



# NEWSLETTER

## Foster Parent Society of Ontario (FPSO)

### In this issue:

- Registered education savings plans (RESP's)
- Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE)
- Part X (Personal Information)
- PAC
- Save the date



### Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs)

On January 1, 2018, legislative amendments to the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) to raise the age of protection were proclaimed. These amendments include the Voluntary Youth Services Agreement (VYSA) for youth who are 16 or 17 and who require out of home placements. This cohort of youth is not in the legal care of a society, but they are provided with supports comparable to youth in care, and the society is responsible for the maintenance of youth in a VYSA in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The provisions concerning the age of protection are carried forward in the CYFSA.

This directive expands eligibility for RESPs to include youth in a VYSA. It also includes an option for youth in a VYSA to choose an alternative savings plan in lieu of the RESP

. This policy directive, under s. 42(1) of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA), requires children's aid societies, including Indigenous societies (societies) to use funds equivalent to the June 2016 federal Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB)[1] payment to establish RESPs for eligible children and youth. The June 2016 federal UCCB amounts are as follows:

\$160 per month for eligible children in care who are under the age of six; and \$60 per month for eligible children and youth in care aged six through 17. More information can be found at: [www.children.gov.on.ca](http://www.children.gov.on.ca) Under Policy Directive: Registered Education Savings Plans



### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Child Welfare Political Action Committee of Canada

(Child Welfare PAC) is a volunteer run, non-partisan, federally incorporated not-for-profit that advocates for a progressive child welfare system. Research has shown that youth leaving the child protection system at the age of majority have worsened life outcomes than their peers. The child protection system has been struggling to improve life outcomes for the youth it has raised for 40 years. The key to breaking the cycle is evidence-based policy making aimed at improving outcomes for youth after care.

Jane Kovarikova is the founder who started the Child Welfare PAC in 2017. Jane also spent her early childhood in foster care and was made a Crown ward. Jane has made and continues to make tremendous gains for our youth ageing out of care.

#### POLITICAL PRIORITIES

**Data and Results-Driven Policy.** System accountability through evidence-based policies that check impact on life outcomes of kids.

**Privacy Protection.** The privacy rights of juvenile offenders are protected better than those of kids from child protection. Seal files after "aging-out".

**Mental Health Strategy.** The rate of post-traumatic stress for youth after care is almost double that of war veterans. Need trauma-informed service.

**Post-Secondary Achievement.** Only 20% of qualified foster youth pursue post-secondary studies -yet graduation means more opportunities for life.

On January 1, 2018, legislative amendments to the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) to raise the age of protection were proclaimed. These amendments include the Voluntary Youth Services Agreement (VYSA) for youth who are 16 or 17. This cohort of youth is not in the legal care of a society, but they are provided with supports comparable to youth in care, and the society is responsible for the maintenance of youth in a VYSA. The provisions concerning the age of protection are carried forward in the Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA).

On April 30, 2018, an amendment to Ontario Regulation 257/09 under the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent Act, which expands OCBE eligibility to include youth in a VYSA, will come into force.

#### **(OCBE) Policy Directive: Activities Program Requirements Age 0-17**

##### Higher Educational Achievement

To be supported through a child or youth's participation in activities that maximize his or her learning potential and promote success in early learning, primary and secondary educational settings, and the future pursuit of post-secondary education and vocational learning opportunities.

Examples of higher educational achievement activities: early learning activities, including child care; one-to-one tutoring; school uniforms; courses not offered through a Board of Education; books and tools that promote literacy skills; school trips; tools or supplies necessary for vocational training.

##### Higher Degree of Resiliency, Social Skills and Relationship Development

To be supported through a child or youth's participation in activities that promote social skills and interpersonal relationship development.

Examples of higher degree of resiliency, social skills and relationship development activities: musical instruments and lessons; art supplies and lessons; sports equipment; program registration fees; admission or event fees; camp fees; activities that enhance contact with family or significant others; activities that support a mentorship relationship or connection with a caring, responsible adult(s).

##### Smoother Transition to Adulthood

To be supported through a child or youth's participation in activities that promote the development of the knowledge and skills necessary to transition from care and live independently, including knowing how and where to access required supports.

Examples of smoother transition to adulthood activities: life skills courses including meal planning, interpersonal skills, stress management, pre-employment preparation, visits to post-secondary institutions, driver's training.

Note: The examples listed above are included for illustrative purposes only. Societies are not limited to the examples provided above.

#### **OCBE Savings Program and Requirements (Age 15-17)**

For each youth participating in the Savings Program, societies shall allocate the current monthly OCBE payment per youth to the Savings Program for each month that the youth is in care or in customary care, or in a VYSA. The OCBE payments are to be saved (**hereafter "savings"**) by societies on behalf of eligible youth.

Where a youth has been in care or in customary care for 12 consecutive months when he or she turns 15 years old, societies shall allocate the OCBE payment amounts to the Savings Program for that youth beginning with the month that the youth turned 15 years old.

Where a youth meets the eligibility requirement of being in care or in customary care for 12 consecutive months after he or she turns 15 years old, societies shall allocate the OCBE payment amounts to the Savings Program for that youth starting with the month that he or she turned 15 years old or came into care or customary care, whichever occurred later.

Societies shall disburse the total savings, including any interest, to eligible youth no later than six months after society care, customary care, or the VYSA has ended for that youth with no prospect of resumption unless otherwise agreed to by the youth, but no later than 12 months after society care, customary care, or the VYSA has ended.

More information can be found at: Ministry of Children and Youth Services [www.children.gov.on.ca](http://www.children.gov.on.ca)

YOUTH CAN TAKE THE ONLINE TRAINING AND SOME YOUTHS MY NEED ASSISTANCE  
**FINANCIAL LITERACY ONLINE TRAINING:**  
<https://www.cafdn.org/for-youth/financial-literacy-online-training/>

**2020 Conference  
Save the Date**

**22nd to 24th May**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT  
CECILE BROOKES  
Regional Director Region 11

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
VANESSA MILLEY

VICE PRESIDENT  
ELAINE PRATT  
Regional Director, Region 12

2ND VICE  
NORM LALONDE  
Regional Director Region 21

TREASURER  
ELAINE HUTCHINSON  
Regional Director Region 24

JANICE GORDON  
Regional Director, Region 13

BECKI MAIN  
Regional Director, Region 16

HEATHER CAMPBELL  
Regional Director, Region 19

LAURENCE MARTIN  
Regional Director, Region 5

KRISTA RAY-CADDICK  
Regional Director, Region, 8

JULIANA CIACH  
Regional Director, Region 25

Foster Parent Society of Ontario  
[www.fosterparentssociety.org](http://www.fosterparentssociety.org)  
Mailing address:  
340 Kingsway Welland, Ontario  
L3B3N9  
Telephone: 905-788-6820

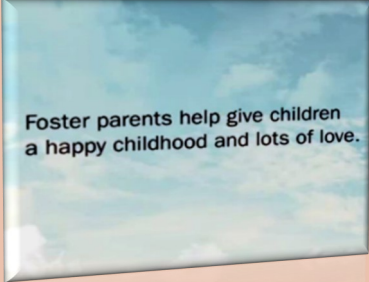


# Foster Parent of the Year Awards

The Foster Parents Society of Ontario is proud to inform you of our 2019 recipients for the Lifetime Achievement and Foster Parent of the Year Award.

Lifetime Achievement Award  
Name: Kathy and Bud Ross  
50 years fostering-Durham CAS

Foster Parent of the Year Award  
Name: Anne Klassen  
Fostering for 9 years  
Windsor Essex



Foster parents help give children  
a happy childhood and lots of love.

**Congratulation 2019 Award Winners!**

## Part X: Your Personal Information

What is Part X? (Personal Information)

Part X is a new section of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act. It sets out a legislative privacy framework for Ontario's child and youth sector. It came into effect on January 1, 2020, it establishes new rules for the collection, use, and disclosure of, and access to, personal information held by ministry-funded and licensed service providers.

New privacy rights for clients- New obligations for service providers- Clarified authorities for the ministry for using personal information for research and service system planning, and Provides oversight by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. For clients, Part X will provide: The right to request access and correction to their records of personal information. More control over how their personal information is shared among service providers, with the ability to provide consent based on capacity, not age. The right to a complaints process and an independent review mechanism related to the collection, use and sharing of personal information, and More transparency in how their personal information is handled by service providers.

**To raise awareness of access and privacy rights among, children, youth and families, the IPC has prepared a brochure, poster and quick reference card:**  
<https://www.ipc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-its-about-you-brochure-web.pdf>