



## December 2018 FPSO YEAR IN REVIEW

This report covers the 2018 year.

### Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

**These items remain a constant focus of the FPSO, and will be forwarded at every opportunity.**

- ✚ Provincial Advocacy in the areas of;
  - Raising the Image of foster parents.
  - Standardizing the foster care per diem rates for foster parents and reimbursable amounts for the children in care across the Province based on the Toronto CAST model.
  - Advocating for a child welfare system that is centered on The Best Interest of the Child.
  - The Rights of the child as designated by the United Nations.
  - The rights of the caregivers
  - The Benefits and Strength of one voice.
  - Collaboration with other partners in the Child Welfare field.
  - Recognition of the Skill level into Regular, Specialized and Treatment Levels of the foster parents ability to parent different children recognizing the different needs and challenges of the children coming into care.
  - Protection to the foster parent specific to CPIN including:
    - Information written about foster parents and how it is stored.
    - Securing our financial and medical information on CPIN.
    - SAFE, financial, medical
    - Foster parent privacy
  - Legislation;
  - Supports for Children and youth with Special Needs.
  - Gathering of adoption disruption and breakdown statics – to better inform adoption practises.

## GRID Information.

- 👤 Over the summer of 2018 FPSO has requested “GRID” information from its members; the GRID information includes mileage, per diems, entitlements, and reimbursables.
- 👤 The goal of gathering information is to compile the information and share it with our members. The members should be able to utilize the information to support their efforts to pursue increases for their local foster parents.
- 👤 The GRID information has been coming in gradually over the past 6 months, the information that has been received thus far will be distributed in January.

## Letters and proposals

- 👤 The 2017 foster parent report that was distributed to all foster parent leadership, and shared with Child Welfare leadership as opportunities arose through the 2018 year. Was fully reviewed during the September 2018 PAD meeting. The full document was reviewed for content, current information and language. FPSO’s needed to ensure our documentation is in written in a user friendly format and in accordance with the FPSO is doing with the CRA pertaining to the FPSO charitable status re-application.
- 👤 Preceding conference a letter was written to all CAS Executive Directors and Foster Care Supervisors; the focus of the letter was to promote conference attendance. The letter was effective as following the letter the FPSO did receive a number of registrations directly from the CAS’s.

## Meetings Attended:

- 👤 January 31, Executive Officers and committee chairpersons work group meeting.
- 👤 Feb 9, Elaine P. attended the Ontario Middle Years Strategy
- 👤 February 10, FPSO South West Zone meeting
- 👤 March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Elaine Pratt attended Tom Garfat workshop
- 👤 March 3, FPSO South West Zone meeting
- 👤 March 10, FPSO Eastern Zone meeting
- 👤 March 24, FPSO Central zone meeting
- 👤 April 18<sup>th</sup>; FPSO, OARTY meeting pertaining to the benefits of FPSO membership, and the sharing of FPSO conference information. Attended by Cecile B, Vanessa M, Elaine P
- 👤 OACAS Webinar Teleconference on Shared Services – participated by Vanessa M
- 👤 May 12 – South West Zone meeting
- 👤 May 26 – Central Zone meeting
- 👤 August 11, South West Zone
- 👤 August 18, Central Zone

- 🔥 August 25, Eastern Zone
- 🔥 September 24-27, FPSO Annual Educational Conference
- 🔥 November 3, Eastern Zone Meeting
- 🔥 November 10, South West Zone Meeting
- 🔥 November 22, Meeting with Irwin Elman Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. The New Ontario government has announced the elimination of the PACY Office. Attended by Cecile B, Elaine P, Vanessa M
- 🔥 November 24, Central Zone Meeting

### Meetings where FPSO was represented

- 🔥 Residential Reference Group – attended by: Cecile Brookes
- 🔥 CCYC – attended by Cecile Brookes

### Connections to our members

- 🔥 January 16, an email was sent containing the Winter Zone meeting schedule
- 🔥 January 21, a memo was distributed to all members with information pertaining to the FPSO charitable status process.
- 🔥 January 31, an email was sent containing the years meeting plans.
- 🔥 Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, email to all FPSO Directors and FPA/FFA Presidents including:
  - 🔥 2016 financials
  - 🔥 December month end report - a year in review
  - 🔥 DRAFT FPSO Foundation proposal
  - 🔥 DRAFT FPSO Business Plan
- 🔥 Feb 21 announcement of Central Zone meeting rescheduling (plus follow up phone calls to ensure all members within central zone received the notification)
- 🔥 March 3,6,14,21, - regarding thesis research project participation opportunity
- 🔥 March 23 February month end report
- 🔥 April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Save the Date Email, June PAD session announcement
- 🔥 April 3<sup>rd</sup>; Last Call Email requesting final input on the DRAFT Business plan prior to distribution to Directors for voting
- 🔥 April 21<sup>st</sup>, March Month End report
- 🔥 April 26<sup>th</sup>, FPSO Spring Zone meeting date reminder
- 🔥 May 1 – Emailed the conference packages
- 🔥 May 8 – South West zone meeting reminder
- 🔥 May 10 – Zone meeting agenda items
- 🔥 May 15 - Central zone meeting reminder
- 🔥 May 18 – April Month End Report
- 🔥 June 7 & 9 – PAD Meeting cancellation notice
- 🔥 August 13, email “educational success factors article”

- 🔥 August 14, central zone meeting reminder
- 🔥 August 17, eastern zone meeting reminder
- 🔥 August 21, July month end report
- 🔥 August 23, Winter zone meeting note compilation distribution
- 🔥 FPSO Annual Educational Conference – Session of Meetings
- 🔥 September 10, Conference details & schedule - email
- 🔥 September 12, Spring Zone Meeting NOTES Compilation - email
- 🔥 September 14, August Month End Report – email
- 🔥 October 27, September month end report
- 🔥 October 31, Eastern Zone meeting reminder
- 🔥 November 1, Eastern Zone Meeting date correction
- 🔥 November 6, Zone meeting reminder South West Zone Meeting
- 🔥 November 11, SAMKO toy warehouse fundraising package
- 🔥 November 12, Central Zone Meeting date change
- 🔥 November 14, Cluster group question field responses
- 🔥 November 14, Question to the field regarding FPA budgets
- 🔥 November 30, Participation request regarding the elimination of the Provincial Advocates Office
- 🔥 November 30, Reminder SAMKO fundraiser

### Conference

- 🔥 FPSO Annual educational conference ran the last week of September. The conference was well attended.
- 🔥 The Officers of the FPSO received many positive reports regarding workshops.
  - During conference board meetings were also held
    - Directors meeting (3)
    - Presidents', Advocates' and Directors' meetings (PAD)
    - Annual General Meeting
- 🔥 Conference 2019 is in the early stages of planning, if you have any workshop recommendations please contact Conference chairperson Elaine Pratt [elaine\\_pratt@me.com](mailto:elaine_pratt@me.com)

### Advocacy

- 🔥 During Conference 2018 it was confirmed; FPSO will be revamping the advocacy program, the revised program will levels of advocacy to includ; Advocacy Foundations, Safeguarding, Coding and the Eligibility Spectrum, Police Perspectives, Appeals – what to do when you disagree with a decision or action of the CAS. We look forward to having this ready for conference 2019.

## Charitable status

- 🌳 Late 2018 FPSO had received a letter from the CRA declining to re=approve the FPSO for charitable status, among a number of small details that were easily addressed, the CRA had determined the FPSO to be too political to be considered a charity.
- 🌳 In the early part of 2018 FPSO responded to the CRA with a package of information that contained clarification and information pertaining to the smaller details the CRA had cited in their letter as reasons against FPSO holding charitable status. FPSO also included detailed and expansive information pertaining to an explanation of FPSO not being a political organization. FPSO is non-partisan, and only writes and speaks on behalf of foster parents and foster children; to any and all authorized parties. As we are determined to do as clarified within our letters of patent.
- 🌳 The CRA responded to this letter with a package of information that needed filling in, or correcting some of which was from a number of years ago.
- 🌳 This package was completed and again submitted to the CRA.
- 🌳 The CRA responded to this letter with another package of documentation that was thankfully smaller than the previous one.
- 🌳 Corrections and information was inputted into these and resubmitted again to the CRA.
- 🌳 In Early December FPSO again received a letter from the CRA. Presently the CRA is no longer questioning if the FPSO is political, and does no longer need greater information or corrections. However the CRA had a few more new questions or challenges that needed to be explained or satisfied. Most notable they are now deeming the FPSO to be private rather than public and therefore not approvable as a charity.
- 🌳 FPSO has recently responded to this letter in hopes of clarifying that the FPSO is not isolated to private benefit. FPSO is the dedicates voice of all foster parents not only our members, FPSO works in the best interest of all of the children in the prevue of the CAS. With the CAS being the corporate parent of these children, as an extension of the province these are the publics' children. Therefore the FPSO is not isolated to private benefit.
- 🌳 We are again waiting for a response from the CRA.

## Private membership

- 🌳 FPSO officers early in 2018 met with the Executive Director of OARTY, and sought a meeting with the Executive Director or ORCA. The goal was to discuss concerns and challenges that we all share; and to present the opportunity for private foster parents to be members of FPSO.
- 🌳 A letter was prepared for all private operators to share with them what FPSO has to offer, and what the membership opportunities are.
- 🌳 FPSO has already begun to receive feedback from the private sector sharing their interest in membership and conference. We have already received members.
- 🌳 A second letter will be prepared for the private operators in the new year to support membership opportunities.

## Website

- 👤 The FPSO has contracted a new webmaster; work has begun to revamp the current website.
- 👤 The revised website should be available in January.

## FPSO Business plan

- 👤 January 2018 the FPSO Officers work group drafted a business plan, to promote financial stability.
- 👤 Late winter 2018 the FPSO business plan has been finalized and confirmed by the FPSO Directors. The information will be prepared for the Spring PAD session of meetings and presented for a membership vote during the PAD meeting.
- 👤 The DRAFTs of each of these documents will be shared at each of the three winter FPSO zone meetings as well as distributed by email.
- 👤 The business plan was shared with the PAD group and presented for a members vote.
- 👤 The members voted to accept the business plan

## FPSO Foundation Proposal

- 👤 January 2018 the FPSO Officers drafted a proposal for an FPSO foundation
- 👤 The work begun in January regarding the FPSO Foundation Proposal has been finalized. The information will be prepared for the Spring PAD session of meetings and presented for a membership vote during the PAD meeting.
- 👤 The FPSO foundation proposal is to help give balance to FPSO and create the opportunity for FPSO's charitable works to continue.
- 👤 The DRAFTs of each of these documents will be shared at each of the three winter FPSO zone meetings as well as distributed by email.
- 👤 Following the zones and the email distribution the DRAFT will be amended and submitted to the directors for a vote.
- 👤 The directors approved the proposal.
- 👤 The FPSO Foundation proposal was shared with the members, and presented at the Conference PAD meeting for a vote.
- 👤 The members voted to accept the foundation proposal.

## Inclusivity

- 👤 FPSO has made strides to ensure that we are sensitive to the differences in beliefs and philosophy in caregiving and that we are able to represent caregivers from all areas of the child welfare spectrum including private and those fostering within the native agencies and including kinship and alternative caregivers.
- 👤 FPSO is hoping that we will be able to present to the caregiver's council and present the benefits for the caregivers to have a voice on the council and how that voice can ultimately benefit the best interests of the children in care.

- 👤 FPSO will continue to pursue this goal in the new year.

### Research Project

- 👤 Research participation opportunity: This project has been in discussion since last September. FPSO was contacted by Morgan Gitt a Social Development Studies Student from Ryerson University College, University of Waterloo. Morgan has prepared a survey for foster parents. It has taken a while to formulate a plan for Morgan to be able to access foster parents as well as time for Morgan to receive ethical approval for her survey.
- 👤 The survey's objective is to understand the motivations behind foster parents' intention to foster and continue fostering, as well as their perception of their role on the child care team in relation to caseworkers.

### Upcoming Meetings Events

- 👤 Winter session of zonal meetings, dates will be confirmed by email.
- 👤 Upcoming meeting with PAC slated in February
- 👤 Follow up meeting with Provincial advocate ( February)

### Fundraisers

- 👤 New Fundscrip fundraiser is in the planning stages, look for details in January.
- 👤 Samko Toy Warehouse fundraiser is set for the month of November/December. All of the participation details have been emailed; we hope we can count on your participation.
- 👤 FPSO is seeking to expand out fundraising opportunities, if you have any ideas to suggest please contact the head office, or the Operations and Services Chairperson Dee Duvall. dddd5@hotmail.com

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#### Acronyms:

FPSO – Foster Parents Society of Ontario

AGM – Annual General Meeting

PACY – Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth

PAD – Presidents' Advocates' & Directors

OARTY – Ontario Association of Residential Treatment for Youth

ORCA – Ontario Residential Care Association

CAST – Children's Aid Society of Toronto

CPIN – Child Protection Information Network

SAFE – Structured Analysis Family Evaluation