



## September 2020 Month End Report

This report covers the month of September.

*“Every child needs a parent, grandparent or friend who will say let’s go it’s time for an adventure.” ~Penny Whitehouse*

*(Founder of Mother Natured, connecting kids with nature)*

What a September this has been.

This was a back to school like no other. We are continuing to receive many phone calls, emails and messages regarding how things are going with this year’s “back to school”. We are very pleased we were able to schedule Katherine Noel, to do some trainings designed to help foster parents with the specific challenges they are dealing with this year. Katherine is a retired school principal and the current Educational Liaison for the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto. The trainings are an open forum with a lot of information and plenty of opportunity to ask questions. There are still a few spaces available in the upcoming training: Learning Moments: How I can support my Child/Youth’s education at home. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Last month we had noted the deposit of the 2017, 2018 & 2019 HST/GST Rebates, but that the 2016 was still pending. We did hear from the CRA and they have denied us the first 6 months of the 2016 Rebate application due to too much time having passed. They did approve the second half of the year, which fortunately is the larger half. The cheque has arrived to the office in the amount of \$9,874.30.

We have also now applied for the first 6 months of 2020, due to the very restricted spending on the board since conference 2019; our rebate for the first 6 months of the year will only be \$285.79. The majority of board spending has gone to pay off bills invoices and debts.

Even though the financial focus has been on debt management, the board of Directors has continued to meet every month, and to continue to take care of the work at hand. None of the work the board needed to be doing has been sacrificed to a lack of live meetings. In actuality the work of the board has been able to consistently move forward due to the monthly virtual meetings and consistent email communications.

We continue to look forward to connecting with you our members at our upcoming AGM. (November 19, 7:30 PM). Details will be mailed to our member Presidents – Please ensure we have correct contact information for your local area leadership.

Thanks

*Vanessa*

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

## Ongoing Initiatives & Projects

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

### Letters and proposals

- 👤 The OSAP letter had gone out to designated provincial leadership.
- 👤 A secondary set of letters will go out pertaining to the OSAP letter in hopes of gathering support from our child welfare partners.
- 👤 We have heard back from a Ministry Designate and have a virtual meeting pending of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Meetings Attended:

- 👤 OACAS residential advisory committee continues to meet every other week – attended by Elaine Pratt
- 👤 This month the Residential Advisory met to discuss and review Bill 203 – More than a visitor (caregivers act) – attended by Vanessa Milley
- 👤 In response to our voicing our concerns at the Residential meetings regarding the education struggles our families and the children/youth are currently facing, we were invited to join the Education Committee to discuss these challenges.
- 👤 Foster Family Advisory committee: now meeting every other Tuesday evening attended by Elaine Pratt, Vanessa Milley, & Sarah F as well as other foster parents from within Ontario. – The advisory continues to discuss the variety of challenges and changes that arise pertaining to COVID 19.
- 👤 The advisory prepared a submission to the Alliance for Child protection in Humanitarian Action; our submission was warmly received but not chosen to be presented at their upcoming AGM. However it will be published in the materials they will be distributing.
- 👤 We have been invited to virtually attend the Alliance conference.
- 👤 The advisory is in the early stages of participating in setting up a survey pertaining to foster families, we hope when it is ready you will all participate.
- 👤 Meeting with Katherine Noel – Elaine Pratt & Vanessa Milley met virtually with Katherine to plan a fall training schedule with an education focus.
- 👤 PAC AGM – Attended By Vanessa Milley - virtually

### Pending meetings

- 👤 Upcoming full PAD Meeting October 15
- 👤 AGM November 19
- 👤 OSAP Meeting October 15 – Elaine Pratt & Vanessa Milley
- 👤 Training October 1, October 24, November 12 – details on website

### Connections to our members

All via email – however there have also been many phone calls during this time period from both FPA leadership and individual foster parents.

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fpo@fosterparetnnsociety.org  
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- 👤 September 11 – Question to the field asking for updates pertaining to both back to school and to see if there are changes to how access visits are being managed.
- 👤 September 18 – Presidents’ meeting notice (Sep 24<sup>th</sup>).
- 👤 September 24 – August month end report
- 👤 September 24 – Presidents meeting connection details and reminder
- 👤 September 25 – Comprehensive power point presentation regarding IEPs.
- 👤 September 25 – Fall training notice (3 trainings October 1, October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>)
- 👤 September 27 – Training registration reminder
- 👤 September 30 – Last call for training registrations
- 👤 September 30 – Training connection details for those registered Training #1 Navigating the education system.

### Conference

- 👤 Conference has been moved to May 2021

### Training

- 👤 October 1 Navigating the Education system, 7:30
- 👤 October 22, 7:30 - Learning Moments: How Can I Support My Child’s/Youth’s Education at Home?
- 👤 November 12, 7:30 - How to Cultivate an Effective Relationship With My Child’s School

### Charitable status

- 👤 The 2016 rebate like all years is applied for in two separate 6 month blocks. The CRA had declined the January to June block as too much time had passed.
- 👤 The second six month block was approved and the cheque has arrived in the mail, in the amount of \$9874.30.

### Private Membership .

- 👤 The membership letter for private members will be going out with the public sector dues invoice letters.

### Website

- 👤 The website now includes an opportunity for online payments and donations; this is indicated with a “paypal” badge in the upper right corner of the home page.
- 👤 This will not only support donations, but will also be able to receive payments like dues, registrations, on line trainings & fundraising.

### Fundraisers

- 👤 No new fundraisers at this time
- 👤 If anyone has recommendations of fundraisers please contact Operations & Services Chairperson Norm Lalonde @ [careyprice6131@gmail.com](mailto:careyprice6131@gmail.com)

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fpo@fosterparenssociety.org  
905-892-1591

## Contact

[fpso@fosterparetnssociety.org](mailto:fpso@fosterparetnssociety.org)

[Milley17@sympatico.ca](mailto: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
  - 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

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