

October, November 2017 FPSO Month End Corporate Update

Hello All, With the holiday season fast approaching, I hope you are all finding enough time to get done all the things on your “to do” list and find a little time to relax and take care of yourselves.

This report covers the two months following conference.

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

- 🚩 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;*
 - 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

- ✚ A great deal of work has been invested in the preparing of a comprehensive package of FPSO information. The details within the package covered all of the above listed areas of advocacy and much more. The package is 66 pages long and is titled the “2017 FPSO Report”. The report is designed to capture not only the areas FPSO is lobbying for change, but also the challenges, concerns and demands faced by foster parents. The package makes recommendations and promotes what we as foster parents would envision would be in the best interest of the children and youth served by the child welfare system; as well as what would be ideal for foster families.
- ✚ This document has been shared in hard copy with all of the FPSO Directors, FPA/FFA Presidents and voting delegates of the 2017 FPSO AGM; while they were in attendance to the FPSO conference PAD meeting and the AGM. Electronic copies will be fully distributed to all FPSO delegates and contacts following the full mail out.
- ✚ The mail out of this package will be going not only to each CAS Executive Director, but also to key political leaders, community partners, and Chile Welfare Leadership.
- ✚ The 2018 Dues letters are currently in process and will be imminently mailed out to each CAS Executive Director and each FPA/FFA President.
- ✚ A letter is in the process of preparation for the private sector leadership to support the membership opportunity that has been prepared and structured through the recent FPSO strategic planning and Bylaw amendments.

Meetings Attended:

- ✚ October 17 – PACY office with Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth – Attended By Vanessa Milley

Events FPSO was represented at

- ✚ Residential Reference Group – attended by: Cecile Brookes
- ✚ CCYC – attended by Cecile Brookes
- ✚ PAC Reception – October 24th – Attended by; Cecile Brookes, Vanessa Milley

Connections to our members

- ✚ Annual Educational conference Sep 28th –Oct 1st
- ✚ Website
- ✚ In September 2017, as the foster parent leadership from all across Ontario gathered, the officers of FPSO lead by Elaine Pratt (Conference Chairperson) began the assembling of an email contact list. The email list is designed to send out information to all interested

parties and support better information exchange across the province. Any foster parents interested in joining the contact list can simply email Milley17@sympatico.ca with “contact list” in the subject line and request their contact information be added. We will use these contact lists to broadcast information, and ask questions of the field.

Update on last months documented New Projects

- 🔑 The FPSO 2017 Report was noted in the last month end report as a letter that was in preparation since that time the “letter” has evolved into a complete package and is to me mailed out imminently.

Announcements

- 🔑 The officers of FPSO are working on confirming dates for Zone meetings in the New Year, currently we have confirmed the South West Zone meeting date for Feb 3rd in Kitchener. Details for the Central and Eastern zone will follow as soon as they are confirmed.

Contact @ Milley17@sympatico.ca, 905-892-1591,

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