



March 2020 Month End Report

This report covers the month of March.

“Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.”

Fred Rogers, television personality

Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

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

Letters and proposals

- 👤 Finished Conference HIGHLIGHTS
- 👤 Drafted a letter to the authorized authorities to support the foster parents seeking the protection of visit suspensions.

Meetings Attended:

- 👤 This month OACAS slated a residential advisory committee that included designated from all aspects within Child Welfare and those connected to Child Welfare – this advisory is meeting every Tuesday. FPSO is represented by Elaine Pratt FPSO First Vice-President; acting President. This committee is meeting electronically and is focused on COVID 19 related challenges and concerns.
- 👤 This month a foster parent advisory committee has been slated and includes foster parents from private, public, from FPSO, LOFF and unaffiliated. The committee is to address the foster parent perspectives and challenges regarding COVID 19. This advisory feeds information into the residential advisory as well as to OACAS. FPSO directors who have participated are, Elaine Pratt, Vanessa Milley, Juliana Ciach, Krista Ray-Caddick, we are also joined by some of our members Nancy B, Sarah F, and Kate M. This foster parent advisory is meeting every Tuesday and is doing our collective best to represent all of our members. If you have any perspectives you are hoping to have included in our weekly discussions please contact any of us.

Pending meetings

- 👤 None at this time

Head Office
340 Kingsway, Welland, Ontario, L3B 3N9
fpso@fosterparetnssociety.org
905-892-1591

Connections to our members

- 👤 March 14 – Memo to all members regarding COVID 19, this memo included the announcement that conference 2020 will no longer be held in May but has been rescheduled for August.
- 👤 March 16 – Parent tips
- 👤 March 17 – Question to the field – FPSO was interested in gathering information regarding which local areas had fully suspended access visits, which were doing case by case and if some had not yet suspended access visits.
- 👤 March 17 – information regarding the numbers of CAS that had suspended access visits.
- 👤 March 19 – distribution of the Conference 2030 HILITES
- 👤 March 21 – Email confirming the change of the Conference dates
- 👤 March 23 – Distribution of the letter from the Ombudsman Office regarding how to access their office during COVID 19.
- 👤 March 25 – Article regarding how to speak to children and teens about COVID 19.

Conference

- 👤 FPSO has finished the full conference package and had distributed to all members, a follow up mail out will be sent to the CAS in the next month.
- 👤 The Board has confirmed Conference this year will not be in May but has been rescheduled for August.
- 👤 FPSO has confirmed with the facility that any and all conference registrations that come in will be fully refundable up to 30 days prior to conference – so there is no financial risk to register for conference ahead of time.
- 👤 We are all collectively hoping we will be able to hold conference in August – if we cannot due to restrictions on gatherings we the board will move from our Plan “B” to a Plan “C”.
- 👤 The presenters and facility have been contacted to ensure everything will be in place for August in the same way it was planned for May.

Charitable status

- 👤 FPSO has followed up on the work to transition our financials of past years to be re-documented as charitable.
- 👤 Soon the process of applying for the retroactive HST rebate will be underway.
- 👤 A new letter has been drafted for the pursuit of charitable donations.

Private Membership .

- 👤 A follow up package will be sent once the full Conference package is completed, this will be going out mid-May considering the changes to the dates conference will be held.

Head Office
340 Kingsway, Welland, Ontario, L3B 3N9
fpo@fosterparetnssociety.org
905-892-1591

Website

- 👤 The Conference package has been posted on the website and is now fillable
- 👤 The Board has approved paypal as the payment system for online payment and donations. The work to get this set up will be done in the next while.

Fundraisers

- 👤 FPSO Scratchers Fundraiser brought in \$2049.00, with a start up cost of \$872.00; for a fundraised of \$1177.00.
- 👤 The unused cards can also be used again in the future for another fundraiser.
- 👤 Thank You Norm Lalonde for heading up this event, FPSO appreciates the funds raised.

Contact

fpsy@fosterparetnssociety.org
Milley17@sympatico.ca
905-892-1591,
905-788-6820

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

Head Office
340 Kingsway, Welland, Ontario, L3B 3N9
fpsy@fosterparetnssociety.org
905-892-1591

- 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

Head Office
340 Kingsway, Welland, Ontario, L3B 3N9
fpo@fosterparetnssociety.org
905-892-1591