

## April/May 2017 FPSO Month End Corporate Update

Hello Everyone,

As we move out of late winter into Early Spring the Officers and Directors are continuing to press forward on the initiatives and projects that were ongoing at the beginning of 2017 and those that arrived with the new year. We hope the monthly updates continue to be a valuable tool for sharing and highlighting the work of the FPSO month to month.

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects (\*Items noted with an asterisk are further noted within the update\*)

- 🔑 The Bursary/Conference edition of the HILITES is complete and will be distributed to all members very soon.\*
- 🔑 Conference planning has continued to progress, a preview and some details will be included in the Bursary edition of the HILITES.\*
- 🔑 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 UN.
  - 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:
    - What is written about foster parents and how it is stored.
    - Securing our financial and medical information on CPIN.
    - SAFE, financial, medical
    - Foster parent privacy
  - Legislation;
    - Host Family Policy
    - Bill 89
  - Supports for Children and youth with Special Needs.

- Gathering of adoption disruption and breakdown statics – to better inform adoption practises.

FPSO advocates for the designated lobbying efforts through letters, meetings and attending events. The designated members of the FPSO board continually bring forward the specific areas of lobbying at every opportunity.

#### Letters written

- 🔑 No new letters this month
- 🔑 The Bursary edition and the Conference edition of the HILITES have been combined, the HILITES are with the printer and will be distributed as soon as the printer is finished..

#### Meetings Attended:

- 🔑 The majority of meetings attended this month were in relation to planning and preparing for FPSO conference (Scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup> )
- 🔑 May 16<sup>th</sup>; Residential Reference Group – attended by: Cecile Brookes

#### Events FPSO was represented at

- 🔑 April 9<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, Television segment. – Participation by Vanessa Milley

#### Connections to our members

- 🔑 No meetings with Directors or Members this month all connection was electronic
  - Strategic Plan DRAFT – to all Directors for a vote
  - Outcome of Strategic Plan vote – Carried- (will be prepared for the Voting Delegated mail out due out end of May)
  - June Session announcement including AGM.
  - Advocacy One training (May 27<sup>th</sup>) this training was help at 20 DeBoers Toronto, the training was well received, eight foster parents were present.
  - FPSO is happy to offer the Advocacy One training in any of the zones or regions, we do require 10 candidates to attend the training. Please contact us if you would like to schedule the training.

#### Update on last months documented New Projects

- 🔑 Presentation to Bill 89 Standing Committee – Following the presentation made by FPSO at the standing committee; FPSO learned that designates from the Liberal Party of Ontario (present at the standing committee) began seeking information regarding the attrition of foster parents. The attrition of foster parents was one of the items FPSO

included in our documentation package as well as our oral presentation. We are encouraged to learn that our government is beginning to seek out data from each of the provinces regarding the shrinking numbers of foster parents and perhaps the reasons why so many are leaving the system.

👤 Television Segment, FPSO was approached by a production company looking to do a surprise renovation in one of our member foster homes. A great deal of work was done to find families that fit within the company's tight parameters. Once the families that fit the criteria and were submitted the company chose one of the families. Originally FPSO was to furnish the members of the renovation team from among our directors. This changed as the process moved along and with the production company instead choosing members of the foster family to be the team members. FPSO remained involved to work with the production company and support the T.V. segment. Depending on how the television episode is edited the show should contain a brief interview and a presentation of a plaque from FPSO. The officers chose to participate in this expansive and challenging project for the opportunity to elevate the image of foster parents in Ontario. We are keen to see an hour of television devoted to giving back something of value to a foster family; honouring the work we all do, and showing an ideal warm friendly family. We appreciate the family who was eventually chosen to be the focus of the episode and value the positive image of a foster family that FPSO is so keen to have in the media. We would also like to thank the families who agreed to be submitted to the project not knowing if they were going to be chosen, as well as the members of our board who agreed to be members of the team. We will keep you apprised when the show will air.

#### Announcements

👤 The Spring Directors meeting & Presidents, Advocates', and Directors' meeting is scheduled for June 21-25th – This meeting will include the AGM, voting delegate packages have been mailed, if you are a President or a Director and yours has not arrived, please contact us so we can get you a package.

#### CORRECTION

👤 **The fall Conference is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

We apologise for any confusion or inconvenience the publishing of inaccurate information may have caused. We hope you will all be available to attend conference on the corrected dates, and look forward once again to high calibre workshops, trainings, and an excellent opportunity for foster parents to network together.

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