

NORTHERN FOSTERING NEWS



"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"

SPRING IS HERE!

It feels like the end of winter is finally in sight and we cannot wait! It has been a long and busy winter and we are very much looking forward to a (still very busy) summer!

The FFC-NWT Annual General Meeting was held on May 14th. We had a booth in the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce Spring Trade Show, once again this year.

Camp Connections preparations are underway as well and it is looking to be an excellent summer! REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN ON OUR WEBSITE!

The Canadian Foster Family Association Conference will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from May 14-16.

Please read on in this edition to learn more!

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OFFICE HOURS

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



Foster Family Coalition of
the NWT



@Ffcnnwt



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring 2018

It is almost time for all of our Camp Connections staff to arrive.... Wow! Time is ticking and we better get busy! This is what we have been up to over the last year.

The beginning of April we were busy prepping for Camp by interviewing and hiring staff for the summer.

In May, we brought Russell Pohl to Fort Smith for Beyond the Rainbow Crosswalk Tour. He did workshops in the schools in Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife in partnership with FOXY. We also had a booth at the Trade Show in Yellowknife. The exposure was well received and we had many inquiries about fostering, adoption and Camp Connections.

In early June we were very happy to be the Charity of Choice for the Hub International Insurance Golf Tournament and were generously donated almost \$60,000 in cash and in-kind donations to go towards rebuilding the cookhouse.

Our Camp staff all started on June 19th and they will complete a week of training in the office and a week of prepping the programming and the camp itself. The first session of camp started at the beginning of July and went until the middle of August. We were able to accommodate 96 campers over the summer and this was the first summer that we were not evacuated due to wild fires. We had a canoe trip, even though it was shorter than usual because there were fires in the area. Camp programming was happy to have some of the regular artists attending at the request of the campers and some new ones that were very well received.

September was busy with prepping Camp Connections for the rebuild of the cookhouse. We had some amazing volunteers that spent a great deal of time working to remove everything from the cookhouse. We also did a great deal of fire smarting but removing any trees that were close to any of the cabins.

October brought the Canadian Foster Family Association Annual Conference in Whistler, BC. As always, there was a good representation from the Northwest Territories at the conference.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I continue with my position as secretary and Chris Dewolf took on the position of Chair. We have continued to work hard as a team with monthly conference calls and have completed our by-laws and policies manual.

Also, in October was National Foster Family Appreciation Week when we send out packages to all the foster parents across the territory and spent some time focusing on awareness and recruitment. There were some great celebrations in the communities to show how foster parents are appreciated.

I attended the National FASD Conference in Calgary, also had a face-to-face meeting with the CanFASD Research Network Family Advisory Committee. I have been on this committee couple of years. We have monthly conference calls throughout the rest of the year. This year we focused on a photo voice project about what it is like to be a caregiver of an individual with a diagnosis of FASD.

A new partnership with Kasteel Construction and Wilf's Renovations meant many meetings to discuss the rebuild of the cookhouse. By the end of October, the cookhouse was gone, thanks to the hard work of NWT Construction. There were meetings held throughout the winter and many more partnerships created. Thanks to T.A.G. we have beautiful drawings and construction started on May 20th. We will have a new cookhouse by the beginning of camp. Many other businesses and individuals have come on board to donate materials and time on this project and we are so very grateful.

In November, we launched a new series of adoption posters, highlighting different types of adoption. They were launched on social media and sent out to all the regions to hang up in the communities. We also set out booth up at the airport, chatting with people from across the NWT about adoption.

In November, we had Jody Robbiard join us in the office. She was trained to cover for Nicole as Nicole took 6 months off starting in January to travel. Nicole will be back for the start of Camp Connections.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We had another very successful stuffing party with many volunteers in December. We shipped out over 200 backpacks across the territory to be given to children and youth who come into foster care. The backpacks have items that provide comfort at the difficult time of transition. Funding for Ted and Loretta Rogers Transition Program is provided through the Children's Aid Foundation.

We sent out the first batch of Stay in School Awards in January and May. The response has been overwhelming and we had many new applications this year. If have a youth that is graduating from either grade 8 or grade 12, there are awards for them as well. Deadline is July 15/18. Check out our website for more details and for the fillable forms.

Registration is now open for ***Camp Connections***. The registration forms are coming in at a steady pace so if you have someone that wants to attend camp make sure you get the registration form in as soon as possible. We are very happy to have Danielle returning as Camp Manager to lead our staff.

We have continued with our partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services over the past year, working together on projects that will benefit you and your families. They announced that the foster cares rates were changing as of April 1, 2018. It has been a long time since there has been a change to the rate structure. We look forward to continuing our work with the department and forming a new relationship with the Territorial Authority in the future.

I would like to thank the FFC Board for all their support over the past year, for their flexibility to support my family and me and to support the foster/adoptive families across the territory.

Tammy Roberts
Executive Director



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is held its Annual General Meeting on May 14th at 7 pm. The AGM was open to all foster and adoptive families in the NWT and members of the FFC-NWT.

The AGM was held through conference call; any FFC member can request the log in information, there is a Toll-Free log-in number.

The positions that were open for election were:

- Vice-President – Rebecca agreed to stay on in this position
- Secretary – not filled

The following Directors positions on the board are open:

- 1 Position from the Deh Cho
- 2 Position from the Sahtu,
- 2 Position from the Beaufort Delta
- 2 Positions from Hay River
- 1 Position from the Tlicho.

If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the board of directors, you can use the form on the following page.



YELLOWKNIFE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPRING TRADE SHOW

The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT was at the Spring Trade Show this Mother's Day Weekend, May 12-13th

The booth was set up in the "Community Arena" aka the DND Gym at the Multiplex Centre.

The FFC-NWT was a popular stop with the many new and exciting giveaways; we were able to share a lot of information with many people over the two days. We had a draw both days to win a picnic blanket with the FFC-NWT logo on it

Once again the most popular spot with the kids was the table with coloring for the kids.





REGISTER FOR THE HUB INTERNATIONAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT AND SUPPORT CAMP CONNECTIONS!



HUB INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS
8th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Friday June 1st, 2018

**Thanks to our sponsors, we've raised over \$300,000.00
for Northern Charities in the last 7 years.**

Let's help raise some more.

Registration \$125 per person and includes golf, dinner, wine,
auction, door prizes and live entertainment

MANY FUN HOLE IN ONE CONTESTS

To book a tee-time or for more information, call Rob at 780-732-7762
or email at robert.roy@hubinternational.com. You can also reach Marie-
Rose at 780-732-6882 or email at marie-rose.thomas@hubinternational.com



ALL PROCEEDS THIS YEAR WILL GO TO THE FOSTER FAMILY COALITION OF THE NWT INITIATIVE; CAMP CONNECTIONS.



See our sponsors to date below and if you wish to be part of this event, please contact Rob or Marie-Rose.

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WWW.FFCNWT.COM



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone,

As it has been mentioned we have had a long and busy winter and are so happy now that Spring seems to have Sprung at least at the moment.

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 14th. There are still positions that are open on the board and if you are on the fence about potentially running for a position, I do highly recommend that you give it a try.

Positions are on a two year term and involve a commitment of a monthly tele-conference board meeting, being a positive role model and advocate for foster and adoption in your region.

This March we had our board development meeting. The CFFA President Kevin Harris came and helped our board with making a strategic plan. It was nice to have a face to face meeting with all of the board members and find ways to continue to improve the board moving forward. We also participated in FASD Training that was provided by the Saskatchewan FASD Network.

We continue to work in a good partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services, on issues related to fostering to make things smoother and better for the children and youth. We have been working with the department on rate changes for many years and on April 1st, 2018; the department released the new foster care rates! We have put a copy of the new rate in this issue of the newsletter.

If you have a concern you would like brought forward to the department, please contact the FFC-NWT to advocate with you.

Yours in Fostering,
Dawn Pottinger
President

New Foster Care and Adoption Rates
Effective April 2, 2018

Basic Maintenance Rate				Subsidized Adoption Rate (Basic Maintenance Rate)	
Region	Community	Current Rate / day	New Rate / day	Current Rate / day (60% of Current)	New Rate / day (90% of New Basic Rate)
Beaufort Delta	Aklavik	43	49	26	44
	Ft McPherson	39	46	23	41
	Inuvik	33	46	20	41
	Paulatuk	53	54	32	49
	Sachs Harbour	47	51	28	46
	Tsiigehtchic	36	49	22	44
	Tuktoyaktuk	49	49	29	44
	Ulukhatok	44	54	26	49
Sahtu	Colville Lake	47	57	28	51
	Deline	45	48	27	43
	Ft Good Hope	45	48	27	43
	Norman Wells	44	50	26	45
	Tulita	45	48	27	43
Yellowknife	Dettah	24	29	14	26
	Yellow knife	24	29	14	26
	Ft Resolution	31	42	19	38
	Ndilo	24	29	14	26
	Lutselk'e	42	48	25	43
Fort Smith	Ft Smith	30	34	18	31
Hay River	Hay River	27	35	16	32
	Enterprise	26	35	16	32
Dehcho	Ft Liard	32	41	19	37
	Ft Providence	30	39	18	35
	Ft Simpson	34	37	20	33
	Kakisa	34	39	20	35
	K'atlodeeche First	27	34	16	31
	Jean Marie River	34	37	20	33
	Nahanni Butte	40	40	24	36
	Trout Lake	39	42	23	38
	Wrigley	42	50	25	45
Tlicho	Behchoko	33	42	20	38
	Gameti	36	36	22	32
	Wekw'eeti	38	42	23	38
	Whati	36	42	22	38
Age of Child Rate				Subsidized Adoption Rate (Specialized Needs Rate)	
Age Group		Current Rate / day	New Rate / day	Current Rate / day / point	New Rate / day / point
Age 0 - 5		4	5		
Age 6 - 12		3	4	0.38	0.57
Age 13 - 18		5	6		

Note 1:

Foster care rates vary from community to community, based on the Consumer Price Index.

Note 2:

In addition to the basic foster care rate, supplementary payments based on the age of the child exist, such as:

- Age 0-5 years - \$5.00 per day
- Age 6-12 years - \$4.00 per day
- Age 13-18 years - \$6.00 per day

And as required, a specialized needs assessment can be completed to determine if the child or youth also qualifies for additional funding due to a disability or a unique level of care need.

GRADUATION AWARDS

We are accepting applications for grade 8 and grade 12 graduation awards!

The Deadline is July 15th! The application can be found on our website:
www.fcnwt.com

Grade 8 Grad Award: \$50.00

Grade 12 Grad Award: \$100.00





HELPING CHILDREN SOAR SCHOLARSHIP

The FFC-NWT is continuing its scholarship fund for NWT residents who have grown up in foster care, through the Yellowknife Community Foundation. Funds to start the scholarship fund were generously donated by BHP Billiton and the Yellowknife Foster Family Association.

The scholarships are administered by the Yellowknife Community Foundation and the Deadline was May 15th Please stay tuned to see who was successful.



Canadian Foster Family Association Report

In October 2017, the CFFA Conference was hosted by the BC Federation of Foster Parent Associations (BCFFPA) who was celebrating their 50th Anniversary in beautiful Whistler, BC for an extended event.

There were a number of workshops, national working group sessions, two banquets and more.

We have three new faces on our board. Welcome to Nicole Shuglo, the new Director for the CFFA board representing Newfoundland, Marion Brading, the new Director for the CFFA board representing Manitoba and Wendi Poirer from Prince Edward Island.

I was appointed the position of Chair.



Since last October, the board has been working hard and has completed the new bylaws and got them passed, we also have a set of policy manuals now passed and have a strategic plan that we are following.

THE CFFA HOSTED OUR FIRST NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOSTER CARE - The CFFA was invited to Atamiskākēwak National Gathering 2018 April 23-28.

“Atamiskākēwak 2018 is the bringing together of all people in a week of experiences, education and understanding and fun, bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples! This will be a week that has something for everyone; no matter the age, demographic or knowledge level, all coming together and “Shaking Hands in Greeting with each Other”.

The week consisted of national and international attendance on the “how” to build right relationships on the journey of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It was “how” do we apply and act on the ‘94 Calls to Action’ in today’s reality. Our president Kevin Harris gave an all day workshop “Our Children, Our Future”.

I attended this conference with Mary Bishop, Supervisor of Social Services, Fort Smith Region and I feel as a foster parent especially that of an Aboriginal child, this conference benefited me in my roles on the FFC-NWT and CFFA Boards. It was an excellent opportunity to network on behalf of these boards.

The Saskatchewan Foster Families Association (SFFA) will host the next CFFA Conference in June, in Saskatoon. I look forward to meeting others from the NWT that will be in attendance.

Yours in Fostering,
Chris DeWolf
NWT Board Member for the CFFA
Board Member for the FFC-NWT



CANADIAN FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The CFFA is hosting their annual conference in Saskatoon, SK from June 14-16. The FFC-NWT is encouraging the Regions to send foster and adoptive parents from their area.

The conference is an excellent opportunity to receive training, learn new skills and network with other foster and adoptive families from across Canada. The conference will be held at the Radisson in Saskatoon and will be in tandem with the SFFA conference.



CAMP CONNECTIONS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

The Camp Connections dates are set and registration is now open! You can do this by visiting the FFC-NWT's website at <https://www.ffc Northwest.com/campconnections>

2018 Camp Schedule

Session	Ages	Date
Session #1	7-11 coed	July 3 - July 9
Session #2	12-14 coed	July 14 - July 20
Session #3	7-11 coed	July 25 - July 31
Session #4	12-18 coed	August 5 - August 11
Session #5	7-11 coed	August 16 - August 22

Camp Connections will have three returning staff members this year, Camp Director Nicole Garbutt, Danielle Reid as the manager, and leader Sami Charlebois. We are very excited to have these returning staff members, as the consistency is very beneficial to the children and youth who attend Camp. Equally so, it is also important to have new staff with fresh and exciting enthusiasm.

We are very excited about this summer!





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)

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?



CANADIAN FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

April 1st 20__ to March 31st 20__

New Member: _____

Renewal: _____

Foster Family: _____ Social Worker _____ Organizational: _____ Provincial/Terr: _____ other: _____

Please Print Legibly

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov/Terr _____ PC: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____ Email: _____

A Newsletter will be sent electronically 3 times per year. If you prefer a hardcopy sent to you in the mail please indicate here ☐

Membership Fees:

1 Year Personal Membership: \$20.00 ☐ 6 year Personal Membership: \$100.00 ☐

1 year Organizational membership Fee: \$200.00 ☐

1 year Provincial/ Territorial Membership Fee: \$400.00 ☐

For more information and Method of payment contact:

membership@canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca

**Thank You for Supporting the
Canadian Foster Family Association!**

For Office Use

Date Received _____ Fee Received _____

Dated Forwarded _____ Initial _____