

## February 2017 FPSO Month End Corporate Update

Hello All:

It had appeared at the end of last month that January had been a very busy month for the FPSO, it paled by comparison to the amount of work February brought; here you will find an overview of the details.

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

- 🔧 The Bursary edition of the HILITES is in its final stage of finishing touches, and will be distributed mid-March.
- 🔧 Conference planning has continues 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 across the Province. \*
  - The Best Interest of the Child. \*
  - The Rights of the child as designated by the UN. \*
  - The rights of the caregivers. \*
  - The Strength of one voice. \*
  - Collaboration with other partners in the Child Welfare field.\*
  - Recognition of the Skill level of the foster parent.\*
  - Protection to the foster parent specific to CPIN (SAFE, financial, medical; privacy).\*
  - Legislation;
    - Host Family Policy
    - Bill 89\*
  - Supports for Children and youth with Special Needs.

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

- 🔧 In the month of February no new letters were written, but Delegates did attend a meeting with partners in the field Ontario Association of Residential Treatment for Youth (OARTY) and Ontario Residential Caregivers Association (ORCA). Together we planned to collaborate on a new letter regarding CPIN (SAFE). Presently we have shared the letter we previously sent out regarding CPIN. This letter will be the platform for the discussion regarding the concerns we have, they concerns they and their members have, and what items are concerning to all of us. We will then co-ordinate a letter from all of us.
- 🔧 We are also making efforts to follow up on the HOST Policy letters noted last month with regard to the meeting suggested by the Ministry of Social Services (MCSS).

## Meetings Attended:

- ✚ February 6<sup>th</sup>, Leadership group meeting (ORCA, OARTY), attended by Vanessa Milley and Elaine Pratt. Items discussed were;
  - Bill 89\*
  - CPIN\*
  - Private members interest in FPSO membership \*, as well as their interest in advocacy training. (Report will be shared at next Directors meeting).
- ✚ February 7<sup>th</sup>, Residential Planning Committee, attended by Cecile Brookes, the committee is tasked with drafting a blueprint for child welfare.
- ✚ February 7<sup>th</sup>, Strategic Round Table for youth in care ages 6-12, attended by; Cecile Brookes Meeting included discussion on Best interest of the child\* and standardizing across the province\* (Report will be shared at next Directors meeting).
- ✚ February 9<sup>th</sup>, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth (PACY) – Meeting with community partners regarding Bill 89\*, attended by Elaine Pratt.
- ✚ February 18-19, Executive committee work group meeting.
- ✚ February 22, Meeting with Hotel, attended by Cecile Brookes, Elaine Pratt – meeting focused on scheduling upcoming meetings and review of the facilities.
- ✚ February 22, Meeting with Landy Anderson, attended By Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley, meeting was regarding FPSO's advocacy training and one of the Public relations projects currently in the works.
- ✚ February 23, Residential Planning Committee, attended by Cecile Brookes.
- ✚ February 27<sup>th</sup>, PACY Investigation unit, attended by Cecile Brookes & Vanessa Milley. Dianna Cooke had requested meeting with us, as they were gathering information pertaining to their work in the province. During the meeting we were able to bring forward our initiatives in the areas of; Standardizing across the province\*, The best interest of the child\*, The rights of the caregivers\*, Recognition of the skill level of the foster parent\*, Protection of the foster parent (CPIN, SAFE)\* (report will be available at the next Directors meeting).

## Events FPSO was represented at

- ✚ February 23, Caring for Children and Youth Council (CCYC), attended by Vanessa Milley. The council set the agenda of the meeting but items from our Initiatives that were able to be presented were; Standardizing across the province\*, Best interest of the child\*, FPSO's interest in gathering statics regarding adoption disruptions and breakdowns, Bill 89\*.

## Connections to our members

- ✚ February 4<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Zone Meeting
- ✚ February 11<sup>th</sup>, Central Zone
  - Compiled notes of the three zone meeting will be available soon.

## New Projects

- ✚ Revising the strategic plan, the strategic plan is an established annually reviewed guiding document of the FPSO. At this time child welfare is changing so much and so quickly, the officers of the FPSO have been in discussions regarding how to best support the foster parents in Ontario as the system evolves. These discussions precipitated reworking the strategic plan. The Plan DRAFT will soon be forwarded to all FPSP Directors for an electronic vote.
- ✚ Revising the FPSO Bylaws, like the strategic plan the bylaws are in review. The goal of the review is to best ensure the opportunity for stability and future development of the board as it responds to our members. More information will be available on this in the very near future.
- ✚ CTV Television panel interview, CTV has contacted with FPSO through both the CFFA and through our connection with ORCA. CTV will be interviewing our President Cecile Brookes, regarding issues that pertain to foster parents. There will also be panel members from three of four of the other provinces.

#### Update on last months documented New Projects

- ✚ Advocacy One, the dates for the training are set;
  - South West Zone may 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Central Zone May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Eastern Zoe April 8<sup>th</sup>
    - There will be further details send in a separate email, by mid-March.
- ✚ Public Relations Media Campaign, The Niagara College Media Studies students have been working on our media campaign for most of the last year, they have met with our leadership, interviewed the members we have provided, , and planned a media strategy; are ready to share with us their recommendations and plans. We have a meeting scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, which will be attended by Project lead John MacMahon, Cecile Brookes, Mary Burnette and Vanessa Milley.
- ✚ Television Segment, FPSO continues to work with the production company regarding a television show episode focused on foster parents. More details will follow as information is able to be made publicly available.

#### Announcements

- ✚ The Spring Directors meeting & Presidents, Advocates', and Directors' meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 29th.
- ✚ The fall Conference is tentatively scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>.