



## August 2019 Month End Report

This report covers the month of August.

During the month of August FPSO is very focused on the upcoming annual educational conference and ensuring all of the details are in place.

*By one's self, one can do something; together with others, many can do anything.*

### Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

**This item has been moved to the end of the report.**

### Letters and proposals

- 👤 New DRAFT is in process regarding the new information learned by FPSO regarding the OSAP application. Historically the application required a foster parent who is themselves seeking OSAP to document their foster parent per diems. Presently the young person whose parent is a foster parent must now include in their parent's income information foster parent per diems. This is a concern as a young person's eligibility for OSAP is connected to parent's income. This is also concerning as in the OSAP document the foster parent per diems are referred to as "foster care payment". Historically it has always been clear that the per diems are for the care of the child or youth in the home; and not income for the foster parents. It has also been a consistent requirement for foster parents to be financially stable prior to being opened as a foster home. As the CAS has not historically supported the view that foster parents are earning an income. Foster parents are volunteers not employees.

### Meetings Attended:

- 👤 Meetings attended in the month of August have all been connected to conference planning.

### Pending meetings

- 👤 The Residential Planning Committee is reconvening in the fall, they have forwarded a meeting schedule to FPSO designate Cecile Brookes

## Connections to our members

- 🕯 August 1 – June Month End report
- 🕯 August 3 Toronto Star Article regarding OACAS
- 🕯 August 5 – July Month End Report
- 🕯 August 8 – Article discussion the lack of clear requirements on who can be considered an expert witness for a Crown Ward trial.
- 🕯 August 14 – Information regarding OSAP applications and the requirement of documenting foster parent income for both foster parents who are applying for OSAP, and for the parents of youth who applying for OSAP.
- 🕯 August 16 – Announcement from Laurentian University about free tuition
- 🕯 August 19 – Food recall notice
- 🕯 August 22 – Article regarding the Ombudsman’s office
- 🕯 August 23 – Sad news – Former Director passing
- 🕯 August 23 – CBC news inquiry – information request for information
- 🕯 August 29 – Article regarding children in care

## Conference

- 🕯 Registrations are coming in, presently the registrations that have come in will be claiming approximately 95% of our rooming block. If FPSO maxes out the
- 🕯 We are pleased to let you all know we have confirmed Dianna Cook from the Ombudsman’s office to make a presentation to the PAD group on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>. This presentation will shed light on how the Ombudsman’s office is to function pertaining to Child Welfare.
- 🕯 We are also pleased to confirm an entertainer for Saturday night. We have a foster parent comedian coming. We hope you will all be there to have a laugh and enjoy the company of others. You will receive more information on this in your Conference registration packages that you will each receive following your registrations arriving at the FPSO Office.

## Charitable status

- 🕯 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 out package to us requesting more information to be included; then to have the package mailed tot eh 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.

## Private membership

- 👤 FPSO continues to pursue members in the private sector, this month the work in this area was mainly the mail out to all private operators with all membership and conference information.
- 👤 In the last week of July prior to the mail out one of the private operators reached out to FPSO through the website requesting membership information. They received an advance email of the package that was getting ready for the mail out.
- 👤 Following the mail out the website will have an adjustment in the membership section to make it easier for those seeking information to find it and apply for membership.

## Website

- 👤 Much of the website traffic this month has been conference related.

## FPSO Foundation Proposal

- 👤 No volunteers have come forward in this past year to work on this initiative. This proposal will be discussed at the upcoming PAD meeting so members can determine the direction for this project.

## Upcoming Meetings Events

- 👤 Conference September 18-22.

## Fundraisers

- 👤 No new fundraisers at this time, the officers of FPSO invite all members to offer suggestions of fundraising opportunities that could help increase funding.
- 👤 FPSO will be running a Silent Auction at conference. We will be counting on all members to bring donations for the Silent Auction.
- 👤 A letter is prepared and will be sent following this month end report to help each of you gather donations.

**\*\*\*Note to members, if you are one of the few whose dues are not in yet, please submit them. Dues confirm your membership and your rights to participate in voting and to have director representation. Reminder – according to the FPSO Bylaws all dues are to be in prior to the AGM in order for each member to confirm voting delegates. \*\*\***

Contact @ [Milley17@sympatico.ca](mailto:Milley17@sympatico.ca), 905-892-1591,

## 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.

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