



Year End Corporate Update October 2018/August 2019

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects (*Items noted with an asterisk are features of other items within the update*)

- ✦ 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.

Letters written

- ✦ The 2018 foster parent report will be distributed as soon as all of the input gathered at conference is integrated.
- ✦ FPSO brochure has been updated in preparation for distribution to the private sector along with a membership mail out. The brochure will also be included in the upcoming Foster and adopt conference FPSO has been invited to be an exhibitor.
- ✦ The conference HILITES have been sent to the new webmaster for revamping, and all of the articles for the HILITES have been drafted, once all workshops are finalized the HILITES will be posted on the website and distributed to all members (pending mid to late May).

- ✚ The 2018 membership forms for the private sector have been updated for 2019, and will be included in the private sector membership invitation mail out.
- ✚ May – Conference HGILITES distributed to all member Directors & Presidents
- ✚ July full mail out to all private sector operators with an invitation to membership and conference HILITES.
- ✚ July – full mail out to all CAS ED's with the conference package and an encouragement to continue to support their foster parents with the funding of FPSO Dues

Meetings Attended:

- ✚ November 22, Meeting with Irwin Elman Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. The New Ontario government has announced the elimination of the PACY Office.
- ✚ Cecile B, Elaine P, & Vanessa M, met with Irwin to discuss the status of the office. Some of the items discussed were:
 - The new lack of Crown Ward status for children in care
 - The current adoption practises and trends, and our concerns
 - Current kin finding practises and the parameters of “kin”
 - Why non related members of the child’s community can be deemed to be kin but the foster family cannot be considered
 - Our interest in adoptions and any other permanency planning be a case by case agenda based on the individual child, rather than a “one size fits all” approach
 - Adoption breakdowns and disruptions – there is a lack of data available, valid data could inform practises in the best interest of the child
 - A lack of tracking adopted children who return to care in order to either track the number of placements/adoptions they have had; or to perhaps seek reunification with biological siblings
 - SAFE – we understand there are adjustments to the SAFE for the first nation’s child welfare participants; we would like to be aware of what these adjustments are as some or perhaps all of them might be ideal for non-native foster families as well.
 - We are interested in how the child death data is documented, with the increasing numbers of children and youth who are involved with the CAS but not in foster care. For those who unfortunately lose their life, it would be good to know not only if the child or youth was in foster care but also to know if the CAS was involved at all.
 - We discussed the anticipated coming amalgamations.
 - Discussed the boundaries and policies around in care youth drug use and how it often negatively impacts the best interest of the child.
- ✚ February – Meeting with Irwin Elman attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley
- ✚ April 6 – Eastern Zone meeting
- ✚ April 13 – Central Zone meeting
- ✚ April 13 – Executive and Committee Chairpersons meeting
- ✚ April 27 – South West Zone meeting

- 🌳 FPSO Officers participated this month with Partners for a Foster Parent Program -0 this group originates in B.C. they are working on developing training and supports for foster families who parent challenging teenagers. We have thus far collaborated with letters of support for their program, and in the future will be asked for input, assuming the group's grant proposal is approved.
- 🌳 May 1 – Meeting with OARTY Executive Director, attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley
- 🌳 May 8 – Tele-conference meeting with Adopt4Life
- 🌳 May 15 – Meeting with Jane Kavrakova PAC, attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley
- 🌳 May 25 & 26 – Private sector Foster & Adopt conference, attended by Vanessa Milley & Dee Duvall
- 🌳 May 28 – PAC Annual General Meeting – FPSO officers were invited to participate in the PAC AGM in response to the plans to work in collaboration. This invitation came with the option of attending in person or by tele-conference. Attended by tele-conference by Vanessa Milley.
- 🌳 May 30-Jun2 – CFFA Conference – Attended by Elaine Pratt
- 🌳 May 30 – CFFA AGM – attended by Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Milley & Elaine Pratt
- 🌳 June 8 – Advocacy One training, CAST office – presented by Vanessa Milley
- 🌳 June 12 – OARTY training – OARTY extended an invitation to FPSO for one of the training events they had scheduled at their annual conference. This was offered as a part of the planning to work collaboratively. Attended by Vanessa Milley
- 🌳 July 18 – meeting with Dianna Cook from the Ombudsman's office – attended by Vanessa Milley and Cecile Brookes. The meeting was very helpful in clarifying the scope and role of the Ombudsman's office as it pertains to child welfare. We have scheduled Dianna to attend the PAD meeting scheduled at conference to share information with foster parent leadership. The Office of the Ombudsman's office can be involved in any situation that is regarding the service to a child.

Private Membership

- 🌳 Have met with OARTY Executive Director three times this past year, we have drafted a Letter of Mutual Understanding.
- 🌳 We have been in phone conversation with Adopt 4life and attended the foster and adopt conference they were helping facilitate in the private sector.
- 🌳 We were vendors at the conference handing our membership information and conference HILITES.
- 🌳 We have been in regular phone conversations with ORCA.
- 🌳 We have met with PAC founder Jane Kavarakova, on two occasions, and now have a delegate (Vanessa Milley) participating in their quarterly meetings, and volunteering on one of their committees that has not yet been scheduled.
- 🌳 We have begun to receive individual private memberships, and have a number of operators in communications about membership.

Advocacy

- ✦ During Conference it was confirmed; FPSO will be revamping the advocacy program, the revised program will levels of advocacy to include; 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.
- ✦ February – FPSO call for volunteers to work on this project

Charitable Status

- ✦ Charitable status (October)– FPSO continues to wait for a response from the CRA
- ✦ Charitable status (November) – During the month of November FPSO received a response letter from the CRA. FPSO will be responding to this letter with more information. The CRA is no longer questioning whether or not the FPSO is a “political” organization. The CRA however, is requiring other areas of the FPSO’s work to be further explained. A response package is being prepared and will be submitted within the CRA prescribed timeframes.
- ✦ Charitable Status (January) – We continue to wait for a response from the CRA pertaining our most recent submission of January 28th.
- ✦ Charitable Status (February) – We have received back a response letter from the CRA, this letter is much briefer than the previous ones, yet there remain a few details they need. The response from the FPSO will be delivered back to the CRA by Early March. We continue to pursue the return of our charitable status, and are encouraged by the most recent brief response.
- ✦ Charitable Status (March) - Response from FPSO was returned to the CRA by March 15th; we now wait for the CRA to reply once again.
- ✦ Charitable Status (April) We continue to wait for a response from the CRA
- ✦ Charitable Status (May) FPSO has received a **positive** response from the CRA regarding our charitable status.
 - This latest response does not require any corrections, additions, explanations or information.
 - The response stated “Based on the information we received, the applicant could qualify for registration if it changes its purposes and dissolution clause, as suggested below.”
 - This is good news coming at the end of a long protracted slog of work.
 - The CRA does need us to make a few changes to our letters of patent, as legislation has changes since we were originally incorporated.
 - You will shortly receive separate information regarding these changes.
 - We are on the home stretch to have our charitable status returned.
- ✦ We continue to wait on a response from the CRA
- ✦ Charitable Status (June) Following the **positive** response from the CRA regarding our charitable status, FPSO this month transacted the process of a membership vote regarding the Letters of Patent.
 - A call for the vote with all accompanying documentation went out on the 15th of June.

- The numbers of participants in the vote completed the requirement of a special resolution and all were unanimously affirmative to make the prescribed changes to the letters of patent. This was complete by the 28th of June
 - The process of forwarding these documents to the authorized authorities in the province has been completed. We now again wait for further response.
- ✿ Charitable Status (July) - Following the **positive** response from the CRA regarding our charitable status, FPSO this month transacted the process of a membership vote regarding the Letters of Patent.
- The CRA has called to confirm they have received notification of our package arriving at the Service Ontario department of corporation management.
 - Once we have our application for the changes to the letters of patent back from Service Ontario. We will be able to forward back the approved application and new letters of patent to the CRA so they can complete the process of reinstating our Charitable Status.
- ✿ Charitable Status (August) - Following the **positive** response from the CRA regarding our charitable status, FPSO this month transacted the process of a membership vote regarding the Letters of Patent.
- The CRA has called to confirm they have received notification of our package arriving at the Service Ontario department of corporation management.
 - The Ministry of Government Services has returned our package to us requesting more information to be included; then to have the package mailed to the Guardian and trustees office who will then forward it back to the Ministry of Government services, before it will come back to us as all approved.
 - At that point we sent it back to the CRA, and they will send us our notification of charitable status reinstatement.
 - Following that we will apply for the HST rebate the charitable status entitles us to.

Website

- ✿ The FPSO has contracted a new webmaster; work has begun to revamp the current website.
- ✿ The website is currently unavailable due to the revamping process.
- ✿ The web email address has been redirected and all of the inquiries that come in through the website are being responded to.
- ✿ In the month of January, even with the temporary unavailability of the website; FPSO has received over 20 inquiries, many regarding interest in the courses we have available, or inquiries about specifics of the website and its pending availability. Some of the emails are regarding child welfare and requests for support.
- ✿ Website was up and running by Mid March

Business Plan

- ✿ The FPSO business plan was passed at the 2018 AGM. The features of the plan will be integrated into FPSO function and operation.

Foundation Proposal

- ✿ The members voted to accept the foundation proposal during the 2018 AGM.

- 👤 The officers are looking for volunteers to participate in the preliminary work of developing the foundation.

Fundraisers

- 👤 Samko Toy Warehouse Fundraiser Nov/Dec 2018, has earned the FPSO \$100.00
- 👤 Value Village Fundraiser, ran the first weekend in June with 8 FPA/FFA participating. The fundraiser brought in nearly \$1,000.00

Contact

fpso@fosterparentssociety.org 905-892-1591, 905-788-6820

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