centre  
Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>—1:00pm to 3:00pm  
FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road

Discover the many benefits your baby will gain from just a few minutes of infant massage per day. This will be an interactive workshop and Foster Parents are more than welcome to bring their babies. There will be dolls for those who do not wish to bring their little ones.

- Please Call Mem Xavier to register 250-390-9686 or e-mail [cicoordinator@fpss.com](mailto:cicoordinator@fpss.com)

### At Risk Teens Workshop

Speaker: Sheryl Armstrong, RCMP  
Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>—10:00am to Noon  
FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road

The Nanaimo RCMP will be presenting an information session about **At Risk Teens**. Sheryl Armstrong is Nanaimo's community liaison officer and will speak about a variety of topics including:

- Human Trafficking,
- Prostitution,
- and Drug Use

Please register for this workshop by calling Area Coordinator—Mem Xavier at 250-390-9686 or by e-mail [cicoordinator@fpss.com](mailto:cicoordinator@fpss.com)

### Attachment Workshop

Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>—10:00am to Noon  
FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road

Back by popular demand: Anita and Sheila from the Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health Services will be presenting part 2 of an attachment workshop that was presented in October. You are not required to have attended the first part to join this workshop.

- Please register by calling Mem Xavier at 250-390-9686 or by e-mail [cicoordinator@fpss.com](mailto:cicoordinator@fpss.com)

### Central Island Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00pm  
FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road

**You're invited to stop by the Nanaimo FPSS Society Nanaimo Office** for a Social Afternoon Christmas Tea to celebrate the Holidays with other foster parents and MCFD Staff.

- Coffee, tea and cookies will be served
- Bring the children for a Christmas Treat
- Please RSVP to Mem at 250-390-9686 so that he can plan for adequate refreshments and treats for the little ones.



## Central Vancouver Island Support Groups and Life Book Sessions

*You're there for the Kids ...*

*We're here for you!*

The direction and focus of the group is up to you – please come to our first group and share your ideas and suggestions for upcoming educational opportunities and training over coffee and snacks.

It is so important for caregivers to get together and support one another, especially during these sometimes difficult transition periods (back-to-school). Veteran fosterers are definitely encouraged to attend these meetings and offer support to our newer caregivers.

Peer groups provide a wonderful opportunity to:

- meet other caregivers in your area;
- share ideas, stories, and strategies;
- offer and receive peer support;
- and much, much more.

### Safe Babies Group:

Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>—10:00am to noon  
FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road

### Nanaimo Support/Coffee Groups:

Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>—10:00am to noon  
Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>—10:00am to noon  
FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road

### Life Book Session:

FPSS Society Meeting Room  
102-6421 Applecross Road  
Call Mem for date and time

## COWICHAN VALLEY & AREA

### Cowichan Valley Support/Coffee Group

Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>—10:00am to noon  
Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>—10:00am to Noon

- 2471 Beverly Street, behind the elementary school at the Alexander Centre

### Cowichan Valley Partnership Meeting

Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Please Note New Location:

161 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Duncan

Join other caregivers in partnership with MCFD staff to discuss issues, concerns and ideas.

- Discussion will be followed by a delicious potluck lunch.

## PARKSVILLE & AREA

### Parksville & Oceanside Support Group

- For support group information, please contact Bonnie Lamarche at 250-954-4737.

# Central Island News & Events

## PORT ALBERNI AND AREA

Coffee Evening

Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>—6:00pm to 8:00pm

**Smitty's Restaurant**

- Come, meet and gab ☺

Coffee/Peer Support Group

Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>—9:30am to 11:30am

First United Church on Church Street

- Please bring any gently used items for purchase at the Children's shopping store;
- and any gently used blankets, coats, boots or winter wear for donation to the Salvation Army.

Babysitting is provided ☺



Foster Parent Christmas Lunch

Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>—10:00am to 1:00pm

The Pine Café

*Please bring a gift under \$10.00 for the gift exchange*

Children's Xmas Shopping Store

Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>—6:30pm to 8:30pm

First United Church on Church Street

Bring the kids to do their Christmas shopping!

Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>—6:30pm to 8:30pm

First United Church on Church Street.

Santa, singing, games, treats and crafts.

Please bring a \$10.00 gift, wrapped and labeled for each of your children.

For more information on any of these Christmas events

please call Collette at 250-724-3642.

## Wanted: Protocol Support Workers

FPSS Society is currently recruiting volunteer Protocol Support Workers for the Vancouver Island Region, particularly the Nanaimo and Duncan areas.

*Are you ...*

- an experienced foster parent;
- a good listener;
- discreet and objective; and
- interested in the child welfare system?

If so, then you may want to consider joining our Protocol Support Team. Training and out-of-pocket expenses are provided.

Please consider providing support for your fellow caregivers.

Please call Dan Malone at  
1-888-922-8437 to learn more.

## FACEBOOK AND FOSTERING:

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIAL NETWORK SITES

Social networks sites are neither private, nor secure.

Some examples of these sites are: Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. Postings on these sites can be altered, printed and redistributed by anyone. Information posted on social networks and blogs can be accessed by anyone indefinitely.

Foster parents need to ensure they do not post photos, captions, personal information such as names and birthdates, or information about other household members of Children In Care on the foster parents own blogs or networking pages.

While children and youth in care may be visiting social networking sites for their personal use, foster parents need to ensure that the child/youth is following the rules around the age limits for children and youth starting up their own pages.

Foster parents should not be using social media to post information regarding children in care.

<http://www.nanaimofostering.ca/practices-and-procedures.php>



# Upper Island News & Events

## COMOX VALLEY AND AREA EVENTS:

Foster Parent Standard Training

**Standard F.2 Child's Individual Service Record**

Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>—9:30am to 11:00am

MCFD Boardroom, 2455 Mansfield Drive, Courtenay

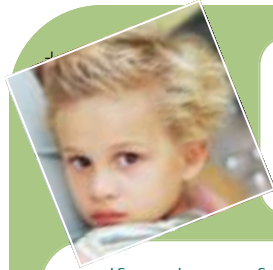
This half-day training will address topics in documenting, monthly reporting, reportable incidents, and legal requirements when files go to court. Contact Judy Hollywood or your resource worker to register.

Foster Parent/MCFD Partnership Meeting and Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>—9:30am to noon

MCFD Boardroom, 2455 Mansfield Drive, Courtenay

Bring your potluck contribution and visit and learn at the annual Christmas event. All foster parents and social workers are welcomed to attend. You can participate in an open discussion regarding local fostering issues, training, trends, MCFD up-dates as well as ask questions while you nibble on a Christmas treat!



## Becoming a Foster Parent in the Comox Valley

If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster parent in the Comox Valley please have them contact

**Donna Rushton, RSW**

**at 250-334-5820**

to learn how, and to find out about up-coming Foster Parent Information Sessions.

## Upper Island Foster Parent Relief Care Listing & Information Package

There are a number of capable caregivers in our area willing to provide relief care for foster parents. To learn how to recruit, screen and orient relief caregivers while meeting the Foster Parent Standards on Alternative Care Arrangements please call your resource social worker or the Upper Island Area Coordinator at 250-286-0555 for your copy of the "Foster Parents Guide to Relief Care" package.

In the Comox Valley, Jill Beech has kindly agreed to maintain the relief care listing of approved and non-approved homes for foster parents to access. Please call Jill at 250- 338-1261 to access this list. In Campbell River, foster parents wishing to access the local relief care list can call Ellen Fyfe at 250-287-3727.

CR Foster Parent Alliance

Creating our Networks Finding Our Voice

Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>—11:00am to 1:00pm

**C.R. Family Services' Conference Room, 487 - 10th Avenue**

Partly social, partly learning, join foster parents at the Alliance

meetings to connect, share and collaborate in our role as caregivers.

The November meeting will be devoted to a discussion of methods for creating support networks that protect confidentiality and result in a common voice when identify fostering issues. *Child friendly room, refreshments available, bring your brown bag lunch. Please call Judy with ideas or for details at 250-286-0555.*

Joint Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>—9:00am to 10:30am

MCFD Office, 929 Ironwood Road

Foster parents and social workers are invited to participate in these meetings where we identify and plan training events for the fostering community. Please contact Judy at 250-286-0555 for up-coming dates.

## CAMPBELL RIVER AND AREA EVENTS:

Kids Only Shopping Day

Event Planning Event

Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>—11:00am to Noon

FPSS Society Office, #106-301 Dogwood Street

Its time for all the elves to come together to plan the most fun and rewarding event of the year! The fifth Annual Kids Only Christmas Shopping Day! We need your help to plan this event and invite you to attend this planning meeting. **Don't forget to put gently used items aside for your donation.** For more information please contact Judy Hollywood at 250-286-0555

Kids Only Christmas Shopping Day

Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>

Robron Centre Gymnasium, 740 Robron Rd

All Campbell River children and youth in care

are invited to participate in this event. This is an

**opportunity for Christmas gifts to be "purchased" for a donation of \$5.00.** Contact Judy for details.



## Become a Foster Parent in Campbell River



**FOSTER PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Call Deborah at 250-286-7542 for date & time

MCFD Office, 929 Ironwood Road

If you know anyone interested in becoming a foster parent, please encourage them to attend the Foster Parent Information Session or invite them to call **Deborah Weber, RSW, at 250-286-7542** to learn more about fostering in Campbell River.

## Upper Island News & Events

FASD Caregiver Support Group  
Family Support Services: FASD Key Worker Office  
101-301 Dogwood, Campbell River  
Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to noon

### October's topic is "Renaming Stealing and Lying"

Many of the children and youth placed in your care may have FASD. Join other caregivers parenting children affected with FASD for support, learning and sharing parenting strategies. The meeting room is child friendly, and refreshments are provided. Please note there is no meeting in November. For more information or to suggest a specific topic you would like to learn more about, please contact Mary Catherine Bellamy at 250-203-0488.

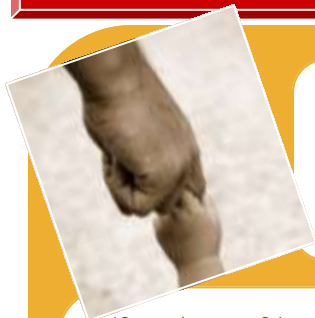
Safe Babies Caregivers Support Gathering  
Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am to noon  
The Robron Centre, 740 Robron St,  
The Family Place Room in A127

Safe Babies Caregivers are invited to network, support, brainstorm, and learn from one another. If there is a topic you want to learn more about please contact Mary Catherine Bellamy at 250-203-0488 so she can prepare and possibly arrange a guest speaker. The meeting room is child friendly.

- Refreshments provided.



## North Island News & Events



### Becoming a Foster Parent in North Island

If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster parent in North Vancouver Island please have them contact  
**Salla Sukow, RSW**  
at 250-949-8011  
to learn how, and to find out about up-coming Foster Parent Information Sessions.

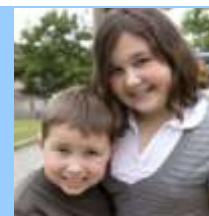
#### PORT HARDY & AREA

North Island Foster Parent Support Gathering  
Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>—6:00pm to 8:00pm  
(Last Thursday of each month)  
Mental Health and Addictions Office, Port Hardy  
Valerie Ramchuk, N.I. Behavioural Consultant for Caregivers, facilitates these evening gatherings where foster parents can network, learn, support and be supported. Foster parents and Social Workers are invited to attend. Coffee, Tea and desserts will be offered. Please contact Valerie at 250-956-3134 or 250-230-7164 to suggest a topic or a guest speaker.

Basic Behaviour Course for Caregivers (Date & Time TBD)  
Valerie Ramchuk, N.I. Behavioural Consultant for Caregivers, will be facilitating the "Basic Behaviour Course". Learn the ABC's of children's behaviour. This is a 16-hour basic course that will result in certification upon completion. It will be happening on Wednesdays starting in November. Three hour sessions will be scheduled for the daytime to accommodate foster parent schedules. Registrations are coming in fast! **Don't be** disappointed; please call Valerie Ramchuk, Behaviour Consultant 250- 956-3134 or 250-230-7164 to get event details or to register.

### Foster Family Month 2010

Foster families can play an integral role in creating the foundation a child needs to develop into a confident adult and their influence lasts a lifetime.



#### What You Should Know About Foster Care

Children and youth come into care for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it is child protection - but it can also be voluntary agreements with parents or guardians who are experiencing difficulties. Parents may ask for temporary help because of illness, marital problems, or parent/child conflicts – or need specialized care for a child who has physical or mental difficulties, emotional, or behavioural problems that are beyond the family's ability to deal with.

- 48 Percent of children who leave the care of Ministry return to their parents within a year.
- 1,076 Youth in Care live under Out-of-Care Agreements – where children and youth who are not able to stay with their parents are supported to live with extended family or to live independently.
- 3,409 Number of foster families in British Columbia.
- 6,031 Number of children in foster care.
- 32.9 Per cent of children in care who are adopted are adopted by their foster parents.
- 20.1 The percentage of all children in care who are waiting to be adopted.
- 10% of foster parents in British Columbia are Aboriginal.
- 55% of children in care are Aboriginal.
- 42 % of Aboriginal children and youth in care are in the care of a Delegated Aboriginal Agency.
- 0.93 percent of the B.C. population under the age of 19 is in Ministry care.
- 200+ million – is what the provincial government invests in foster care each year.

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/index.htm> | Foster Line 1-800-663-9999

## Foster Family Month 2010

Fostering often creates life-long connections. Many foster parents remain in their children's lives into adulthood and around 30 per cent of children in care who are adopted are adopted by their foster family.



## Things You Can do to Brighten the Day of Youth in Care

Children and youth in care have faced many challenges in their lives, often dealing with circumstances that most adults would find difficult to face, let alone overcome. The safety, stability, support and love that foster families provide are a big part of helping children find resilience, overcome their past and lead successful lives.

A child's past should never limit their future – and even if you choose not to foster there are ways you can help. Here is a list simple list of things we can all do to empower and encourage youth in care.... provided by the Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks ([www.fbcyicn.ca](http://www.fbcyicn.ca)).

1. Ask a young person in care about their day and listen – really listen! And then share a little bit about your day so it isn't a one-way street.
2. Help connect a youth in care to their siblings: if they have siblings and it is appropriate (i.e. you have their permission and their guardian's permission), offer to take them for a visit or take all of them out somewhere fun where they can hang out as a family.
3. Identify one or two things that you think a young person in care is really good at and tell them!! Encourage their strengths.
4. Donate to a youth in care education bursary: young people from care experience many barriers to post-secondary education, so help to eliminate the financial ones! Try the Dream Fund a bursary administered by the FBCYICN. There is also the William Curtis Memorial Fund, a bursary established by the BC Federation of Foster Parents for youth currently or formerly in care who wish to continue their education.
5. Speak out about the facts! Young people in care face lots of unfair stigma in our society and need adult allies to help change that! Write a letter to your local paper or find some way to speak out about the lived realities of young people in care – including the success stories!!
6. Share a copy of "Power Pages" magazine. [fbcyicn.ca/downloads/power-pages](http://fbcyicn.ca/downloads/power-pages)
7. Become a foster parent! We need more great homes for young people in care to live in and yours just might be the perfect place for some young person out there!

# FPSSS Coordinator UPDATES:

## SOUTH Island Area UPDATE

Prepared by Dan Malone  
T: 778-430-5460 E: [svicoordinator@fpsss.com](mailto:svicoordinator@fpsss.com)  
Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

**SIFPA Annual Back to School Picnic:** On September 11<sup>th</sup> South Island Foster Parent Association hosted the Annual Back to School Picnic. Forty-nine children and adults attended. Way to go!

**Fostering 101:** On September 29<sup>th</sup> the South Island Foster Parent Association and Foster Parent Support Services Society hosted a training session for 22 foster parents. The topics that were discussed were Relief Care (the secret to long-term fostering) and Protocols (what they are, how to protect against them and what to do if you have one).

**An Evening of Métis Culture:** Sixteen foster parents attended this informative and helpful session. Everyone received a booklet of Métis information, a cook book, music CD and a DVD called "A Girl from Batoche" puppet show.

**FASD Caregiver Support Group:** We viewed the DVD from Anxiety BC "Separation Anxiety". This video is also available for people to borrow from our library. Please call Dan at 778-430-5460 to see if it is in. You can see the trailer for this DVD at <http://www.anxietybc.com/separation-anxiety-DVD-trailer>

**Summer Park Play Dates:** All foster parents and their children were invited out to the park every Tuesday morning during July and August. This allowed foster parents the opportunity to stay connected throughout the summer.

**Foster Parent/Resource Team Meeting:** These meetings happen 10 months a year. They are well attended and have babysitting available. Foster parents are encouraged to come out to these MCFD run meeting.

**Upcoming Events:** Watch the newsletter in the New Year as we are working with MCFD in doing a five part series on child and youth Mental Health.

**E-mail Distribution List:** If you would like to receive notification of workshops, meetings and news of interest to foster parents via e-mail please contact Dan Malone, South Island Area Coordinator at 778-430-5460 or [svicoordinator@fpsss.com](mailto:svicoordinator@fpsss.com).

## CENTRAL Island Area UPDATE

Prepared by Mem Xavier  
T: 250-390-9686 E: [cicoordinator@fpsss.com](mailto:cicoordinator@fpsss.com)  
Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

**Preparing For the Future:** On October 13<sup>th</sup> foster parents joined financial planner Mike Cutler from Coast Capital Savings for a free information session regarding retirement planning and other financial advice.

**Child and Youth Mental Health:** Anita Denault and Sheila McKee from the Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health Services Presented a workshop on Attachment Bonding and Mental Health. Foster parents responded with great questions and conversation and requested a "part 2" to this excellent workshop.

**Social Skills and Disruptive Behavior:** Dr Vanessa Johnson's workshop regarding social skills and disruptive behavior was very well received by foster parents. This workshop included a must see video. For more information about the video and other resources available about this subject please contact Mem Xavier [cicoordinator@fpsss.com](mailto:cicoordinator@fpsss.com)

**To find out about what's happening in your area,** please ensure that we have your e-mail address by sending us a quick message to [cicoordinator@fpsss.com](mailto:cicoordinator@fpsss.com).

## UPPER Island Area UPDATE

Prepared by Judy Hollywood Bonnett  
T: 250-286-0555 E: [uicoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:uicoordinator@shaw.ca)  
Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

*Take a moment to catch up on events in the Upper Island over the past few months.* To find out about **what's happening in your area, please ensure that** we have your e-mail address by sending us a quick message to [uicoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:uicoordinator@shaw.ca).

**OCTOBER WAS FOSTER FAMILY RECOGNITION MONTH!** Activities were planned in all Upper Island communities. Foster parents were celebrated at luncheons and evening parties on October 6<sup>th</sup> on the North Island, on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Campbell River, and on October 28<sup>th</sup> in the Comox Valley. Once again, Thanks for all you do!

**NORTH ISLAND:** North Island Foster Parent Support Gatherings: In July, a support opportunity for the North Island Caregivers had the MCFD Guardian Team Leader and Mental Health Clinician attending to answer any questions or concerns from caregivers. Approximately 10 foster parents attended. The North Island Support Gathering was held on September 30<sup>th</sup> and 7 foster parents attended. The topics were support and clarifying the training dates for the Behaviour Workshop training series that will be happening.

**CAMPBELL RIVER AND AREA:** Campbell River Foster Parent Alliance was held on September



15th. Steve Ayers, Child and Youth Mental Health Worker spoke on the topic "Supporting Kids – Parental Mental Illness". Common mental health diagnoses (including addictions) were described. The feelings and likely responses of children were discussed. Copies of Steve's presentation including his resource list are available by contacting Gloria Jackson or Judy Hollywood.

Foster Parent/MCFD Partnership met in on September 30<sup>th</sup> with guest Jim Ansell, School District 72 Liaison for Children-in-Care. Mr. Ansell described his new role in monitoring, managing and supporting children-in-care in the school system and answered questions. Please contact your resource worker or Judy at [uicoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:uicoordinator@shaw.ca). for information.

Campbell River Relationship Building Sub-Committee has created a document which was submitted to the Partnership Meeting. The report described four recommendations to enhance communication and working relationships. A complete review of the report will occur at a later date. There were five foster parents, eight MCFD social workers, and two behaviour consultants involved in creating this document.

**COMOX VALLEY AND AREA:** Comox Valley Foster Parent Picnic was held on Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> at Kitty Coleman Provincial Park, Courtenay. The Foster Parents Support Service Society hosted this event, inviting all Comox Valley foster parents and their families to join us. Twenty people attended and reported that they enjoyed themselves. It is hoped that this event will become an annual event.

The Comox Valley Partnership meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> had five foster parents attending. This was a very productive meeting that provided insights into a number of up-coming events and trends for local foster parents. For your copy of the minutes please contact your resource worker or [uicoordinator@shaw.ca](mailto:uicoordinator@shaw.ca).



# IFCO 2011 is Coming to Canada!

*And You're All Invited!* 

**XVII Biennial  
2011 IFCO World Conference**

**VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE  
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada  
July 10th through 15th, 2011**

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

**What you can expect:**

- 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)



*Fostering Hope ...  
Together, we can  
make a difference*

**IFCO 2011  
World Conference**

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

**Adult Program: \$599 EARLY BIRD, 10% discount on  
Early Bird for IFCO members, \$699 after 3-31-11  
Youth Program: \$349 EARLY BIRD, \$399 after 3-31-11  
Fee includes Workshops, Lunches, Gala Dinner,  
Social Events & Much More!**

**CALL FOR PAPERS—NOW OPEN!**

Please go to <http://www.ifco2011.com>

Haa Huu Pa by aa aats'ik Ray Sim, Sr:

The original Aboriginal Artwork proudly displayed here was created by Gitksan/Musqueam artist, Ray Sim Sr., especially for IFCO 2011. It is titled "Haa Huu Pa" which is a Nuu chah nulth term for "teaching". Ray's traditional name is aa-aats'-ik.

The Eagle is a very important spiritual animal to the First Nations people of the Northwest Coast; it is generally a symbol of power, intelligence and loyalty. Eagle down represents peace and friendship.



*Haa Huu Pa  
by  
aa aats'ik  
Ray Sim Sr.*

### 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!**

**REGISTRATION FEES:** **Adult Program: \$599 EARLY BIRD**, 10% DISCOUNT on Early Bird for IFCO members, \$699 after March 31, 2011. **Youth Program: \$349 EARLY BIRD**, \$399 after March 31, 2011—Includes Conference fee, Gala Dinner and much more. We have done our utmost to keep registration fees as affordable as possible, while ensuring we provide delegates with an outstanding conference, and a truly memorable experience.

**FLIGHTS & ACCOMODATIONS:** IFCO 2011 Planners are working with FcM Travel Solutions to ensure delegates are provided with competitively priced travel and accommodation rates, as well as pre & post tour options.

### Message from the BC Minister of Children and Family Development:

The Right Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Children and Family Development— *"Not everyone can be a foster parent. As you know, it takes someone special to do this work. Foster families help create the foundation a child needs to develop into a confident adult, and their influence can last a lifetime ... In my role as minister, and in the years I've spent as a School Trustee, I've seen the challenges we face in our communities and the needs of vulnerable families. I've also seen the work being done by governments, and at the grassroots level by organizations and individuals guided by a strong belief in civic responsibility and a desire to improve the lives of their neighbours ... I hope you will join us in Victoria for the 2011 Foster Care Organization Conference."* (please go to <http://www.ifco2011.com/> for Minister Polack's full video message)

### The Destination—Victoria, British Columbia, Canada:

Located on the southernmost tip of spectacular Vancouver Island, Victoria's old world tradition meets new world experience. Victoria is a cosmopolitan island destination alive with world-class accommodation, exquisite spas, and decadent food and wine. The pulse of the city can be felt through its cultured arts and entertainment scene and its bustling shopping districts. As British Columbia's capital city, Victoria is full of life - with something for everyone. ([www.tourismvictoria.com](http://www.tourismvictoria.com))

**FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE:** There are three main First Nations language groups on Vancouver Island: the Coast Salish, the Nuu-chah-nulth and the Kwakwaka'wakw. **Victoria, BC, is the home of the Lekwungen People** who are also known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. The Victoria Capital Region encompasses the traditional territories of nine Coast Salish First Nations bands (Esquimalt, Songhees, Pauquachin, Tseycum, Tsawout, Tsartlip, Scia'new, T'souke and Malahat), and one Nuu-chah-Nulth First Nations band (Pacheedaht).



Copyright IFCO 2011 Conference Planning Committee ©



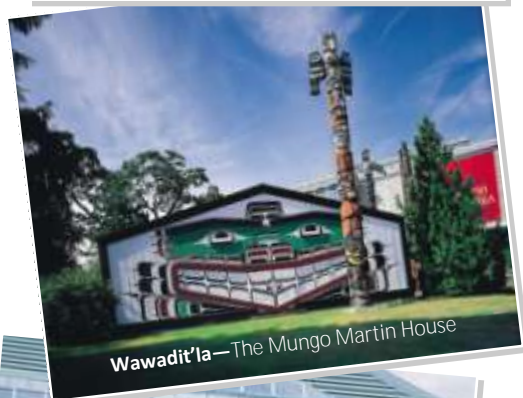
Victoria's Inner Harbour at night



Orca whales—Whale Watching Tour



Victoria Shopping on Government Street



Wawadit'la—The Mungo Martin House

### IFCO 2011 Conference Planning Committee:

- FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society
- 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
- Canadian Foster Families Association
- Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
- Interior Community Services
- 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 Rivers University -School of Social Work
- Caring For First Nations Children Society
- Indigenous Child Welfare Research Network
- Hollyburn Family Services

### FUNDERS, SPONSORS & DONORS:

Founding Funder:  
Lex Reynolds Adoption & Permanency Trust Fund c/o Victoria Foundation



Funder / Sponsor:  
British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development



- Victoria Conference Centre—Donor
- Victoria Tourism—Donor
- Rogers Chocolates—Donor
- City of Victoria—Donor



Victoria Conference Centre

## BC Foster Care Education Program Schedule AUTUMN 2010

Code	VICTORIA		PORT ALBERNI		VENUES		COURTENAY		CAMPBELL RIVER	
S1-1	Sept 13 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 9 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	<b>VICTORIA</b> FPSSS Training Rm 145-735 Goldstream  <b>PORT ALBERNI</b> Abbyfield House 3839 8th Avenue  <b>NANAIMO</b> FPSSS Training Rm 102-6421 Applecross  <b>COURTENAY</b> CVChild Dev Assoc 272 Third Street  <b>CAMPBELL RIVER</b> FPSSS Training Rm 106-301 Dogwood St  <b>COWICHAN</b> Cowichan / LS Duncan 5766 Allenby Rd		Sept 13 M	6:30-9:30pm	Sept 7 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-2	Sept 16 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 16 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm			Sept 15 W	6:30-9:30pm	Sept 14 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-3	Sept 20 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 22 W	6:30pm-9:30pm			Sept 20 M	6:30-9:30pm	Sept 21 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-4	Sept 23 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 25	9:00am-12:00pm			Sept 22 W	6:30-9:30pm	Sept 28 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-5	Sept 27 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 29 W	6:30pm-9:30pm			Sept 27 M	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 5 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-6	Sept 30 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 7 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm			Sept 29 W	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 12 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-7a	Oct 4 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 13 W	6:30pm-9:30pm			Oct 4 M	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 19 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-7b	Oct 7 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 22 Fr	6:30pm-9:30pm			Oct 6 W	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 26 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-8a	Oct 14 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 23 Sat	9:00am-12:00pm			Oct 13 W	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 2 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-8b	Oct 18 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 27 W	6:30pm-9:30pm			Oct 18 M	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 9 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-9a	Oct 21 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 4 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm			Oct 20 W	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 16 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-9b	Oct 25 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 10 W	6:30pm-9:30pm			Oct 25 M	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 23 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
Code	VICTORIA		PORT ALBERNI		NANAIMO		COURTENAY		COWICHAN TRIBES	
S2-1	Oct 28 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 18 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Set 15 W	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 27 W	6:30-9:30pm	Sept 13 M	6:30pm-9:30pm
S2-3	Nov 1 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 24 W	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 22 W	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 1 M	6:30-9:30pm	Sept 20 M	6:30pm-9:30pm
S2-5	Nov 6 Sat	9:30am-2:30pm	Nov 27 Sat	9:30am-2:30pm	Sept 25 Sat	9:30-2:30pm	Nov 6 Sat	9:30-2:30pm	Sept 27 M	5:30pm-9:30pm
S2-2	Nov 15 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Dec 1 W	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 29 W	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 8 M	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 4 M	6:30pm-9:30pm
S2-4	Nov 18 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Dec 9 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 6 W	6:30-9:30pm	Nov 10 W	6:30-9:30pm	Oct 18 M	6:30pm-9:30pm

**To REGISTER: Contact Eva Vowles toll free 1-888-922-8437 or direct line 778-430-5459**

### BC FOSTER CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Series 1: 36 hours / 9 modules:

Each module threads together core themes of teamwork, child and youth development, communications, guiding **children's behaviour, family support, diversity and inclusion**, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development Guardianship Model. In many cases, modules will refer to or draw upon content from previous modules so it is recommended that Series 1 & 2 modules be taken in the sequence below.

Series 1: 36 hours / 9 modules:

- S1 - 1 Caring for Children: Overview—3 hours
- S1 - 2 Communication Skills & Self-Awareness—3 hours
- S1 - 3 Effects of Caregiving—3 hours
- S1 - **4 The Child's Family**—3 hours
- S1 - 5 Observing, Recording, & Reporting—3 hours
- S1 - 6 Child and Youth Development—3 hours
- S1 - 7 Attachment, Separation, & Loss—6 hours
- S1 - 8 When Children Experience Abuse & Neglect—6 hours
- S1 - 9 Guiding Behaviour of Children & Youth—6 hours

Series 2: 17 hours / 5 modules:

- S2 - 1 Cultural Responsiveness—3 hours
- S2 - 2 Aboriginal Children in Care—3 hours
- S2 - 3 Substance Misuse Awareness—3 hours
- S2 - 4 Intro to Fetal Alcohol & Neonatal Abstinence Syndromes—3 hours
- S2 - 5 Suicide Awareness—5 hours

To REGISTER for the next Series  
—AUTUMN 2010 CLASSES—



Please Call  
Eva Vowles, BCFCE Coordinator  
At 1-888-922-8437

# FPSSS Contact Information

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**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
The FPSS Society is a CARF Accredited Grass Roots organization committed to providing meaningful and accessible support, education and networking services which will continually enhance the skills and abilities of foster parents to deliver the best care possible to the children in their homes.

**Funding:** FPSS Society is a Registered Society that is funded through contracts with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to deliver the BC Foster Care Education Program, support services, networking, communication and on-going training opportunities for foster parents of the Vancouver Island Region.

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Websites: [www.fpsss.com](http://www.fpsss.com),  
[www.fosterhope.ca](http://www.fosterhope.ca), [www.ifco2011.ca](http://www.ifco2011.ca)

Hours of Operation:  
Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**ISLAND CONNECTION NEWSLETTER:**  
Published 5 times per year and mailed free of charge to all foster home & MCFD offices in the Vancouver Island region.

NEWSLETTER COMPILATION  
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We invite any letters or comments. Please ensure your submissions are forwarded by the 5th of the month.

**How are we doing? Do you have Comments? Suggestions? Queries? Newsletter Submissions?**

Please feel free to contact us anytime at Toll Free 1-888-922-8437  
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