

The Island Connection

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

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

CPC PUB #40780167



Please think about the
environment before printing



FPSS Society is CARF Accredited

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	PAGE
After Hours Duty Worker No.	2
Foster Parent Support Line	2
Protocol Support Contact INFO	2
Relief Care Contact Listing	3
CARF is Coming	3
Family Care Rates Guidelines	3
Coordinator Updates	4
Coordinator Updates	5
South Island News & Events	6
Central Island News & Events	8
Lifebooks Reminder	8
Upper Island News & Events	10
North Island News & Events	11
Relief & Respite Stories Wanted	12
IFCO 2011 donates to Bursaries	12
Safe Babies Rotman Award Report	13
BCFCE Schedule	14
Contact List	15
Protocol Workers Needed	16

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 (FPSS)

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 (FPSS)

TOLL FREE 1-888-922-8437

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

The FPSS 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	TYPE OF HOME
Ryan, Melissa Kevin	250-642-3008	Regular/ 0-5 yrs
Sabadash Sheila & Ed	250-360-0622	Regular/0-14 yrs
Buhr, Darren Johanna	250-391-1878	Regular/0-5 yrs
Morley Sandy & Bob	250-478-8490	Level 2/0-5 yrs
Morin Heather& Bill	250-479-9975	Level 1/0-14 yrs
Kitcher Julie	250-294-0275	Level 1 / 0-12 yrs
Dyble Rob & Susan	250-642-5774	Lev 1 / 6-12 yrs boys
Johner Lynette	250-474-4083	Level 1 / 2-12 yrs
Adams Karen	778-433-5424	Level 2 / 0-12 yrs
Batten Linda & Doug	250-642-2579	Level 2 / 0-12 yrs
Moore Kelly	250-920-9206	Level 2 / 0-8 yrs
Cameron Connie & Gord	250-385-4673	Level 2 / 0-8 yrs
Case Sandy & Rob	250-478-2782	Level 2 / 0-5 yrs
Beattie Kerston	250-475-3639	Level 2 / 0-12 yrs
Shumard Laura & Steve	250-478-1973	Level 2 / 0-5 yrs
Henderson Carol	250-474-7470	Level 2 / 0-12 yrs
Hicke Julia & Mike	250-598-8457	Lev 2 / 3-10yrs
Leippi Linda & Gord	250-479-2729	Level 3
O'Leary Sandra	250-888-3316	Level 2 / 7-18 yrs
Jane Foster Barb Csinos	250-360-2900	Level 3 / 5-10 boys
Fast Kathryn	250-220-8989	Level 3 / 7m-7yrs
Hayward Terri	250-590-5051	Level 3
Fisher Heather	250-885-2776	Level 3
Clifford Shandra	250-727-6542	Level 3 / 0-10 yrs
Gerry David&Grace	250-383-0818	Level 3 / 0-12
Dewar Maria & Bob	250-478-6503	Level 3 / 5-19 boys
Cochrane Sue	250-385-6689	Level 3 / 6-12 yrs

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

CAREGIVER	PHONE	TYPE OF HOME
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
Level 3 (all ages)	\$90.89

RATES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2009

CARF SURVEY COMING SOON

A survey team from CARF International* will be visiting FPSS Society offices on November 28th to November 30th

We invited the surveyors to evaluate how well we meet international standards for quality. The survey will tell us what we are doing well and ways we might improve. As a result of this survey, we may continue accreditation.

As part of the survey, the surveyors will interview people who receive services, their families, our staff, and others. Some questions the survey team members might ask people are:

- Do we provide a clean and safe setting?
- Do you receive the services you need and want?
- Are you treated with respect?
- Do you take part in planning your services?
- Are you told what you need to know about your services?
- Are your questions answered in a way you understand?
- Do you know where to go with questions or concerns?

If you would like to talk with one of the survey team members or want to learn more about CARF International, please let one of our staff members know. You may also contact CARF Canada directly.

CARF Canada:

10665 Jasper Avenue, Suite 1400A, Edmonton, AB T5J 3S9, CANADA
Phone: (780) 429-2538 Toll-free: (877) 434-5444 voice Fax: (780) 426-7274



*CARF International is an independent, not-for-profit family of organizations (including CARF, CARF Canada, and CARF-CCAC) that provides accreditation in the field of human services.

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. (Estimates developed by Dan Malone, FPSSS)

FPSSS Coordinator **UPDATES:**

SOUTH Island Area UPDATE

Prepared by Dan Malone

T: 778-430-5460 E: svicoordinator@fpsss.com

Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

Safe Babies Group - Barriers Exercise:

Dr. Lenora Marcellus facilitated this exercise for 8 Safe Babies caregivers on September 19th. In this exercise, foster parents learned the many Barriers that Women have in receiving services. This exercise brought out a very experienced group of Foster Parents and great conversation and networking.

“Baby Steps—Caring for Babies with Prenatal Substance Exposure” newest edition is out for caregivers. Link: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>

Working with Temperament:

On September 21st, Jan Townsend, parent educator, facilitated a workshop on Working with Temperament for 20 foster parents. Foster Parents learned to understand temperament and counter will.

Pre-Service Orientation:

MCFD held a Pre-Service Orientation for prospective and new foster parents on September 17th, 24th and October 1st. The Regional Coordinator from Foster Parent Support Services Society explained their services on September 17th.

Fostering 101:

On September 28th, South Island Foster Parent Association and Foster Parent Support Services Society held an information/ training session for 16 foster parents.

The topics discussed were: Strategies for Preventing Protocol Investigations in a Foster Homes. Handouts included **“What is a Protocol Support Worker”** and **“Advocating for Youth in Care; Your Role as the Caregiver”** which can be viewed at: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/publications.htm>

If foster parents have any topics that they would like to see discussed at these sessions please contact Dan Malone at svicoordinator@fpsss.com or Sandy Case at slcase@shaw.ca.

SIFPA Back to School Picnic:

On September 10th the South Island Foster Parent Association put on the Annual Back to School Picnic at Kinsmen Park. This giving Foster Families a chance to reconnect after the summer break.

Winter Clothing Exchange:

South Island Foster Parent Association (SIFPA) put on a clothing exchange on September 26th at the FPSSS office. Fourteen caregivers came out, exchanged donated clothes, socialized, and enjoyed cheese cake. All left-over clothing was donated to charity.

Foster Family Month Events:

There were four events held in South Island; Foster Parent Support Services Society had two Teas on October 12th; One in the morning and one in the evening. This gave all caregivers a chance to participate.

The Non-aboriginal Team held a luncheon in the Youth room at Wale Road office at which Foster Parent recognition pins were given out. The Aboriginal Team has an event of Dinner and Dancing for November 2nd, at the Victoria Edelweiss Club. This was facilitated in partnership by a joint committee of the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, Nil/Tu,O Child and Family Services, and Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services.

Foster Parent/MCFD Resource Partnership Meeting:

These meetings happen 10 months a year. They have been well attended and provided babysitting. Foster parents are encouraged to come out to these MCFD run meetings where there are always Resource Social workers to answer any questions they might have.

The South Island Retention Committee has visited 15 MCFD teams, and presented a power point presentation on the Needs, Wants, and Wishes of foster parents.

MCFD staff members were also asked to make a list of their Needs, Wants, and Wishes. The overall goal is to help create great working relationships with Foster Parents and all MCFD staff. The information that is gathered is now being collated together in plans for a Forum for foster parents, MCFD and Aboriginal Agency staff in May.

Foster Parent/MCFD Resource Partnership



Meeting:

These meetings happen 10 months a year. They have been well attended and provided babysitting.

Foster parents are encouraged to come out to these MCFD run meetings where there are always Resource Social workers to answer any questions they might have.

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, Regional Coordinator at 778-430-5460 or svicoordinator@fpsss.com

Ongoing Training:

We continue to look for relevant training available in our community. If you know of training that might be beneficial to caregivers, please contact Dan Malone at 778-430-5460 or e-mail to svicoordinator@fpsss.com.

CENTRAL Island Area UPDATE

Prepared by Steve Hancock, RCG

T: 250-390-9686 Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

E: communitydevelopment@fpsss.com

Foster Parent /Inter Agency Drop-In:

Nanaimo FPSS Society office
102-6401 Applecross Road, Nanaimo

These meetings will include coffee and a chat with other foster parents, resource social workers, and Steve Hancock.

If interested please contact Steve at 250-390-9686 or communitydevelopment@fpsss.com.

UPPER Island Area UPDATE

Prepared by Judy Hollywood Bonnett

T: 250-286-0555 E: uicoordinator@shaw.ca

Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

Get connected to hear about the foster parent social events and professional training that are planned in your community. All Foster Parents on the Upper Island can ensure you are in the loop by sending your e-mail address to the FPSS society Upper Island Coordinator, Judy Hollywood Bonnett, at uicoordinator@shaw.ca.

Upper Island Foster Parent Appreciation Events were held in Comox Valley, Campbell River and Port Hardy. Look for event summaries in the next issue of *The Island Connection*.

NORTH ISLAND:

The North Island Foster Parent/MCFD Partnership meeting was held on September 14th. Thank you to the foster parents who participated. Contact your resource worker for your copy of the meeting minutes.

North Island Foster Parent Support Gatherings were held in September and October. The Gathering started again after a break over the summer.

Thank you to Valerie and the dedicated foster parents who keep this group going!

A warm welcome back is extended to social worker, Salla Sukow, who returned in October.

CAMPBELL RIVER and AREA:

September 1st the **Child & Youth Fun-A-Rama Picnic** was a fantastic event. Sincere thanks go out to MCFD and staff, Strathcona Regional District, Thrifty Foods, Quality Foods and Rona Building Center. The generosity of our local supporters made this a super, successful event. Our gratitude also goes out to the many families who attended despite the damp cool day.

On September 28th, the FPSS Society and the Safe Babies Program facilitated a seminar on Buying and Installing Child Safety Seats. Kudos are extended to Roberta Petersen, Car Seat Technician, and Mary Catherine Bellamy for sharing their insight into this necessary safety equipment.

A Safe Babies Training event was held for Safe Babies caregivers, foster parents with young children in their care, and maternity home foster parents on October 25th. Mary Catherine Bellamy facilitated the discussion of the role that courts play when rulings impact infants who have experienced abuse and neglect. The group viewed the DVD **Helping Babies from the Bench: Using the Science of Early Childhood Development in Court**.

The Foster Parent/MCFD Partnership Committee meeting was held on September 28th. This meeting was held in the evening at the request of foster parents. Kristie-Lynn gave a brief update on the Many Nations start up phase. Thank you to the foster parents,

resource workers and behavioural consultants who attended. Stay tuned for exciting news about changes to the Partnership Committee format happening in 2012! Contact Judy Hollywood or your resource worker for your copy of the meeting minutes.

Peer Support Events: On September 14th, the Foster Parent Alliance hosted a lunch & learn. Thanks to Sarah Badgero for sharing highlights from the IFCO conference.

Mary Catherine Bellamy, FASD Key Worker, continued to offer drop-in sessions on the second Tuesday of the month with peer support and information to caregivers of children and youth with FASD or related syndromes.

Safe Babies Caregivers met the third Tuesday of the month over the summer and in September and October. Thanks go out to these dedicated caregivers and Christine Manly who are leading the community by providing an effective model of peer-support and learning activities.

COMOX VALLEY:

Comox Valley Foster Family Potluck Picnic was held on Saturday, August 27th, a huge thank you goes out to the team who pulled this fun event together. Diane and Chrissy were invaluable for their organizational talents. Mike tirelessly manned the BBQ and turned out delicious hot dogs for all.

Thanks are extended to the MCFD Resource team members who promoted and attended this event. Finally, our thanks are sent to Courtenay's Quality Foods who generously donated the hot dogs and buns that made our picnic a fun and tasty event for everyone. It was wonderful to have a good turnout of foster families!

Twenty-seven participants joined in at the **Foster Parent/MCFD Partnership meeting** on September 21st. (Thanks Wendy for the lovely personalized invitations!) Ian and Judy summarised the Fostering Community Development Project and described the next steps in the process. A small group of foster parents will collaborate with MCFD staff, Margot and Judy to oversee plans for future fostering community events. Sharon gave a brief update on the Many Nations start up phase. Interest was noted in developing a Joint Education committee to plan learning events. For your copy of the minutes of this meeting, contact Judy at uicoordinator@shaw.ca.

The Safe Babies Caregiver Group met on October 12th. The autumn meeting was a "meet and greet" that provided an opportunity to discuss planning for Safe Babies events for the coming year. Thanks to Diane for hosting.

Group Home Open House evenings are for Comox Valley foster parents operating group homes for MCFD on the last Saturday of every month. These evenings are opportunities to create supportive relationships in a friendly and relaxing atmosphere.

Diane Daigle, BCFCE facilitator, has wrapped up Series 2 of the BC Foster Care Education program. Congratulations to the participants. Thank you to the Comox Valley Child Development Association for supporting our program by providing space and equipment use at no cost!

South Island News & Events

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

Coffee/Support Mornings

345 Wale Road, Youth Room

Wednesday, November 2nd, 9:30am to 11:30am

Wednesday, November 16th, 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/MCFD Resource Partnership Meeting

Monday, November 7th, 9:30am to 11:30am in the Youth Room

Monday, December 5th, 9:30am to 11:30am in the Board Room

MCFD Office, 345 Wale Road

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. If you have anything you would like added to the agenda please contact Sandy Case at slcase@shaw.ca. Free on-site babysitting provided.

Foster Parent/MCFD Advisory Meeting

Tuesday, November 8th, 9:30am to 11:30am

FPSS Society Office, 145-735 Goldstream Avenue

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.

Lifebook Work Session – Show and Tell

Monday, November 21st, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

FPSS Society Office, 145-735 Goldstream Avenue

Please bring your Life books to this work session and be prepared to share your ideas. “Hassle free” approach/ideas/strategies to share with others.

FOSTERING 101

Wednesday, November 23rd

6:30pm to 9:00pm (6:30-7:00 Meet & Greet)

FPSS Society Office—145-735 Goldstream Avenue

Please Ad on page to the right >

SIFPA & FPSSS would like to invite you all to an interactive meeting with lively discussion on current fostering issues. Please RSVP to Sandy Case at 250-478-2782 or slcase@shaw.ca.

Safe Babies Support Group:

“When Science Meets Practice: Supporting High Risk Infants and Toddlers”

Video lecture series by Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW, RSW

FPSS Society Meeting Room, 145-735 Goldstream Avenue

To register please contact Dan at

svicoordinator@fpss.com or 778-430-5459

All foster parents welcome!

Now a social worker in private practice, our lecturer, Evelyn Wotherspoon, amassed great experience working as an infant mental health consultant with Alberta Health Services’ Collaborative Mental Health Care Program in Calgary, Alberta for almost ten years.

As a result of her time spent observing and assessing babies and toddlers involved with the child welfare system, and working with the Collaborative Mental Health Care Program, pertinent and relevant information for child welfare workers was compiled.

This information has been pulled together to form three lectures in a series titled “When Science Meets Practice: Supporting High Risk Infants and Toddlers”.

Monday, November 14th, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Lecture One: The Core Story of Child Development

Monday, December 12th, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Lecture Two: What Derails Development?

Monday, January 9th, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Lecture Three: Supporting Maltreated Infants and Toddlers



Early Childhood and Brain Development: How Experience Shapes Child, Community and Culture: Bruce Perry - Video Viewing

Tuesday, November 8th, 2011 7:00pm to 9:00pm

FPSS Society Regional Office, 145-735 Goldstream Avenue

Facilitator: Dr. Jane Bradley, Clinical Psychologist

In this one hour program, Dr. Perry speaks passionately about the critical role early developmental experiences play in shaping the child, and ultimately community and culture. The core concepts related to the impact of trauma and neglect on children and the practice, program and policy implications of maltreatment.

To register please contact Dan at

svicoordinator@fpss.com or 778-430-5459

FOSTERING 101

Wednesday, November 23rd
6:30pm to 9:00pm (6:30-7:00 Meet & Greet)

FPSS Society Meeting Room
145-735 Goldstream Avenue
Goldstream Station Mall, Langford

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

Speaker: Rebecca Mabee, BSW Cultural and Community Liaison for Métis Community Services.
Come and learn who the Métis people are and what Métis community services offer.

Speaker Katie Zimmerman, 4th year UVic Nursing student on **"Going to the emergency room with a Child in Care: What you need know."**

Please RSVP to Sandy Case at 250-478-2782 or slcase@shaw.ca

Children's Christmas Shopping Night Tuesday December 6th, 6:30pm to 9:00pm Location: TBA

Bring your kids, 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



Annual Foster Parent Christmas Dinner at Luca's Restaurant Thursday, December 1st, 7:00pm 3195 Douglas Street (Formerly Macaroni Grill)

Everyone please bring a gift to exchange (under \$15.00). Let's Kick the Holiday Season off! Please RSVP to Sandy Case at 250-478-2782 or slcase@shaw.ca

Christmas Potluck Luncheon

Friday, December 9th
11:30am to 1:30pm
345 Wale Road in the Youth Room

Babysitting provided.
Bring your favourite holiday dish for the table!

Foster Family Christmas Party Saturday, December 10th, 2:00pm to 5:00pm Eagle Ridge Recreation Centre, 1089 Langford Parkway

Admission: Potluck Lunch item and food bank donation
Live Entertainment
Visit from Santa - Gifts for all children
Children's Craft Table & Face Painting
SILENT AUCTION

Please RSVP to Sandy Case at 250-478-2782 or slcase@shaw.ca

RSVPs must be in before November 25th
to ensure that every attending child gets a gift!



Central Island News & Events

PORT ALBERNI AREA

Safe Sleep Workshop

Wednesday, November 2nd, 10:00am to Noon

- USMA Board Room: Speaker: Dr. Charmaine Enns

Coffee Morning

Tuesday, November 8th, 9:30am to 11:30am

Tuesday, December 6th, 9:30am to 11:30am

- Karen Bennys-6110 Westport Blvd

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 17th, 9:30am to Noon

1st United Church, Church street

- Child minding onsite.

Local Partnership Meeting

- Wednesday, November 23rd
- Thursday, December 8th, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Christmas Luncheon

Pine Café—2940 3rd Avenue

Come out and celebrate the holidays with your fellow foster parents!



Children's Shopping Store—Friday, December 9th

- Cedar Wood School—6:30pm to 9:00 pm
- Gently used items are now being collected for the Children's shopping store. Items can be brought to our meeting November 17th or can be dropped off at Collette's at 3642 Fowlie Crescent



Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 16th

- Cedar Wood School—6:00pm to 9:00pm

Welcome!

New Cowichan Valley Foster Parents Group

Positions are:

Chair: Claudia McIntyre 250-748-1112

claudia@pacificcoast.net Fax: 250-748-1123

Vice Chair: Sandra Beagley 250-743-0236

sbeagl@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linda Lecky 250-743-1001

llecky@telus.net

Secretary: Diane Wilbee 250-743-3934

wilbeefamily@keopah.com

This group will host coffee support mornings and plan fun events for Foster Families...

We are looking for energetic, positive foster parents who want to network and socialize with other foster parents and have some great ideas for foster family events throughout the year.

For more information please contact Claudia McIntyre at claudia@pacificcoast.net or come on out to the next Duncan Coffee/Support morning on Tuesday, November 15th, 10:00am to 12:00 noon at 2471 Beverly Street. (Behind the elementary school at the Alexander Center).

Hope to meet you all at the Christmas Party!
Please see ad on page right for details.

PARKSVILLE AREA

Parksville & Oceanside Support/Coffee Group:

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

COWICHAN AREA

Duncan Partnership Meeting

Come and join other caregivers in partnership with MCFD staff to vocalize issues, concerns and ideas. Discussion will be followed by a delicious potluck lunch. Call Steve for details at 250-390-9686.

Duncan Coffee/Support Mornings

Tuesday, November, 15th, 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Tuesday, December, 13th, 10:00am to 12:00 noon

2471 Beverly Street, Duncan

(Behind the elementary school at the Alexander Center)

This is a great opportunity for foster parents to support and network with each other on a regular basis.

On-site babysitting provided.

NANAIMO AREA

Foster Parent /Inter Agency Drop-In:

Nanaimo FPSS Society, 102-6401 Applecross Road, Nanaimo

Call Steve at 250-390-9686 for date and venue

10:00am to 12:00 noon

- These meetings will include coffee and a chat with other foster parents, resource social workers, and Steve Hancock. If interested please contact Steve at 250-390-9686 or

Christmas Open House & Tea
 Thursday, December 15th,
 10:00am to 12:00 noon
 102-6421 Applecross Rd, Nanaimo

Come out and Celebrate
 the Holiday Season with foster
 parents, MCFD & FPSSS Team.
 There'll be tea, coffee & goodies.
 There'll be Door Prizes!
 Join the Fun & Enter to Win!

RSVP to Steve at
 250-390-9686



LIFEBOOKS

All foster parents should make sure Life Books are completed. Foster Parents and Guardianship Social workers have an integral part to play in the collection of these materials.

For a CIC who has not been in school for some time or might have moved here from another region or province, collecting information may be more difficult. Other suggestions include, but are not limited to:

- Taking pictures of the CIC/youth
- Asking CIC/youth for a copy of their art work/poems, etc
- Contacting previous caregivers for photos, souvenirs
- Contacting previous schools/programs for report cards, certificate of completions or attendance, etc
- Contacting former parent/ guardian or extended family members for photos and mementos

Once Life Books are complete, they can be scanned electronically and put on CD or DVD. This can be given to the Guardianship worker to put on the child's file.

**Annual
 Cowichan Valley
 Foster Family
 Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 17th
 1:30pm-4:30pm**
**Moose Hall, 2244 Moose Road
 Duncan**

Open all Foster Families!

**Please come out and
 celebrate the season!**

**Bring your favourite
 potluck item!**

Please RSVP to Claudia McIntyre at claudia@pacificcoast.net, include the number and age of any children who will be in attendance because Santa Claus will be stopping by.

“No Rags in Bags” Please

Message from the SVI Retention Committee

Please ensure that when foster children move from your home that their belongings are moved in a considerate and respectful manner.

Trash bags are unacceptable:

- It is best to move them like you would move yourself, with your belongings clean and organized.

It is Recommended to move their belongings in:

- Luggage, plastic totes or tote bags for clothes (folded and clean)



Upper Island News & Events



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 Shawna Stevens, RSW at 250-334-5820 to learn how, and to find out about up-coming Foster Parent Information Sessions.

COMOX VALLEY AND AREA

Foster Parent MCFD Partnership Meeting
Wednesday, November 16th, 9:30am to 11:30am
 Comox Valley Soccer Club House, 1701 Lerwick Road, Courtenay
Potluck Refreshments

All foster parents, social workers, MCFD and C&Y Mental Health workers are invited to participate. This is an opportunity to address your concerns, receive updates, discuss fostering trends and suggest future fostering events. For more information, to add to the agenda or for copies of past meeting minutes please contact the Upper Island Area Coordinator at uicoordinator@shaw.ca. Please note venue. Sorry, child-minding is not available.

Group Home Open House
Saturday, November 26th, 8:00pm
805 Ellcee Place, Courtenay

Kim and Mel Breland invite Comox Valley foster parents operating group homes for MCFD to their home on the last Saturday of every month; no open house is planned for December. These evenings are opportunities to create supportive relationships in a friendly and relaxing atmosphere. For information call Kim at 250-897-3148.

Safe Babies Caregivers Support Group
 Watch for November and December meeting dates announcement. Safe Babies Caregivers are invited to network, support, and learn from one another. If there is a specific topic you want to learn more about please contact Mary Catherine Bellamy at 250-705-6135. This meeting has a child friendly space. Refreshments provided.

CAMPBELL RIVER & AREA

CR Foster Parent Alliance
Wednesday, November 2nd, 11:00am to 1:00pm
Wednesday, December 14th, 11:00am to 1:00pm
C.R. Family Services' Conference Room, 487 - 10th Avenue
November Topic: Maintaining Culture for Aboriginal Kids
 Guest Speaker: Emily Mayson, FAFP Vancouver Island Coordinator

Kids Only Christmas Shopping Day: Watch for more information on the sixth annual 'Kids Only Christmas Shopping Day' in early December. Don't be shy; your help is urgently needed! Any foster parents or social workers wishing to get involved with planning or implementing this popular event can contact Judy at uicoordinator@shaw.ca. This is a wonderful time for children in care to find that special gift for the special people in their lives.

December: Holiday Potluck
 All foster parents and social workers are encouraged to attend our Alliance meeting. We know everyone will benefit from attending Emily's presentation. Partly educational, partly social, this is your chance to network with local foster community members. Contact Judy at 250-286-0555 or uicoordinator@shaw.ca for more information.

Seeds of Resilience Training
Thursday, November 17th—9:00am to 1:00pm
Thursday, November 24th—9:00am to 1:00pm
C.R. Family Services' Conference Room
487 - 10th Avenue

Guest Presenter: Erin Dusdal
Community Action Initiative Coordinator

Foster parents and social workers are encouraged to attend this workshop held over two training days. All participants will receive a binder with a copy of the training material. Seating is limited, register early with Micki at MCFD by calling 250-286-7542 to participate in this interactive and discussion-based workshop.

Contact your resource worker or Judy at 250-286-0555 or uicoordinator@shaw.ca for more information.

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 Pre-Service Orientation or invite them to call Deborah Weber, RSW, at 250-286-7542 to learn more about fostering in Campbell River.

Upper Island News & Events

Joint Education Committee Meeting

Monthly meetings, 9:00am to 10:00am

MCFD Board Room, 929 Ironwood Road

Joint Education Planning meetings are in full swing planning Foster Parent education events for the coming year. Foster parents are invited to join in this planning.

- Please contact Judy at 250-286-0555 or uicoordinator@shaw.ca for meeting dates and agendas.

FASD Caregiver Support Group

Tuesday, November 8th, 10:00am to noon

Tuesday, December 13th, 10:00am to noon

Family Support Services

FASD Key Worker Office, 103-301 Dogwood Street

Join other caregivers parenting children affected by FASD for support, learning and sharing parenting strategies. Those caring for a youth or child without a formal diagnosis of FASD but who present with behaviours rooted in complex neurodevelopment differences - whatever the cause - are welcome to attend too. The meeting room is child friendly, and refreshments are provided.

- 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, Nov 15th, 10:00am to noon

Tuesday, Dec 22nd, 10:00am to noon

The Robron Centre, The Family Place, Rm in A127, 740 Robron St

Safe Babies Caregivers are invited to network, support and learn from one another. We will be digging into the Safe Babies resource bag and exploring the new materials at both gatherings. Caregivers can suggest specific learning topics.

- Watch for more information about the December meeting or contact Mary Catherine Bellamy at 250-705-6135. The meeting room is child friendly. Refreshments provided.

The Child-in-Care Transitions Subcommittee has been busy over the summer and into the fall. An initial report was shared at the Partnership meeting. The subcommittee's recommendations will be finalized and shared soon.

- Foster parents are welcome to join in on the conversation.
- To learn more, please contact Jean Robinson 250-286-7542 or Judy Hollywood uicoordinator@shaw.ca.



North Island News & Events

Foster Parent/MCFD Partnership Meeting

Date TBA: 1:00pm to 2:00pm

8755 Gray Street, MCFD Boardroom, Port Hardy

These meetings happen every second month. All foster parents, social workers, MCFD and C&Y Mental Health staff are invited to participate. This is an opportunity to address your concerns, receive updates, and discuss local fostering trends. Please contact Jackie Kervin at 250-949-7397 if you would like to add an item to the Agenda prior to the next meeting.

North Island Foster Parent Support Gathering

Thursday, November 24th, 6:00pm to 8:00pm - No Dec Gathering

Mental Health and Addictions Office

7070 Shorncliffe Avenue, 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 confirm gathering dates or to suggest a topic.

Coffee Meet 'n Greet Meetings

Watch for more information about the foster parent, social worker coffee meet and greet. These casual events will alternate between the MCFD office and foster parent's home. Foster parents who would like to host are asked to contact their resource worker.

Foster Parent Training

Look for information as details are finalized. Valerie Ramchuk would like to present training in the near future regarding attachment issues.

Christmas Party for Children in Care

Planning is underway for an early-December Christmas party for children-in-care. Please watch your mail and email for more information as planning proceeds.



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

We are currently seeking foster parents interested in fostering Youth.



Relief & Respite Stories Wanted

—by Grace Gerry, Victoria—

Your stories of experiences of relief/respites wanted immediately!

Have you used relief for your foster kids, or provided relief/respites to other foster families?

Grace Gerry would love to hear about your experiences – both positive and negative!

Grace and her husband set up a very successful system of reliable relief care when they were fostering full time, and she gave a popular presentation this summer on how to set up relief foster care, at the International Foster Care Organization conference (IFCO 2011) in Victoria.

Grace is now preparing another workshop on setting up successful relief, with a possible 'how to' manual for foster parents, so she would really value hearing about your experiences. Some ideas of interest include:

- What has been your best strategy for finding relief? What are your criteria when seeking alternative caregivers?
- What information is crucial to communicate to your relief person?
- What kinds of issues typically arise?
- What were your best/worst experiences?
- What advice would you offer other foster parents etc.?

Grace is happy to chat on the phone with you, or communicate by email. Her phone number is 250.370-2254 and her email address is gracegerry@shaw.ca. She would appreciate it if you could contact her right away so she can learn from your experiences while preparing her workshop. Thanks!



“BRAVO!” To The IFCO 2011 World Conference PLANNING COMMITTEE and BLUE CREW Volunteers!

Update by Margaret Howley, FPSSS Exec.Dir & IFCO 2011 Chairperson

The conference is over, the happy delegates have all returned home, the bills are all paid, and the books are all balanced. We are extremely pleased and proud to report that due to the excellent budgeting of the planning committee, we were able to

generate some revenue in excess of expenses through the rental of exhibitors booths; the sale of books; the sale of framed prints; the contributions from the conference hotels, the donations of delegates promotional items; (ie pens, bags, hoodies, journals, water bottles, aprons, visors, t-shirts, backpacks, and hats, etc.), we now find ourselves in the wonderful position of being able to contribute these funds to organizations in our sector that have existing bursary's for youth in care!

THE LIFE BOOK

From the Foster Family Handbook

A Life Book is an informal record of the people and events in the child's life while they are in care. Life Books give children a sense of personal history and continuity. Every child who is likely to remain in care for more than six months has a Life Book.

It is jointly maintained by the child's social worker, the child and you.

You will usually look after the book.

When a child leaves care, the Life Book is given to them.

These are some items that might be included in a child's Life Book:

- Photographs
- Souvenirs
- Names, addresses and pictures of the foster family
- Report cards
- Certificates of achievement
- Letters from friends and relatives
- Souvenirs from trips, concerts, sporting events and so forth
- Badges and ribbons
- School products or projects

A life book is a personal record of a child's stay in care.

Recipients are:

- Federation of Community Social Services—Youth in Care Bursary
- BC Federation of Youth in Care Network—The Dream Fund
- National Youth in Care Network—The Ken Dryden Scholarship
- Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents—Back to School
- Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services—Back to School
- Canadian Foster Family Association—Art Poster Contest

And more good news! ... we even have a some funds left over to devote to seed money for an annual foster care conference to be held once a year, rotating throughout the different regions of the province. The planning committee for this project will be comprised of reps from agencies in sectors, including but not limited to ministry, adoption, youth, foster family and parent support, etc., both aboriginal and non-aboriginal. Watch this newsletter and our website at www.fpsss.com for updates!



Update by Lenora Marcellus & Margaret Howley

As we near completion of this worthwhile and valuable project, we would like to take this opportunity to again thank Janice Rotman, The Hospital for Sick Children, and Pam Gilliland for their generous support and contribution to the Safe Babies Program.

We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Interior Community Services, Okanagan Foster Parent Association, Vancouver Coastal / Fraser Region, and Axis Family Resources Inc., for their enthusiastic participation and coordination of training events in their respective areas; and special thanks to the FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society Board of Directors and staff who wholeheartedly supported the project.

Members of our project team (Lenora Marcellus, RN, BSN, MN, PhD ; Margaret Howley, FPSS; and Veronica Berlando, MCFD) were pleased to travel to Toronto to accept the award at the Sick Kids Hospital from Janice Rotman on behalf of the FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society.

The opportunity to meet with the other four award recipient teams was appreciated and the advice they shared helpful to us as we began our planning.

It was reaffirming to note that in our dialogue together, no matter the scope and focus of our programs (all diverse), our child and family serving health and social programs experienced many common issues, including:

- fragmenting of services;
- service silos;
- increasing social complexity of our families; and
- continued funding challenges.

How the FPSS Society used the 2010 Rotman Award:

Working in collaboration with the Safe Babies Foster Parent Training Programs across the province, the FPSS Society used the 2010 Rotman Award to:

- host information sessions throughout British Columbia (Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River, Vancouver Coastal & Fraser, Kamloops, Kelowna—facilitators from Quesnel, Prince George and Terrace received the training in Victoria) to increase knowledge and awareness of the Safe Babies Program, curriculum and facilitator training;
- increase the number of individuals interested in becoming Safe Babies Program facilitators in each community;
- create 75 facilitator “toolkits” for each community containing current literature, research, and DVD’s, etc.;
- make the curriculum, supporting information, Baby Steps Handbook, and resource toolkit available in more communities interested in developing the program in their area;
- provide access to training materials, supporting resource materials on-line;
- increase community capacity and accessibility to the program for foster parents;
- increase the number of Safe Babies certified caregivers to ensure that infants prenatally exposed to drugs and alcohol receive the best care possible.

Conclusion:

Program sustainability requires concerted effort in monitoring progress and outcomes, assessing community needs and resources, and thinking ahead to the future. The Safe Babies Program has continued to evolve in no small part because of the ongoing commitment of everyone involved; moreover, it is based on a model of collaboration and it has helped improve the lives of infants and families who are struggling with substance use and other challenges. We look forward to another 10 years of continued growth.



How Many Foster Families in Your Community?

Information from <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/ffm.htm>

100 Mile House: 25	Creston: 8	Merritt: 23	Queen Charlotte: 9	Midtown: 31
Abbotsford: 124	Delta: 51	Mission: 77	Quesnel: 33	North Van: 38
Agassiz-Harrison: 16	Enderby: 9	Nechako: 12	Revelstoke: 9	South Van: 57
Armstrong-Spallumcheen: 22	Fernie: 18	Nelson: 26	Richmond: 72	West Van-Bowen Island: 9
Bella Coola Valley: 8	Fort Nelson: 8	New Westminster: 17	Salmon Arm: 47	Westside: 16
Burnaby: 41	Golden: 6	North East: 64	Smithers: 27	
Burns Lake: 12	Grand Forks: 15	North Thompson: 6	South Surrey/White Rock: 32	VANCOUVER ISLAND:
Cariboo-Chilcotin: 52	Hope: 23	Peace River North: 27	Southern Okanagan: 25	Alberni: 54
Castlegar: 22	Howe Sound: 35	Peace River South: 23	Summerland: 16	Campbell River: 53
Central Coast: 8	Kamloops: 137	Penticton: 41	Sunshine Coast: 51	Courtenay: 47
Central Okanagan: 166	Kitimat: 9	Powell River: 10	Surrey: 224	Cowichan: 77
Chilliwack: 129	Langley: 119	Prince George: 79	Terrace: 27	Greater Victoria: 146
Coquitlam: 89	Lillooet: 11	Prince Rupert: 15	Trail: 20	Ladysmith: 18
Cranbrook: 21	Maple Ridge: 92	Princeton: 6	Vernon: 66	Nanaimo: 99
			Windermere: 8	Qualicum: 27
			Vancouver:	Saanich: 34
			City Centre: 8	Sooke: 104
			Downtown Eastside: 24	Vancouver Island North: 45

BC Foster Care Education Program FALL 2011								
Code	VICTORIA		COWICHAN		NANAIMO (Modified Fast-track)		CAMPBELL RV	
S1-1	Sept 8 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 12 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 17 Sat	9:30am-12:30pm	Sept 13 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-2	Sept 13 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 19 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 17 Sat	1:00pm-4:00pm	Sept 20 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-3	Sept 15 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 26 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 18 Sun	9:30am-12:30pm	Sept 27 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-4	Sept 20 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 3 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 18 Sun	1:00pm-4:00pm	Oct 4 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-5	Sept 22 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 17 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 24 Sat	9:30am-12:30pm	Oct 11 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-6	Sept 27 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 24 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Set 24 Sat	1:00pm-4:00pm	Oct 18 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-7A	Sept 29 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 7 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 25 Sun	9:30am-12:30pm	Oct 25 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-7B	Oct 4 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 14 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 25 Sun	1:00pm-4:00pm	Nov 1 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-8A	Oct 6 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 21 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 1 Sat	9:30am-12:30pm	Nov 8 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-8B	Oct 11 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Nov 28 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 1 Sat	1:00pm-4:00pm	Nov 15 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-9A	Oct 13 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Jan 2012	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 2 Sun	9:30am-12:30pm	Nov 22 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
S1-9B	Oct 18 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Jan 2012	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 2 Sun	1:00pm-4:00pm	Nov 29 T	6:30pm-9:30pm
Code	VICTORIA		COURTENAY		NANAIMO (Modified Fast-track)		PORT ALBERNI	
S2-1	Oct 25 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 12 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 8 Sat	9:30am-12:30pm	Classes will be scheduled. Cindy Sinister—Facilitator. Please call EVA VOWLES for dates and times 1-888-922-8437	
S2-2	Oct 20 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 14 W	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 8 Sat	1:00pm-4:00pm		
S2-5	Oct 29 Sat	9:30am-2:30pm	Sept 17 Sat	9:30am-2:30pm	Oct 9 Sun	9:30am-2:30pm		
S2-3	Nov 1 T	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 19 M	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 15 Sat	9:30am-12:30pm		
S2-4	Nov 3 Th	6:30pm-9:30pm	Sept 21 W	6:30pm-9:30pm	Oct 15 Sat	1:00pm-4:00pm		
VENUES	VICTORIA FPSSS Training Rm 145-735 Goldstream		COWICHAN/ LS Duncan 5766 Allenby Rd COURTENAY, CVChild Dev Assoc 237 Third Street		NANAIMO FPSS SOCIETY Suite 102- 6421 Applecross Rd		CAMPBELL RV FPSS SOCIETY 106-301 Dogwood St	
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
—Spring/Summer 2011 CLASSES—**



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

FPSSS Contact Information

FPSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS	NAME	TEL—250	FAX—250	E-MAIL
Chairperson	Sandy Case	250-478-2782	250-474-7677	slcase@shaw.ca
Vice Chairperson	Diane Burrows	250-723-9779		burrowsdiane@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Nicola Mackay	250-744-4119		nicola.mackay@telus.net

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Pt Hardy Local Coordinator	Jackie Kervin	250-949-7397	250-902-0565	nicoordinator@fpsss.com
SI Safe Babies Coordinator	Dan Malone	778-430-5460	778-430-5463	svicoordinator@fpsss.com
CI Safe Babies Coordinator	Steve Hancock	250-390-9686	250-390-9687	communitydevelopment@fpsss.com
UI Safe Babies Coord & UI/CI	Mary Catherine Bellamy	250-703-6135	250-286-0545	mbellamy@shaw.ca
Admin Ass't (BCFCE Program)	Eva Vowles	778-430-5459	778-430-5463	bcfce@fpsss.com

PROTOCOL SUPPORT TEAM

Team Leader	Dan Malone	778-430-5460	778-430-5463	svicoordinator@fpsss.com
South Island	Joan Andersen	250-384-8510	250-384-8520	jborman@shaw.ca
Upper Island	Jill Beech	250-338-1261	250-338-1261	gildabeech@shaw.ca
Central Island	Diane Burrows	250-723-9779		burrowsdiane@hotmail.com

SOUTH ISLAND LOCAL

President	Sandy Case	250-478-2782		slcase@shaw.ca
Secretary Treasurer	Nicola Mackay	250-744-4119		nicola.mackay@telus.net

NANAIMO AREA

Nanaimo Partnership Circle	Steve Hancock	250-390-9686	250-390-9687	communitydevelopment@fpsss.com
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PARKSVILLE AREA

Contact	Sheila Bates	250-468-1739	250-954-0744	sheila_bates@hotmail.com
Contact	Mariann Rathlou	250-752-2541		thetruth@telus.net

PORT ALBERNI LOCAL

President	Diane Burrows	250-723-9779	250-720-2100	burrowsdiane@hotmail.com
Vice President	Pat Messenger	250-723-3540		jetskimama@shaw.ca

COWICHAN LOCAL

Chairperson	Claudia McIntrye	250-748-1112	250-748-1123	claudia@pacificcoast.net
Vice-chairperson	Sandra Beagley	250-743-0236		sbeagl@yahoo.com

NORTH ISLAND LOCAL

President	Jackie Kervin	250-949-7397	250-902-0565	odyssey@island.net
Vice President	Clarence Alfred	250-949-5777		
CLS Rep	Connie Gibbs	250-949-7682		

CAMPBELL RIVER

Contact	Judy Hollywood Bonnett	250-286-0555	250-286-0545	uicoordinator@shaw.com
Contact	Heather Murphy	250-923-6028		

COMOX VALLEY LOCAL

Contact	Judy Hollywood Bonnett	250-286-0555	250-286-0545	uicoordinator@shaw.com
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SOUTH FPSSS OFFICE	CENTRAL FPSSS OFFICE	UPPER FPSSS OFFICE
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Area Coordinator: Call direct at 778-430-5459 Fax: 778-430-5463 svicoordinator@fpsss.com	Area Coordinator: Call direct at 250-390-9686 Fax: 390-9687 cicoordinator@fpsss.com	Area Coordinator: Call direct at 250-286-0555 Fax: 286-0545 uicoordinator@shaw.ca



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

Victoria telephone: 1-778-430-5459 fax: 1-778-430-5463

Nanaimo telephone: 1-250-390-9686 fax: 1-250-390-9687

Campbell River telephone: 1-250-286-0555 fax: 1-250-286-0545

or email us at admin@fpsss.com



**Foster
Parent
Support
Services
Society**

foster parents foster hope

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.

Regional Office Location:

145-735 Goldstream Ave,
Victoria, V9B 2X4

Phone: 1-778-430-5459

Fax: 1-778-430-5463

Toll Free: 1-888-922-8437

Websites: www.fpsss.com,
www.fosterhope.ca, 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

Margaret Howley

Tel: Fax: 778-430-5462

mhowley@fpsss.com

ADVERTISING?

You can place an ad in this publication—for as little as \$40.00 per issue.

Just contact Margaret Howley at 778-430-5459 or Toll Free at 1-888-922-8437 for information about our extremely affordable pricing.

Some restrictions apply.

**Quality Care in a Family Setting
A Practical Guide
for Foster Carers**



Leon Fulcher & Thom Garfat

“This volume will assist foster carers’ movement towards conscious competence ...a practical and suggestive text.”

*“Getting it right for every child in kinship and foster care starts from the premise that every child matters, regardless of where they live. While training, support and development standards are now used to enhance, monitor and evaluate the quality of care given to looked after children and young people, Foster Carers are frequently expected to perform their pivotal roles without practical guidance and support. Building from a strengths-based, daily life approach, **Quality Care in a Family Setting** seeks to redress that deficit, offering practical assistance for Foster Carers to do extraordinary things with the children and young people for whom they care.”*

The delegates of IFCO 2011 had the pleasure of attending workshops and plenary sessions presented by Dr. Leon Fulcher and Dr. Thom Garfat, co-author’s of *Quality Care in a Family Setting - A Practical Guide for Foster Carers*. Leon and Thom have graciously provided FPSSS with several copies of their book to be offered to foster carers for the special conference price of **\$15.00** (half off the Amazon.com price).

If you would like to purchase a copy, please call us at 1-888-922-8437 or email admin@fpsss.com to arrange for pick-up or mailing.

Needed:

Protocol Support Workers

FPSS Society is currently recruiting volunteer Protocol Support Workers for the Vancouver Island Region.

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.

CARF SURVEY COMING SOON

A survey team from CARF International* will be visiting FPSS Society offices on November 28th to November 30th

We invited the surveyors to evaluate how well we meet international standards for quality. The survey will tell us what we are doing well and ways we might improve. As a result of this survey, we may continue accreditation.

As part of the survey, the surveyors will interview people who receive services, their families, our staff, and others. Some questions the survey team members might ask people are:

- Do we provide a clean and safe setting?
- Do you receive the services you need and want?
- Are you treated with respect?
- Do you take part in planning your services?
- Are you told what you need to know about your services?
- Are your questions answered in a way you understand?
- Do you know where to go with questions or concerns?

If you would like to talk with one of the survey team members or want to learn more about CARF International, please let one of our staff members know. You may also contact CARF Canada directly.

CARF Canada:

**10665 Jasper Ave, Ste 1400A, Edmonton, AB T5J 3S9, CANADA
Tel: (780) 429-2538 Toll-free: (877) 434-5444 voice Fax: (780) 426-7274**

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*CARF International is an independent, not-for-profit family of organizations (including CARF, CARF Canada, and CARF-CCAC) that provides accreditation in the field of human services.