

FOSTER PARENTS SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

End of Month Corporate report

December 2017

A Year in Review

The December month end report will be a year in review, capturing all of the work and initiatives of the FPSO Board of Directors over the course of the 2017 year.

Meetings and Committees

- ✚ Residential Services Reference Group – (monthly meetings), attended by Cecile Brookes, meetings ran through the 2017 year, and continue into 2018.
- ✚ February 6th, 2017 – leadership group meeting (ORCA, OARTY, FPSO) attended by Vanessa Milley & Elaine Pratt – focus – CPIN, FPSO initiatives, Child Welfare.
- ✚ Caring for Children and Youth Council – meetings attended by Cecile Brookes, meetings are scheduled every two to three months, February 23 meeting was attended by Vanessa Milley.
- ✚ Caregivers' forum, January 11, 2017 – attended by Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Milley & Elaine Pratt.
- ✚ Canadian Foster Families Association – Elected representative Elaine Pratt attended all of the CFFA scheduled meetings, and electronic meetings. Cecile Brookes attended along with Elaine the annual CFFA conference and General meeting.
- ✚ Strategic Round Table – (February 7) designated committee to discuss the best interest of 6-12 year youth in care – this was by invitation only – Cecile Brookes invited.
- ✚ Meeting with Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth (PACY) – attended by Elaine Pratt
- ✚ February 22 – meeting with Americana conference and resort center.
- ✚ February 22 – meeting with Landy Anderson RE: FPSO's Advocacy program, Landy will be training the appeals workshop for conference this year. – attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley.
- ✚ February 27 – PACY investigations unit, Dianna Cooke head of the unit had requested to meet with FPSO delegates – attended by Cecile Brookes and Vanessa Milley.
- ✚ March 6, leadership meeting; ORCA, OARTY, FPSO – attended by Cecile Brookes and Vanessa Milley

- ✦ March 6, Stakeholders meeting; OACAS, PACY, meeting pertained to submissions to the bill 89 standing committee – attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley.
- ✦ March 7th, CTV Television interview, Cecile Brookes was invited to sit on a panel of child welfare leaders to participate in a discussion on issues faced by foster parents
- ✦ March 13th, meeting with Niagara College media Studies students regarding the media campaign – attended by Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Milley, Mary Burnett and John McMahon
- ✦ March 28, End to End review – Windsor – attended by John McMahon
- ✦ March 29, presentation to the Standing Committee on Bill 89 – attended by Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Miley & Elaine Pratt.
- ✦ June 20, Cecile Brookes and Vanessa Milley were invited to attend a OPR training day, we were asked to share information pertaining to who FPSO is, the benefits of membership, and current initiatives.
- ✦ June 22, tele-conference with ORCA leadership, and the MCYS critic and FPSO – Vanessa Milley participated.
- ✦ July, meeting with OARTY leadership regarding FPSO membership, CPIN, current child welfare challenges, FPSO conference, common initiatives – attended by Cecile Brooked and Vanessa Milley.
- ✦ August 12, FPSO leadership met with LOFF leadership in an effort to find common ground and discuss reconciliation or collaboration. LOFF made it very clear they do not have a strong interest in reconciliation.
- ✦ October 17, meeting with Irwin Elman PACY – attended by Vanessa Milley, items discussed 2017 foster parent report, CPIN- privacy issues that not only effect foster parents but also children and youth in care, foster parent recognition, child welfare messaging.
- ✦ October 24, Child welfare PAC reception, the reception was to announce the work of the Child welfare PAC, Jane Kovarikova one of the board members of the PAC recently attended FPSO conference to share her perspectives on child welfare and the work of the PAC. At the reception Michael Couteau Minister of Child and Youth Services spoke – reception attended by Cecile Brookes and Vanessa Milley.

- ✿ Advocacy One training is now available in the field; any FPA/FFA can request to have advocacy one training at their home agency. FPSO requires a fee of \$100.00 per participant, and a minimum of 10 participants. So far two FPA/FFAs have hosted advocacy one training in their local area.
- ✿ Advocacy manuals. The FPSO Advocacy manual has been updated and made available at a cost of \$50.00 each (this fee helps offset the printing cost, but does not fully cover it). Advocacy manuals can be requested by email.
- ✿ Public Relations Media campaign – FPSO connected to the Niagara College media studies program. The students in the program wrote a media relations proposal for the FPSO with a goal of modernizing the way FPSO communicates particularly regarding social media.
- ✿ Television Segment – FPSO was contacted by Scott Brothers Production Company to participate in a series called “reno set go”. FPSO was asked to forward candidates from our membership to receive a surprise three room home make over. We were pleased the production company invited us to participate in their process. We thank Sue and Glenn Bradbury from Durham FPA who as a surprise to Sue participated in the program. We hope you are enjoying your home update, we enjoyed seeing you on television.

The choice for FPSO to participate with this project was determined based on the opportunity to promote foster parents as good, hard working, kind people who open their homes and hearts up to children of all kinds. We believed any opportunity to dispel some of the negative media messaging that is so common to be in the best interest of foster parents. Sue and Glenn and their adult children did a great job of representing the genuine kind foster parents we all know and appreciate. Project coordinated by Vanessa Milley

- ✿ Strategic Plan was fully reviewed, a new template was developed. The Plan was passed by the Directors in June 2017, and shared with the Presidents group.
- ✿ FPSO prepared and presented Bylaw #6 for discussion in the June session of meetings, following input from the Presidents group Bylaw #6 was put on hold. Based on recommendations from the Presidents group amendments were prepared for bylaw #5. Amendments covered housekeeping (regions) and the details allowing private members to have representation on the board. This was accomplished by installing new membership classes to capture each of ORCA and OARTY. The amendments passed in the September 2017 AGM. Work then began to launch the invitation in the private sector for membership.
- ✿ HILITES – FPSO distributed bursary/conference edition of the HILITES in April.
- ✿ Presentation to the Standing committee on Bill 89. In January and February Stakeholders meetings were held regarding Bill 89, the first one in January was attended by Elaine Pratt, and second one in February was attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley. During the first stakeholders meeting there was an

opportunity for stakeholders to apply to the Standing Committee to be invited to give an oral presentation to the standing committee. Elaine Pratt submitted a request for FPSO to be considered to present to the Committee. We were informed on March 27th that we were selected and scheduled to present on March 29th. We then diligently assembled a document to leave with the committee following our presentation.

- ✿ Following tele-conference with MCYS child welfare critic, a list of three questions was submitted to the leadership group present for the June PAD meeting. These three questions were included in future documents and communications of the FPSO. Most notable the FPSO 2017 foster parent report. (Pending mail out, awaiting incoming dues).
- ✿ Dianna Cooke representing the PACY investigations unit presented to the member PAD group in the June session of meetings.
- ✿ FPSO has drafted the 2017 Foster parent report. The report is a comprehensive package that compiles a number of different documents. The package was initiated in response to members of the standing committee for Bill 89 requesting further information. The document was shared with FPSO leadership during the September conference session of meetings. The package will be mailed out in early 2018 to all child welfare leadership. Members will be notified as soon as the mail out is scheduled.
- ✿ Dues letters were prepared in December and mailed out to all CAS.