

## August 2017 FPSO Month End Corporate Update



Hello Everyone,

Summer sure has slipped by fast enough; I hope you all have had enough rain to keep green, and enough sun to keep warm.

With conference fast approaching, the officers have been in a flurry of work ensuring everything will be ready when everyone arrives. We are looking forward to informative workshops, entertaining dinners and as always a terrific opportunity to network and connect with our fellow foster parents.

If your registrations are not yet in, there is still space; we need to hear from you very soon.

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

-  Conference; all workshops and presenters are in place; registration is now open.\*
-  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: \*
    - 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; \*
    - Bill 89 has passed the third reading and is pending Royal Assent. The portions of the Act that enable protection for young people between 16-18 years of age is projected to be enacted in the fall of 2017. The

enactment of the full bill is projected to be spring 2018. The Board will be seeking understanding and clarification of how the changes within the act will affect foster families. The board will be sharing information as it is gathered.

- 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

- 👤 New letter is in early stages of drafting a package of information. The package is in response to some of the questions and information that followed the FPSO presentation to the Standing Committee on Bill 89. The package will covers much of FPSO's lobbying items and will be given to the Minister of Child Welfare, and shared with the CFFA. Final copies will be distributed at the PAD meeting during conference.

#### 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> ).
- 👤 August 12, Cecile Brookes, Mary Burnett, Vanessa Milley, Elaine Pratt, & John MacMahon; attended a meeting with five delegates/officers from LOFF to discuss the best interest of foster children, the best interest of foster parents, and the value of reunification of all foster parents into one body with one voice. Report from this meeting will be shared at the September PAD meeting.

#### Events FPSO was represented at

- 👤 August 10<sup>th</sup>, Residential Reference Group – attended by: Cecile Brookes

#### Connections to our members

- 👤 All connections to our members during the month of August have via phone, text, email, and the FPSO website.

#### Update on last months documented New Projects

- 👤 No new projects during the month of June, July.

## Announcements

- 🕯️ Conference September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- 🕯️ **During the June AGM the delegates of the PAD meeting motioned for the adjourned date and time for the 2017 AGM be – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:30-12:00, at: the Americana Conference and Resort Center, 1444 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls Ontario.**

*It is with Sadness the FPSO Board of Directors must say good bye to one of our own.*

*Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Leonard Paquette passed away peacefully.*

*He will be missed.*

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### Acronyms:

FPSO – Foster Parents Society of Ontario  
AGM – Annual General Meeting  
MCYS – Ministry of Child and Youth Services  
PACY – Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth  
PAD – Presidents' Advocates' & Directors  
LOFF - League of Foster Families  
ORCA – Ontario Residential Care Association  
CAST – Children's Aid Society of Toronto  
CPIN – Child Protection Information Network  
SAFE – Structured Analysis Family Evaluation