

NORTHERN FOSTERING NEWS



HAPPY NEW YEARS!!!

The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT has had a very busy winter and we are so excited about all the accomplishments and announcements we have to share with you!

Within this issue of Northern Fostering News, you'll find out about the Comfort Kits Project, Updates on Camp Connections, P.R.I.D.E. Online Training and the very exciting new Ad that the FFC is making!

We are also very busy going through applications for the Stay in School Awards. Remember the deadline this school year is April 30th so make sure you get them in on time.

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OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.



Foster Family Coalition of the
NWT



@Ffcnwt



Executive Director Report

Welcome to 2019! I hope that you had a relaxing holiday season with your family and friends. I took time off over the holidays to spend with my family and I actually put my feet up for a change. I have lots to update you on since the fall....

Nicole Garbutt did not come back to the office full-time after the end of camp but has been working part-time as the Camp Director. She is busy prepping for hiring of the new camp staff and getting everything ready to hand over to a new Camp Director. Jobs will all be posted on Job's North in the near future.

The siding on the new cookhouse was almost finished before it got too cold so we will be finishing it up in the spring. The new skylights were installed so it is very bright and sunny inside. As soon as we get the woodstoves installed it will be ready to go! We are planning an Open House prior to the start of camp season. Nicole has been busy writing proposal to secure funding to rebuild the sleeping cabins so it can be accessible year round. I am still in awe of how much the community came together to help us with the project!

I travelled to Ottawa in November and met with the Executive Directors from other foster family organizations from across the country. This is a time for learning what is working in other places and making connections. We met with Ashley Bach, the new president of Youth in Care Canada and Rachel Gouin, the new Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of Canada. Our meetings were very productive and we plan on partnering on many things in the future.

As you are aware the Office of the Auditor General did a review to follow on the Report they did in 2014. The report showed that things have actually gotten worse instead of better. I attended a review of their recommendations as well as the response from the Department of Health and Social Services. We have been holding our Partnership Meetings monthly and have expanded them to include social workers from other regions to attend by teleconference. I will also be facilitating a Focus Group on Foster Care that will be meeting monthly.

The Legal Defense Insurance to foster parents helps with legal expenses if they



are charged with an offense against a youth in their care. We are heading into our third year with the program and are adding names to the list as we receive them. If you have not yet received your certificate please fill in the attached form and return it to the FFC office. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us.

The P.R.I.D.E. online is also heading into another year. You can now take Pre-service P.R.I.D.E. online as well as the first 4 CORE modules at your own convenience. We have more and more people signing up for the training. This is an excellent way to make sure that we are all prepared to work with children and families. If you are living in a smaller community and need help with the online training, talk to your social worker and they can help you out!

Our partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation enables us to deliver some amazing programs in the NWT. We just recently finished stuffing the Comfort Kits and they have been shipped out to the regions for distribution. The Stay in School Program is currently accepting applications and we have extended the deadline for the Health and Well-Being Fund. Information about these programs are included in this newsletter.

We will be holding board development training for our board in Yellowknife from March 15 – 17, 2019. We are looking forward to spending time together and working to ensure that foster/adoptive parents are supported in the NWT. We have vacancies on the board so please let us know ASAP if you are interested in becoming a board member.

This year the Canadian Foster Family Conference will be held just north of Toronto from May 30- June 2, 2019. This is a great way to get in some training and network with other foster parents. I will be sending out the registration information once it is available so talk to your social worker to see if they would be willing to sponsor you to go!

Let's hope the rest of winter is as beautiful as it has been so far!

Tammy Roberts
FFC-NWT Executive Director



PRESIDENT REPORT

I hope that you have all had a wonderful holiday season, and that the new year is good to you. This has been a very busy winter for us at the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT so far.

Our Executive Director, Tammy travelled to Ottawa in November in order to meet with other Executive Directors from foster family organizations across the country. What a great opportunity!

Our annual Comfort Kit Project has taken a good portion of our winter to complete. We have shipped out the last of the backpacks, are looking forward to next year!

We also are going to have a change in staff. Our Camp Director, Nicole Garbutt is returning to work with us part time, until another Camp Director can be hired. Keep an eye out for the job posting in the upcoming months. Camp Connections will also be hiring for positions in the upcoming months, so keep your eyes open for these exciting job opportunities!

This coming March we will be hosting a board development-training weekend at Blachford Lake Lodge. We would love to see a full board of directors to kick this off. It would be an excellent opportunity to start fresh with a new board and all be on the same page to make positive changes moving forward for the FFC-NWT. If you, or someone you know would be a good fit for our board please get in touch. Details on how to become a board member will follow in this newsletter.

I hope 2019 treats you well, and I wish you all the best in your fostering and adoption journey.

Yours in Fostering,
Dawn Pottinger



STAY IN SCHOOL AWARDS

The FFC-NWT is continuing as a proud distributor for the Scotia Capital Stay in School Awards. This year we have \$16,000 to distribute to school aged, at-risk children and youth in the territory.



Awards Available:

Stay in School Award: \$300 cash. Deadline is April 30th annually

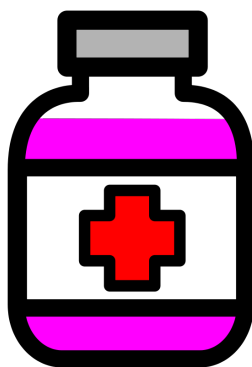
Graduation Award: \$50 cash award for graduating from Grade 8 or Grade 12 Deadline is July 15th annually

HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND

This fund is to assist and aid families with the financial costs of various health needs of children and youth that are not involved with social services.

The funds purpose is to fill the financial gaps of health needs not covered by Healthcare, and it is to be used solely for the child or youth's health expenses.

Please visit our website at www.ffcnwt.com to fill out an application!



LEGAL DEFENSE INSURANCE

This insurance is free and available to all foster parents in the NWT!



If you are a couple the policy is for the home, not separate coverage per person. Your coverage lasts even if you stop fostering. Telephone support and advice is available.

Please see the next page for the form!



Interested in Fostering or Adopting in the Northwest Territories? We're here to support you!

"The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is a unified voice dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and youth in care by supporting foster families' well-being."

The FFC-NWT exists for foster and adoptive parents and has many wonderful resources, supports and programs. The FFC is a non-profit, charitable organization that was formed in 2002 that consists of volunteer board members from across the territory.

Our Yellowknife office is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and Executive Assistant offering:

- ✓ **One-on-one, customized support**
- ✓ **Northwest Territories Foster Family Guide**
- ✓ **Toll-free phone support line**
- ✓ **Online support** and discussion groups (private)
- ✓ **Legal Defense Insurance** (liability insurance for foster parents)
- ✓ **Quarterly Newsletters**
- ✓ **Training** (online, private and group)
- ✓ **Stay in School Awards** (up to \$350/year)
- ✓ **Comfort Kits** (Essential and supportive items for children who come into care)
- ✓ **Helping Children Soar Scholarship Program**
- ✓ **Car Seat Installation Clinics**
- ✓ **Camp Connections Summer Camp**

We are here to ensure that your transition to becoming and succeeding as a foster parent is well supported. WELCOME!

Consent to Release Contact Information

By signing this form you are consenting to:

- Sharing your contact information with the FFC-NWT so that they can offer you **support and information**.
(You will not be asked to buy anything and you can choose the method of contact the FFC-NWT has with you)
- Sharing your contact information with the **Legal Defense Insurance Fund** for your liability insurance policy for foster parents only.

If you have any questions about the services of the FFC-NWT or what it means to sign this form, please do not hesitate to contact the FFC-NWT, toll-free at 1-866-233-0136.

I, _____ hereby consent to the release of my contact information to the Foster Family Coalition.

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Email Address

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return form to us either by fax, email or drop it off at our office. Thankyou!

Foster Family Coalition of the NWT / 5125-50th Street / P.O. Box 2022 / Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P5

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We Need You Recruitment Video

We at the Foster Family Coalition are very excited to announce that we will be shooting a recruitment ad! We hope that it will encourage families from all over the North to consider fostering and adoption!

It will be filmed in January using people from in the Northwest Territories. It will be shot and edited by Cabin Radio. We hope to have it air on social media as well as in local businesses around town, such as the Capitol Theater.

We are so excited to finally be able to make this ad; as this is something we have been trying to put together for over a year. Please keep a look out for it in the upcoming months!



Youth In Care Canada Director

My name is Sandra Noel, I am the Director for the Northwest Territories at Youth in Care Canada. I applied for the position because I want to help make a difference in children's lives that are in care. I myself was in foster care for 9 years in the north. I can relate to many of the different reasons why children go into care, and areas of the foster care system. I am currently in the process of receiving the rest of my foster care records from the Territorial Social Programs of the GNWT.

My role and goals as Director for the NWT at Youth in Care Canada, are to do outreach to organizations, maintain current relationships with partnering places, raise awareness of issues for youth in care, and fundraise monetary contributions so Youth in Care Canada can continue to do good work. I want to learn as much as possible, and utilize the skills to keep helping others, throughout my life. I am grateful and honoured to be apart of Youth in Care Canada.



Camp Connection Dates Confirmed!

Summer 2019 will be the 16th annual summer of Camp Connections! Fun, sun and memories to last a lifetime!

Session	Dates	Ages
1	June 28 th -July 4 th	7-11 Coed
2	July 9 th -15 th	12-14 Coed
3	July 20 th -26 th	7-11 Coed
4	July 31 st -August 6 th	12-18 Coed
5	August 11 th -17 th	7-11 Coed

The registrations are now open for Camp Connections 2019! Go to the FFC-NWT website to download the form and get your campers registered early for preferred session choice!

www.ffcnwt.com/campconnections



2018 Auditor General Report

As many of you have recently read about in the news, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada has released a follow up report on his original report done of Child and Family Services in the Northwest Territories, in March of 2014. The original report found that there were multiple systemic issues in the services that were being provided to children and families that put the children's safety at risk. Recommendations were made to improve the system.

Now four years later, with this new report being released in 2018, it has come out that nothing has improved, and that things have actually gotten worse. Tammy attended a review of their recommendations as well as the response from the Department of Health and Social Services. We at the FFC have also been holding our Partnership Meetings monthly and have included social workers from other regions to attend by teleconference. Tammy will also be facilitating a Focus Group on Foster Care that will be meeting monthly. We hope that with all these new changes, some change will start to be seen in the Foster Care system.

If you have any questions about the Auditor General Report, please don't hesitate to give us a call, or to send us an email. We are always here to help and offer support.

COMFORT KITS & PRIDE



The FFC-NWT has been fortunate enough to receive funding once again from the Ted & Loretta Rogers fund to offer Comfort Kits to children and youth across the NWT who are entering into care.

They are age appropriate and contain many wonderful items; such as teddy bears, Colouring books, mittens, hats, diapers, iPods for the older kids, Learning Leap pads for younger, pillows, custom hoodies and much more!

It has taken a large chunk of the winter to complete, but the backpacks are all stuffed and have been shipped out to all the regions. Another successful round of comfort kits out!



PRIDE Online
Foster Care and Adoption Training Based on the PRIDE Model of Practice

FOSTER FAMILY COALITION OF THE NWT

The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is launching P.R.I.D.E Training Online!

P.R.I.D.E Parent Resource Information Development Education:

- Pre Service for potential and existing foster & adoptive parents
- Core Modules for potential and existing foster & adoptive parents
- Online support

To Access Training:

- Work at your own pace and from home
- Computer access can be coordinated regionally and FFC-NWT Office

Contact The FFC-NWT @ ffc@ffcnwt.com or Toll Free at 1-866-233-0136 to sign up for Free!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to make a difference to fostering in the NWT in a more impactful way? Do you have a desire to organize meetings and networking sessions in your community?

The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is looking for board members!

Currently the positions that are open for election are:

- 2 Positions from Hayriver
- 1 Position from Dehcho
- 2 Positions from the Sahtu
- 2 Positions from the Beauford Delta
- 2 Positions from the Tlicho

The FFC-NWT is planning a board development meeting at Blachford Lake Lodge on March 15-17th. This is the perfect time to submit a letter of interest or nominate someone to join the board. Aside from the upcoming board development, the monthly commitments are to a teleconference board meeting monthly and to be a model of fostering in your community and region, assisting in recruitment and participating in Foster Family Appreciation Week events are an asset.

Please see the nomination form; which can be filled out for oneself, on the following page. Please contact the FFC-NWT at info@ffcnwt.com or Toll Free at 1-866-233-0136 to find out more information.



FFC-NWT Board Member Nomination Form

Nominations must be made by a foster parent or you can nominate yourself.

I, _____ nominate _____
(name of the person suggesting the Board member) (name of the person to sit on the board)

For a position on the Board of Directors with the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT.

The person I am nominating is from the community of: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____

Signature of Nominee: _____

Please answer the following questions about the person who you would like to serve on the Board of Directors. This will be on the voters ballot that will be mailed to foster parents in your region in late February.

1. How long have you been a foster parent and what do you like most about it?

2. What can you do for the FFC-NWT?

3. What do you feel is important for foster parents in the NWT?



From all the Staff & Board Members of the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT we hope you all have a great new year!



The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is here to support you.

Please do not hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns, or just want to chat.

Toll-Free Support Line: 1.866.233.0136

Phone: 867.766.3326

Email: info@ffcnwt.com

Website: www.ffcnnwt.com

Drop in to our office, located at 5125 50th Street
(former Dene Nation Building)