

The Island

# Connection

Serving Vancouver Island Foster Caregivers through Peer Support, Education, Networking & Ongoing Training

## CONGRATULATIONS DAN MALONE

### LEAVING CFS TO LEAD BCFPA

Foster caregivers foster hope.  
You're there for the children.  
We're here for you.

See Page 4 for the  
exciting news!

CPC PUB #40780167



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The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Caring Families Society or the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

*The Island Connection* is published five times per year; emailed and mailed free of charge to all foster homes and MCFD offices in the Vancouver Island region.

**ADVERTISING INFORMATION:**  
Tel: 778-430-5459 / [admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)

**Call Us  
TOLL FREE AT  
1-888-922-8437**

Visit our website at  
[www.fpsss.com](http://www.fpsss.com)

## Do You Need Help or Information?

The following numbers are provided for your convenience. Please feel free to call these numbers when you need assistance.

### EMERGENCY "Centralized Screening" Duty Worker (MCFD) Contact Number: 1-800-663-9122

- Foster Caregivers are encouraged to call this number in the event of an EMERGENCY or CRISIS concerning a child in their care, occurring after regular office hours.

### FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT LINE (MCFD) Call Toll Free: 1-888-495-4440

**Weekdays: 4:00pm to 12:45am**

**Statutory Holidays and Weekends: 8:00am to 12:45am**

If you have an immediate concern relating to a child in your care we are here to help you and will provide:

- Fast response for urgent issues outside regular office hours.
- Professional support, information and consultation.

### INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION SUPPORT TEAM (Caring Families Society)

**TOLL FREE 1-888-922-8437**

The Regional Caring Families office can arrange for a support person to help you through an Investigation or Review.

- The support person can answer your questions, attend any interviews with you, and give you information about the investigation.

### CARING FAMILIES SOCIETY COORDINATORS TOLL FREE 1-888-922-8437

**Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 4:00pm, Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm  
Closed Weekends and Statutory Holidays**

Caring Families Coordinators are available five days a week to assist you.

- There are Caring Families Society offices in Victoria (778-430-5460) and Nanaimo (250-618-8327); and Local Coordinators in Cowichan Valley (250-618-8327), Parksville (1-888-922-8437), Comox Valley (250-986-7929), Campbell River (250-204-1566)
- Our coordinators are available to assist foster caregivers in obtaining current information; support services for caregivers; ongoing training and development opportunities; peer support and mentoring.

### BC FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATIONS (BCFPA) TOLL FREE 1-800-663-9999

**Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm**

- Support and information for Foster Caregivers.
- If calling outside hours leave a message and a staff member will return your call.

## CONNECT WITH THE CARING FAMILIES SOCIETY ANYTIME ANYWHERE

You can stay connected to the most up-to-date news of training and networking events in your area at home or on the go!

You can...go to our interactive website  
[www.fpsss.com](http://www.fpsss.com)

You can...find us on  
[FACEBOOK](#)

You can...download a Calendar of Events directly to your Outlook or smartphone!

You can...call and talk to us in person!

**1-888-922-8437**



The following is a listing of Ministry approved homes willing to provide Relief Care for foster caregivers. This list is for information purposes only. Foster caregivers must make their own arrangements **with the prior knowledge and approval of their Resource Worker.**

### SOUTH Island Relief Care Listing

CAREGIVER	PHONE	TYPE OF HOME
Hughes Elaine	250-590-1298	Level 1 / 3* yrs
Case Sandy & Rob	250-478-2782	Level 2 / 0-5 yrs
Radley Cheryl & Alan	250-744-8354	Level 2 / 3-12 yrs
Cooper Karyn & Leo	250-216-7003	Level 3
Smith Natalie & Evan	250-544-0041	Level 3 / 2-6 yrs; boys
Thompson Dianne	250-216-6380	Level 3 / 2-8 yrs
Bergeron Michelle	250-474-4735	Level 3 / 7-19 yrs
Clifford Shandra	250-727-6542	Level 3 / 5-12 yrs
Dewar Maria & Bob	250-478-6503	Level 3 / 5-19 yrs; boys
Dorsey James	778-350-5527	Level 3 / 10-18 yrs; boys

### CENTRAL and UPPER Island Relief Care

**Please Note:**

**Central and Upper Island areas:** Foster Caregivers are encouraged to contact their Resource Social Worker, or the Child's Social Worker when seeking relief care from Ministry approved caregivers.

As you are responsible for ensuring the suitability of any person entrusted with the care of the child in your home, usually you will use an approved foster caregiver. Ideally you would identify proposed relief care providers (e.g. relatives, family, friends) when your home study assessment is in process so that future relief care providers can be screened/assessed/approved at the same time.

**Relief**-a break from caregiving—is important for both the child-in-care and the foster caregivers in most family care homes. Relief means overnight care, typically lasting 1-3 days that takes place either in the foster caregiver's home or in the home of the relief care provider.

**Respite** is not the same as relief. Respite is out-of-home care provided or funded as a service to a child's parents with whom there is a Support Service Agreement. The child need not be in care.

Foster Family Handbook (Page 50)

### Relief Foster Care Rates AS OF JULY 1st, 2025

Restricted (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs)	\$61.64
Restricted (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs)	\$67.54
Regular (for a child aged 0 to 11 yrs)	\$61.64
Regular (for a child aged 12 to 19 yrs)	\$67.54
Level 1 (all ages)	\$87.27
Level 2 (all ages)	\$106.67
Level 3 (all ages)	\$135.80

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/resource\\_work\\_policies.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/resource_work_policies.pdf)

### It's What's in Between that Matters

Beginnings and Endings matter. They lead to adventures and they bring us home. But even more important are the things that happen in between...

Hello...goodbye

It's what's in between that matters. Bonds, friendships, connections, memories.

Beginnings...Endings

It's what's in between that matters. Family, love, learning, sharing.

Once upon a time...and they lived happily ever after

It's what's in between that matters. Fairy tales, dragons, heroes, magic.

Top crust...bottom crust

It's what between that matters. The sweet stuff, the tangy stuff, the sticky stuff.

Birth...death

It's what's in between that matters. Joy, grief, sunrises, and sunsets. *Life.*

*Children and youth in care*

Their stories start before they come to you...their stories continue after they leave you.

It's what's in between that matters.

In the space between you can make a difference.

Pay attention to the stuff in between the Beginnings and Endings.  
It's what matters.

Caring Families Society provides support and training for foster caregivers across Vancouver Island, the traditional lands of the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestors. We acknowledge it is a privilege to live, learn, and grow on these lands and honour the Chiefs, Hereditary Chiefs, Knowledge Keepers, and People who have cared for the lands, waters and creatures for all the days past, present, and days yet to be.

### GUIDELINE TO THE FAMILY CARE RATE AS OF JULY 1ST, 2025

Basic Foster Care Costs (per month)*	Ages 0-11 years	Ages 12-19 years
Food	\$260.23	\$347.85
Housing	\$288.95	\$347.23
Transportation	\$129.98	\$145.83
Personal Needs	\$27.72	\$33.91
Recreation	\$64.94	\$67.47
Clothing	\$157.81	\$179.36
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$929.63</b>	<b>\$1,121.20</b>
Additional Family Care Costs	Ages 0-11 years	Ages 12-19 years
Education	\$49.54	\$60.68
Babysitting	\$167.31	\$107.95
Transportation	\$117.69	\$114.90
Personal Spending	\$80.51	\$102.72
Gifts/ Activities	\$117.71	\$115.63
Equipment/ Recreation	\$86.81	\$102.80
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$619.57</b>	<b>\$604.68</b>
<b>Total Maintenance (per month)</b>	<b>\$1,549.20</b>	<b>\$1,726.33</b>

\*The amounts in each category are estimates of what is required for most children. Actual costs will vary between categories, with some caregivers spending more in some categories but less in others. The Foster Family care rates are expected to cover the actual costs for most children.

## Look Back with Fondness Look Forward with Hope



In 2012, we welcomed Dan Malone to his new position as Executive Director of Foster Parent Support Services Society. Dan had been involved with FPSS Society as a caregiver then as the South Island Coordinator. Fourteen years and a new name later, we bid a farewell to Dan as he leaves Caring Families Society to his new position as the Executive Director of British Columbia Foster Parent Associations. We are sad to see him leave, but excited for the journey that awaits him.

Dan takes with him a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion to his new role and we know he will do an amazing job. BCFPA will soar under his leadership.

The Board and Staff of Caring Families Society would like to thank Dan for years of service as a caregiver, Coordinator, and Executive Director. Dan was instrumental in leading the organization through Covid, the

creation of the Provincial Support Agency Caregiving Learning Network, our 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, our new name and logo, and countless other projects, committees, and initiatives. Thanks to Dan, the name Caring Families Society is respected and valued locally and provincially.



### **Congratulations Dan!**

*May all your cover pages be yellow.*

## **Reflecting with Gratitude**

*As I prepare to step into a new chapter, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the incredible foster caregiver community here on Vancouver Island.*

*My journey with Caring Families Society began first and foremost as a foster caregiver who was eager to learn, to take part in as much education as possible, and to connect with other foster caregivers. What started as a desire to give the best care possible to the children and youth in my care grew into nearly two decades of working alongside an organization that truly feels like family.*

*Throughout my time here, Caring Families Society has consistently shown a willingness to find new and meaningful ways to support, network, and educate foster caregivers. That family-like spirit is something truly special, and it exists because of the people who make up this organization.*

*I have had the honour of working with an amazing group of dedicated colleagues, Board members, volunteers, and foster caregivers who care deeply about this work and who never lose sight of why we do it. Most importantly, I have been continually inspired by the foster caregivers across Vancouver Island and their commitment, resilience, advocacy, and compassion for children, youth, and their families. You show up every day in ways that matter deeply, often quietly and without recognition, and it has been a privilege to support you in that journey.*

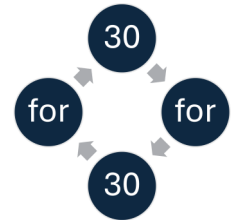
*While I am leaving my role at Caring Families Society, I am not going far. I will be moving into the role of Executive Director with the BC Foster Parent Association, where I look forward to continuing to collaborate, advocate, and support foster caregivers on a province-wide level, while staying closely connected to the Island and the community that has shaped so much of my work.*

*Thank you for the trust you have placed in me over the years, for the relationships we've built, and for the important work you do every day for children, youth, and families. I carry immense gratitude and respect with me as I move forward.*

*Thank you,*

Dan Malone

# Meet the 30 for 30 Committee



## Connecting the Caregiver Community and Increasing Access to Relief Care

Foster caregiving asks a lot from individuals, partners, children, youth, and the entire foster family. Frequent appointments, multiple school drop-offs, behavioural challenges, and a fishbowl-like environment are part of the day-to-day experience. Those that live this every day know how crucial it is to have a wraparound support system, and how challenging and time consuming it is to create this. For the past twelve months, the *30 for 30 Committee* has been meeting to prioritize the development and implementation of strategies that improve the experience for new and existing foster caregivers. Most recently, the committee has focused on connecting new caregivers with experienced caregivers and increasing current caregivers' access to Relief care in their home. The committee knows a strong support system that includes Relief care is an essential element of successful caregiving and has developed a plan to bring this support to fruition.

Foster caregiving is a twenty-four-hour a day, seven days a week job. The role is like that of a biological parent but amplified by having to meet the unique needs of each child, prioritize their appointments, report to MCFD, attend meetings with teachers, therapists, biological family members, and others. The role requires sustained energy, enthusiasm, patience, and unwavering love. Burnout and isolation are common, but a facilitated program for Relief can reduce these risks. A more robust care system would ensure each caregiver has access to the support needed to take regular Relief breaks, a night or two where both the caregiver and the child can enjoy their time separately.

In response to the needs of current foster caregivers and to address the shortage of new caregivers on Vancouver Island, a committee formed with a shared purpose and goal. The *30 for 30 Committee* is a collaborative group of individuals from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and Caring Families Society (CFS) that come together biweekly for dialogue, brainstorming, and strategic development. The committee has proposed a pilot project that centers around Relief care while connecting and supporting new and existing caregivers.

As part of a bigger initiative, the *30 for 30 Committee* has proposed the development of a secure database that allows foster caregivers to find Relief caregivers that are a good fit and meet the unique needs of their home. Relief program participants will be referred and guided in the process of creating a detailed bio that expresses who they are, lists their experience and training, and shares where they are in their caregiving journey. With password-granted access, foster caregivers can browse the data base for Relief care providers they would like to connect with, learn about their homes, personalities, areas of expertise, ages and genders of children cared for, availability, and more.

The committee is very aware and mindful of the future for children and youth in care and strives to connect current and in-coming caregivers, with the intention of strengthening the Vancouver Island fostering community. Potential foster caregivers will be invited to participate in the program once they have reached specific pillars in the application process, providing a sustainable entry into the role and building supports from the start.



Through a qualitative survey, brainstorming, and ongoing conversation, the committee recognizes the need for change and sees the opportunity for meaningful action. The pilot Relief program is designed to sustain and support foster caregivers, without adding to what they already do. In the coming months, the committee will be inviting current foster caregivers on Vancouver Island to an open discussion on the topic of Relief care, where feedback, ideas, and further brainstorming ensure the program accurately addresses the needs of the community. Limited spots are available at this virtual gathering. If you would like to participate, please email Zoe at [community@fpss.com](mailto:community@fpss.com) to be added to the list. You are also welcome to send feedback and ideas to the *30 for 30 Committee* through this email address.

## Caring Families Society Coordinator **UPDATES**

### Email Distribution Lists

Staying connected has never been so important. Reach out to your Local Area Coordinator or the Regional Office to confirm we have your correct email address and share your questions or concerns. You will receive important updates and hear about training and support opportunities.

**WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!**

### SOUTH ISLAND Area Update

Prepared by Dianne Thompson

T: 236-562-7921

Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

E: [sicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:sicoord@fpsss.com)

### Foster Caregiver/MCFD Resource Partnership Meeting

At January's Foster Caregiver/MCFD Partnership meeting, Patricia Hanley from the Public Guardian Trust spoke on what the PGT does and how to support youth with financial wellness.

### Caregiver Coffee Morning

SIFPA and Caring Families brought caregivers together for an in-person, well-attended Caregiver Coffee Morning. It was a welcoming space for caregivers to meet peers and friends, share stories, exchange tips, and enjoy plenty of laughter. Children and grown-ups enjoyed treats while the children played. Thank you Sandy Case for these wonderful coffee mornings!

### Ongoing Training

January's virtual *Stronger Together* workshop was well attended. LeeAnn and Portia from the Office of the Ombudsperson facilitated the second session (*An Overview of Administrative Fairness*).

It was great to learn about the Ombudsperson office, the services they provide, their complaint process, and how their resources might be helpful for caregivers.

### Safe Babies Support Group

The local Safe Babies Support Group meets monthly to discuss topics relevant to the care of vulnerable infants.

### First Aid

Caring Families Society arranged *Basic Level First Aid* training by Alert First Aid that included infant CPR. Participants experienced hands-on instruction with emergency scene management, spinal injury management, adult, child and infant CPR, obstructed airway procedures, and treatment for bleeding, broken bones, and seizures. Caring Families

Society reimbursed \$35.00 to caregivers who successfully completed the course. First Alert issued certificates.

### Upcoming Events

Watch your emails or check out the South Island calendar on Caring Families Society, <https://caring-families.ca/> for upcoming events. SIFPA thanks our wonderful caregivers for the work they do with our children and youth every day.

### Investigation and Resolution Support Worker Program

Experienced volunteer foster caregivers are trained to assist and support foster caregivers going through an Investigation, Quality of Care Review, or dispute with the Ministry. They provide information, answer questions, attend interviews, take notes, and ensure that foster caregivers do not go through the process alone. Contact 1-888-922 8437 for information. We are currently looking for more volunteers to join our IRS team. Please check out our IRS page on our website at, <https://caring-families.ca/investigation-and-resolution-support-program/>.

### Appreciation

Caring Families Society extends our heartfelt appreciation to the remarkable caregivers who open their homes and hearts to children. Your strength, compassion, and unwavering commitment shine through in the way you nurture, guide, and adapt to the ever-changing needs of caregiving. We are deeply grateful for the care you provide each day.

### Ongoing Training

We continue to offer PSACLN training with many On-Demand replays available. If you know of a topic or training that might be beneficial, contact Dianne at [sicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:sicoord@fpsss.com) or 778-430-5459.

### South Island Facebook

Join our private South Island Caregivers' Facebook group for updates on events, workshops, training, and other information sharing at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/561291688076447/>.

### E-mail Distribution List and Calendar

To receive email notifications of workshops, meetings, and news of interest, contact 778-430-5460 or [sicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:sicoord@fpsss.com). View events on our website at <http://fpsss.com/calendars/southisland-events/>.



### CENTRAL ISLAND Area Update

#### Email Distribution List

Central Island caregivers can reach out to their Local Area Coordinator for support or to be added to the local distribution list. Remember to update your contact information with the Caring Families Society as it changes.

#### PORT ALBERNI Area Update

Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

E: [pacoord@fpsss.com](mailto:pacoord@fpsss.com)

Port Alberni Caregivers in need of support, resources, or a listening ear can contact the Regional. We are here to care for you so you can care for the children and youth in your home.

#### COWICHAN VALLEY Area Update

Prepared by Sandra Beagley

T: 250-618-8327

Toll free: 1-888-922-8437

E: [dacoord@fpsss.com](mailto:dacoord@fpsss.com)

#### Foster Caregiver Mornings

Cowichan Valley Foster Parents Local and Caring Families Society host monthly gatherings. These mornings are great opportunities to share, ask questions, recharge, and connect with other amazing foster caregivers. Hosts provide coffee, tea, snacks, and door prizes. *Thank you to Kinderbeez Boutique for their ongoing clothing donations!*

#### Understanding and Responding to Self Harming Behaviors

Presenter Stephanie Carr from Axis explored why children and youth engage in self harm while acknowledging the impact this can have on the individual and the family/team. She focused on responding while supporting connection and safety.

### Cowichan Valley MCFD Festive Partnership Meeting

These bi-monthly meetings are a great way to maintain communication and connection. Watch your email for news from MCFD for April's Partnership Meeting.

### Overcoming and Preventing Compassion Fatigue: The Compassion Paradox

This Crisis Centre of BC prerecorded workshop explored tools and techniques that help build our ability to be empathetic and compassionate while also taking care of our own emotional well-being.

### Cowichan Valley Foster Parent Local Free Children's Clothing

The CVFP Local continued to offer foster caregivers free gently-used clothing for children and youth. Text CVFP Local clothing coordinator Lisa at 250-818-3293 to arrange a date and time to access the clothing.

**NANAIMO Area Update**  
**Prepared by Sandra Beagley**  
**T: 250-618-8327**  
**E: [cicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:cicoord@fpsss.com)**

### Foster Caregivers Support Mornings

These gatherings allow foster caregivers to connect, share, support, and inspire each other. Participants enjoy great company, conversation, snacks, and prizes. Host Bonnie creates opportunities for foster caregivers to work on Life Book pages and CFS provides the support, supplies, and tools.

**Navigating Emotions: How to Remain Centered when Emotions Feel Overwhelming**  
 This workshop has been rescheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. More information and registration link will be available closer to the workshop date.

### Skillfully Responding to Distress

Jennifer Aberman from the Crisis Centre of BC facilitated a half day workshop for foster caregivers that explored how to respond and deescalate emotional distress for a person in crisis. There were small group discussion exercises that reflected scenarios relevant to fostering. Participants shared positive feedback for this workshop.

### Creative Connections Beading

A Nanaimo foster caregiver shared her beading passion and skills with foster families. There were options to meet age ranges and skill levels. A great opportunity to gain experience while building connections with other foster caregivers and families.

*You have to be careful who you met.  
 You can't unmeet them.*

Jodi Lynn Anderson

## UPPER ISLAND Area Updates

### Upper Island Email Distribution List

Upper Island caregivers can contact their Local Area Coordinator for support or to be added to the local distribution list. Remember to update your contact information with Caring Families Society as it changes.

**COMOX VALLEY Area Update**  
**Prepared by Jessica Humphries**  
**T: 250-986-7929**  
**Toll free: 1-888-922-8437**  
**E: [cvcoord@fpsss.com](mailto:cvcoord@fpsss.com)**

### Comox Valley Safe Babies Group

We continue to join the Safe Babies knowledge exchange, creating space for Comox Valley Caregivers to connect with education from the Regional Safe Babies Coordinator and discussions with caregivers from other communities. Caregivers joined in person at the Foundry or online from their homes, offering flexibility and enjoyable conversation. As our local group gets smaller, we are continuing to explore opportunities for connection.

### Education Committee

In January, our Education Committee met to plan and discuss a February workshop on *Trauma-Informed Nutrition and Feeding*. We have reached out to Indigenous facilitators to plan a late spring workshop. Stay tuned for updates on these workshops.

### Social Committee

Our social committee met and sent a survey to caregivers to gain insight into the social activities they would like to see happen this year. We are also in the early stages of planning our *Annual Spring Fling* event, if you would like to be involved in planning please reach out to Jessica at [cvcoord@fpsss.com](mailto:cvcoord@fpsss.com).

**CAMPBELL RIVER Area Update**  
**Prepared by Judy Hollywood Bonnett**  
**T: 250-204-1566**  
**Toll free: 1-888-922-8437**  
**E: [uicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:uicoord@fpsss.com)**

### Foster Caregiver-MCFD Partnership Meeting

Caregivers and Ministry workers met in January to share fostering concerns, learn about MCFD updates, and discuss local fostering trends.

### Caregivers' Creative Support Group

Foster caregivers created mindful connections through art making in this monthly space hosted by the CRFS Resource Enhancement team.

### Caregiver Lunch and Learn

January's *Navigating Mental Health: An Intergenerational Perspective* (presented by Victoria Morton) and February's *Learning about the 2SLGBTQA Community* (presented by Christine Armstrong) were excellent learning events addressing critical social issues.

### Safe Babies Network

Safe Babies caregivers met monthly and accessed the online Knowledge Exchanges presented by Mary Catherine Williams, Regional Safe Babies Coordinator. *Newborn and Infant Care*, and *Infant and Toddler Nutrition* were the new year topics. All Campbell River Safe Babies caregivers are welcomed to join in the support and learning.

### Campbell River Foster Parent Association

CRFPA arranged monthly coffee meetings hosted in caregiver's homes. New in January was a clothing and toy exchange. February's group offered peer conversation in a relaxing environment. Thank you to the foster caregivers who participate in these great networking opportunities.

## NORTH ISLAND Area Update

**PORT HARDY Area Update**  
**Toll free: 1-888-922-8437**  
**E: [nicoordinator@fpsss.com](mailto:nicoordinator@fpsss.com)**

### Enhanced Communication

North Island Foster Family Facebook group shared posts on topics from local check-ins to MCFD updates. Not a member of our North Island Foster Family Facebook group yet? Send your membership requests by email to Cheryl at [c.jorgenson@nicommunityservices.ca](mailto:c.jorgenson@nicommunityservices.ca) or Judy at [uicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:uicoord@fpsss.com). An ideal way to stay in the loop.

### Cheryl is on the move! (Port McNeill office only)

North Island Community Services has moved to 2853 Mine Road, Port McNeill (in the former Cheslakees Elementary School across from the hospital.) Cheryl Jorgenson continues to provide Foster/Caregiver Supports and looks forward to seeing you there. Call Cheryl for more info 250-230-3484!

*Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see; it is what gives life its deepest significance.*

Roy T. Bennett

## COLLABORATIVE ISLAND-WIDE TRAINING AND EVENTS

### The Business Side of Fostering<sup>CLN</sup>

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and  
Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30pm  
Facilitated by Interior Community Services

Virtual. Open to Foster Caregivers and Social Workers  
**IMPORTANT note:** You must attend BOTH sessions to receive a certificate.

Do you want to understand your role, responsibilities, and rights (from a business perspective)? Then this 4-hour course is for you! Please This training is for discussion purposes only and not to be considered legal or financial advice. We will cover:

- The ins and outs of your contract
- The care home investigation (protocol) and quality of care review process
- What (and why) to document and report,
- Insurance / WCB for Foster Parents
- Resources.

Register at [Business Side of Fostering April 2026](#)

### THE BUSINESS SIDE OF FOSTERING

Where caring and compassion meet contracts, rights and responsibilities.

FACILITATED BY INTERIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES



### Overview of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC<sup>CLN</sup>

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am  
Facilitated by The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC

Virtual. Open to Foster Caregivers, Kinship/Out-of-Care Caregivers, Contracted Agency Caregivers, Social Workers, Community Professionals, and General Public who are members of CLN.

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) of BC works for British Columbians to protect the legal and financial interests of children under the age of 19 years, protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who need help with decision making, and administer estates of deceased and missing persons. In this online seminar, facilitator Patricia Hanley will provide an overview of the PGT and then focus on its services for children and youth. Please join us in exploring and learning more about:

- The PGT's organization including their vision, mandate and values.
- The approaches and legislation that guide PGT's work.
- How the PGT protects the legal and financial interests of children and youth in care.
- How the PGT manages the assets of people under the age of 19.
- Sharing of resources that are available to people who were in the care of the Province as children.
- How the PGT supports First Nations that have taken on jurisdiction for their child and family services.

Watch your email for registration link

**Get Connected!**  
[admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)

Not on our email distribution list? Call the Regional Office today and add your name. Through our email distribution list, you will receive important updates and hear about our virtual support opportunities.

**Call toll free**  
**1-888-922-8437**

## COLLABORATIVE ISLAND-WIDE TRAINING AND EVENTS

### Foster Family Handbook<sup>5th Edition</sup> Caregiver Service Records

Record keeping is an important part of your Agreement with the ministry.

Keep a separate, confidential record for each child and ensure it is stored somewhere private and secure.

#### **Recording is essential because it:**

- maintains a permanent record of the child's time in your home and in care
- helps with planning for the child
- helps in discussion with the child's social worker
- documents changes in behaviour over the period of time the child is in your home
- documents the child's experiences in your home, which can help them in later years to understand their time in care

Ideally, you should make daily entries about the child's progress and daily routines. As a minimum, you must record all significant events, and notify the child's social worker as soon as possible.

#### **Significant events include:**

- visits with birth family
- school-related issues
- health care issues
- unusual behaviour or behavioural changes
- positive achievements by the child
- changes in the child's circumstances or routines
- an incident or development that might put the child at risk of harm
- unauthorized absences from your home.



Most caregiver service records are considered "documents" under the Family Care Home agreement and "records" under the CFCSA. As such, they are not your property and are handed over for storage and safekeeping at the end of a child's stay in your home.

[foster\\_family\\_handbook.pdf](#)

### Safe Babies Caregiver Meeting and Knowledge Exchange

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 11:30am

Substance Use Updates and Trends

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 11:30am

Screen Time Guidelines and Considerations

(Third Thursday of the month)

**Open to Vancouver Island Safe Babies Caregivers.**

Mary Catherine Williams is the Caring Families Society Regional Safe Babies Coordinator. Her role includes providing Safe Babies training (certification and ongoing) for caregivers and others, acting as a resource/knowledge keeper for Safe Babies Program information, and supporting curriculum updates.

Mary Catherine facilitates a virtual monthly Safe Babies Program Knowledge Exchange. For more information or for Safe Babies caregiver support, contact Mary Catherine at [safebabies@fpss.com](mailto:safebabies@fpss.com). All Vancouver Island Safe Babies caregivers welcome.

## Virtual Monthly Safe Babies Program Knowledge Exchange

This is an opportunity for caregivers to receive updated information and connect with each other about the complex role of Safe Babies Caregivers.

Sessions will be live on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 10:30am to 11:30am. A recording of each session will be available on the Caregiver Learning Network for review for those who can't attend the live training.

<https://caring-families.ca/series/safe-babies-program-knowledge-exchange-2/>



## South Island News and Events



**DIANNE THOMPSON SOUTH ISLAND COORDINATOR**  
236-562-7921 or [sicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:sicoord@fpsss.com)

### Foster Caregiver Ministry Partnership Meetings

Ministry hosts these MS Teams meetings for Foster Caregivers to meet with Resource Social Workers, get updates on the Ministry staffing, policy changes, and ask questions.

Watch your emails or our South Island Facebook group for information on the meeting.

### SIFPA Hopping into Spring Family Fun Day!

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Colwood Pacific Activity Centre (CPAC)

Military Family Resource Centre, 2610 Rosebank Road

Join us for an in-person good vibes family event. Kids and youth can run wild (in the best way) with games and activities in the gym, plus snack bags and treats to keep the energy going. The best part? Every family heads home with a special Spring Break activity gift to kick off the break with something fun.

Bring the whole crew and come hang out—it's going to be a great time. Tropical Bouncy Castle and Slides included!

Please R.S.V.P. to Sandy at [slcase@shaw.ca](mailto:slcase@shaw.ca).

SIFPA Hopping  
into Spring Family  
Fun Day!



Happy

Easter

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
3:00pm to 5:00pm

Happy Spring Break!

We hope you and your family enjoy a bright, busy, and joy-filled Spring Break.

With Easter on the way, Caring Families Society is sending along our best wishes for however you celebrate Spring, Easter, or simply extra time with family and friends. May your long weekend be full of good moments, good company, and a little extra time to breathe.

*Enjoy the season and all the little adventures it brings!*

### Safe Babies Caregiver Meeting

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Safe Babies caregivers meet with Angela Hatch to connect, support one another, and discuss information pertaining to the issues and care of vulnerable infants. They discuss a variety of topics relevant to the medically fragile infants and toddlers that they care for. Most of their infants have had pre natal substance exposure, often with complications. They cover new protocols for homes and updated information. Guest speakers are often invited.

### Caregiver Coffee In-Person Mornings

Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am to 12:00 noon

Tuesday, "April 28<sup>th</sup>", 9:00am to 12:00 noon

Welcome to a warm, supportive space, a perfect spot to connect with caregivers and friends, swap stories, share tips, and enjoy a few laughs. Kids can dive into treats and playtime, and yes – there are goodies for grown-ups too!

Grab a cup, settle in, and enjoy a cozy morning with good company.

Please R.S.V.P. to Sandy at [slcase@shaw.ca](mailto:slcase@shaw.ca).

### Overview of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am

Open to Foster Caregivers, Kinship Caregivers, Contracted Agency Caregivers, Social Workers, Community Professionals, and other CLN Members

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) of BC works for British Columbians to protect the legal and shared resources of children under the age of 19 years, protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who need help with decision making, and administer estates of deceased and missing persons.

Watch your emails for the registration invitation.

### South Island Private Facebook Group

Join this group of South Island Foster Caregivers for information on workshops, training, and upcoming events. We share Ministry updates, community events, relevant news, and other fun stuff. This group is for you. You can share, ask questions, trade children's clothing, sell items, or request Relief. If you are not a member, join now at, [Foster Parent South Island Connection Group | Facebook](#).

Become a

**FOSTER  
CAREGIVER**

In South Island

If you know a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or family member interested in becoming a foster caregiver, have them contact **Caring Families Society 778-430-5459** to learn more or register for a Foster Hope Information Session



## Life Books



# LIFE BOOKS

**FOR CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH IN CARE**



Every child and youth who is likely to be in care for longer than six months needs a Life Book. This becomes a permanent record of their time in care. If you would like help beginning or adding to a Life Book for a child in your care, contact your local coordinator or the Regional Office. Supplies provided.



**CONTACT US** ➤

+1-888-922-8437      [admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)

# Central Island News and Events

## COWICHAN VALLEY AREA

 **SANDRA BEAGLEY COWICHAN VALLEY LOCAL COORDINATOR**  
250-618-8327 OR [dacoord@fpsss.com](mailto:dacoord@fpsss.com)

### Joint Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Event

#### Foster Family BINGO

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Eagles Hall, 921 - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Ladysmith

OPEN to ALL FOSTER FAMILIES!

Caring Families Society has rented the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith for this event! Join other foster families for FUN, FOOD, and PRIZES! Doors will open at 1:15pm to allow time for families to settle and set up for BINGO to start promptly at 1:30pm. We will play multiple rounds of BINGO with prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. CFS will provide snacks and beverages. Register your foster family here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/9a8w824>.

### Foster Caregivers Mornings

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am

Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 11:30am

Cowichan Community Center – Nitinat Room  
2687 James Street, Duncan

These gatherings are great to connect with other foster caregivers who understand the unique challenges and rewards of fostering. The Nitinat Room is at the end of the hall on the second floor of the Cowichan Community Center. Come and meet members of your Cowichan Valley Foster Parents Local and other wonderful foster caregivers! March's meeting is during spring break, so this will be a family friendly morning! Arrangements for a guest speaker for April's meeting are in process. Watch your emails for more information.

### Cowichan Valley MCFD Partnership Meeting

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00/9:30am to 11:00am

MCFD Office, 161- 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Duncan

The office doors open at 9:00am and foster caregivers are welcome to come in to catch up with one another and local resource workers – the meeting will start at 9:30am. Stay as long as you can! Participation can be in-person or virtually via Teams. Something on your mind you'd like to discuss? Send agenda items to [mylisa.evans@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mylisa.evans@gov.bc.ca). Look for an email from the MCFD Resource Team closer to the meeting that includes the link for those wishing to participate virtually.

### Overview of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am

Open to Foster Caregivers, Kinship Caregivers, Contracted Agency Caregivers, Social Workers, Community Professionals, and other CLN Members

The Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) of BC works for British Columbians to protect the legal and shared resources of children under the age of 19 years, protect the legal, financial, personal and health care interests of adults who need help with decision making, and administer estates of deceased and missing persons. Please watch your emails for the registration invitation.

## NANAIMO AREA

 **BONNIE COOK NANAIMO LOCAL COORDINATOR**  
250-986-9092 OR [npcoord@fpsss.com](mailto:npcoord@fpsss.com)

 **SANDRA BEAGLEY COWICHAN VALLEY LOCAL COORDINATOR**  
250-618-8327 OR [dacoord@fpsss.com](mailto:dacoord@fpsss.com)

## From the Cowichan Foster Parent Local

The Cowichan Foster Parent Local would like to thank Kinderbeez for its long-time, on-going support of our foster caregivers and children and youth in care. Kinderbeez has supported us through the donation of gently-used clothing used by caregivers to support the children in their homes. Your kindness has not gone unnoticed!



# Thank You to Kinderbeez for Your Support

2763 Beverly Street, Duncan,  
250-748-2345 --  
[info@kinderbeez.ca](mailto:info@kinderbeez.ca)

### Foster Caregivers Support Mornings

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am

Caring Families Society Office, #102-6421 Applecross Road, Nanaimo

These mornings are a great way to connect with other caregivers about the unique experiences and challenges fostering can have, ask questions, share successes, recharge, and learn about resources. There will also be opportunities for caregivers to work on Life Book pages if desired and CFS will provide support, supplies, and tools. Foster caregivers, please check your emails for more details closer to the morning dates!

### First Aid Training

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 1:30pm

Alert First Aid, 109 Finlayson Street, Nanaimo

Open to Foster and Kinship Caregivers.

Do you remember how to perform infant or child CPR? Is your first aid certification current?

An instructor from Alert First Aid Inc will lead participants through a hands-on approach to gain confidence, learn to improvise, and react in emergency situations. Includes initial assessment, adult, child, and infant CPR (Level C). Alert First Aid will provide a certificate (valid for 3

## FREE CLOTHING FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

Cowichan Valley Foster Parents Local offers free, clean, gently-used kids clothing for Foster Caregivers. Text Clothing Coordinator Lisa to access the clothing and choose what you need.



**Lisa 250-818-3293 (Text Only)**

Our heartfelt thanks go out to **Kinderbeez** for their ongoing clothing donations.

# Central Island News and Events

Joint Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Event!

## Foster Family BINGO

Luck is coming your way

Saturday, March 14th  
1:30pm to 3:30pm

years) to participants upon successful completion.  
\$60.00 per participant.

Foster caregivers will receive a \$35 reimbursement from Caring Families Society upon course completion. **Please note this reimbursement only applies to foster caregivers.** Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/s75e4g2>.

### Joint Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Event Foster Family BINGO

Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm to 3:30pm  
Eagles Hall, 921 - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Ladysmith

Open to all local foster families

Caring Families Society has rented the Ladysmith's Eagles Hall for this event! Join other foster families for Fun, Food, and Prizes! Doors open at 1:15pm to give families time to settle and set up for BINGO to start promptly at 1:30pm. We will play multiple rounds of BINGO with prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. CFS will provide snacks and beverages.

Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/9a8w824>.

### Creative Connections

#### Dot Art Moon Vision

Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 12:00noon  
#102-6421 Applecross Road, Nanaimo

Open to Foster Caregivers

Connect with other foster caregivers while getting creative! Artist Jen from Lost Arts Club will guide us in creating a beautiful Dot Art Moon Vision. All needed supplies will be available, and participants can choose from five different templates! No previous art skills needed! Caring Families Society is asking foster caregivers to contribute \$5.00

towards costs with CFS paying the rest of the per person fee.

**Limited space available.**

Register at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2b4zn4m>.



Dot Painted Moon Visions

### PORT ALBERNI AREA

REGIONAL OFFICE

1-888-822-8437 OR [admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)

#### Foster Caregiver Support

Foster caregivers living in the Alberni Valley needing support, resources, or information are encouraged to contact the Caring Families Regional Office. We will connect you with someone who can help you through a difficult time. If there is a book you think might provide the strategies or guidance you need, let us know and we will have it shipped to your door.

See a book you think would help you provide better care to a child in your home? Let us know and we will have it shipped to your door.

[admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com) 1-888-922-8437

#### Safe Babies Caregiver Knowledge Exchange Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 11:30am

*Topic: Substance Use Updates and Trends*

#### Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 11:30am

*Topic: Screen Time Guidelines and Considerations*

(Third Thursday of the month)

Calling all Safe Babies Caregivers! Join us online via the Zoom link found in on Caregiver Learning Network. Sign in using this link and following the prompts <https://learn.fpsss.com/courses/vi-sb-monthly/>

### Virtual Monthly Safe Babies Program Knowledge Exchange

This is an opportunity for caregivers to receive updated information and connect with each other about the complex role of Safe Babies Caregivers.

Sessions will be live on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 10:30am to 11:30am. A recording of each session will be available on the Caregiver Learning Network for review for those who can't attend the live training.

<https://caring-families.ca/series/safe-babies-program-knowledge-exchange-2/>


# Foster Homes Needed in Central Island

Become a  
**FOSTER CAREGIVER**  
In Cowichan Valley



If you know a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or family member interested in becoming a foster caregiver, have them contact  
**Duncan Resource Team 250-715-2737**  
to learn more or register for a Foster Hope Information Session

Become a  
**FOSTER CAREGIVER**  
In the Nanaimo Area



If you know a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or family member interested in becoming a foster caregiver, have them contact  
**Rachel Wallace (MCFD)**  
**250-739-8603**  
to learn more or register for a Foster Hope Information Session

Become a  
**FOSTER CAREGIVER**  
With Kw'umut Lelum



Kw'umut Lelum is looking for loving caregivers willing and able to provide a compassionate, stable, and nurturing home for a child in care in the Nanaimo, Malahat, and Qualicum areas.  
For information contact  
**Vivian Paul 250-591-0933**

Become a  
**FOSTER CAREGIVER**  
With Usma



Are you passionate about caring for children and youth? Can you provide a safe and healthy home? Usma, the Indigenous delegated agency for Nuu chah nulth communities, is seeking Caregiver homes.  
**Call Julia Hunter**  
**250-724 3232**  
to learn more, or to ask about Information Sessions.

Become a  
**FOSTER CAREGIVER**  
In Parksville Qualicum



If you know a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or family member interested in becoming a foster caregiver, have them contact  
**Noel Marchett (MCFD)**  
**250-947-2666**  
to learn more or register for a Foster Hope Information Session

Become a  
**FOSTER CAREGIVER**  
In Port Alberni



If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster caregiver in Port Alberni please have them contact  
**Kiana Kobus (MCFD)**  
**250-720-2650**  
to learn how, and to find out about up-coming Information Sessions.

# Upper Island News and Events

## REGIONAL SAFE BABIES COORDINATOR

**MARY CATHERINE WILLIAMS REGIONAL SAFE BABIES COORDINATOR**  
250-703-6135 OR [safebabies@fpsss.com](mailto:safebabies@fpsss.com)

### Virtual Monthly Safe Babies Program Knowledge Exchange

This is an opportunity for caregivers to receive updated information and connect with each other about the complex role of Safe Babies Caregivers.

Sessions will be live on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 10:30am to 11:30am. A recording of each session will be available on the Caregiver Learning Network for review for those who can't attend the live training.



<https://caring-families.ca/series/safe-babies-program-knowledge-exchange-2/>

Mary Catherine Williams is the Caring Families Society Regional Safe Babies Coordinator. Her role includes providing Safe Babies training (certification and ongoing) for caregivers and others, acting as a resource/knowledge keeper for Safe Babies Program information, and supporting curriculum updates.

Mary Catherine facilitates virtual monthly Safe Babies Program Knowledge Exchange. For more information or for Safe Babies caregiver support, contact Mary Catherine at [safebabies@fpsss.com](mailto:safebabies@fpsss.com). All Vancouver Island Safe Babies caregivers welcome. For more information about the Knowledge Exchange or for Safe Babies caregiver support, contact Mary Catherine at [safebabies@fpsss.com](mailto:safebabies@fpsss.com).

## COMOX VALLEY

**JESSICA HUMPHRIES COMOX VALLEY COORDINATOR**  
250-986-7929 OR [cvcoord@fpsss.com](mailto:cvcoord@fpsss.com)

**Safe Babies Caregiver Knowledge Exchange**  
**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 11:30am**  
*Topic: Substance Use Updates and Trends*  
**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 11:30am**  
*Topic: Screen Time Guidelines and Considerations*

In-person at The Foundry Multipurpose Room, 575 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
(Third Thursday of the month)

Please note the changes for this year's gatherings. This year we will be meeting at the Foundry and spending the first half connecting with the Safe Babies Island-Wide Knowledge exchange. These gatherings feature discussions to keep your caregiving skills current and an opportunity to "check in" with fellow caregivers! Experienced caregivers and a MCFD Resource Worker are always in attendance. Please arrive a few minutes early as we will get started right on time. Cannot make the meeting in person? Reach out to Jessica for the zoom link at [cvcoord@fpsss.com](mailto:cvcoord@fpsss.com).

## Comox Valley Social Committee

Are you an event planning wizard? Do you have a knack for spectacular socials? We are seeking new team members to help us get creative in building connections and sparking joy for kids in care and their foster caregivers. We will be meeting early May to plan the year. Please contact Jessica Humphries if you interested in being involved.



Become a  
**FOSTER**  
**CAREGIVER**  
In Comox Valley

If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster caregiver in the Comox Valley please have them contact

**Janna McKenzie (MCFD)**  
**250-897-5728**

to learn how, and to find out about up-coming Information Sessions.

## CAMPBELL RIVER

**JUDY HOLLYWOOD BONNETT UPPER ISLAND COORDINATOR**  
250-204-1566 OR [uicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:uicoord@fpsss.com)

**Creative Support Group for Foster Caregivers**  
**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 10:30am**  
**Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 10:30am**  
**CR Family Services Art Room, 487-10<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
(Third Monday of the month)

The Resource Enhancement Counsellor team hope this will become a monthly space for caregivers to mindfully connect and relax through art making. All foster caregivers are welcomed, no art experience required. Art materials are supplied, no need to bring your own. More details? Contact Lindsay at [lindsay.creedon@crfs.ca](mailto:lindsay.creedon@crfs.ca).

**Foster Caregiver/MCFD Partnership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March, 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 10:30am**  
**MCFD Boardroom, 1334 Island Hwy**  
(Second Tuesday of every second month)

All foster caregivers, MCFD social workers, C&Y Mental Health staff and foster support staff are invited. Caregivers are encouraged to take this hour and share your fostering concerns, learn about MCFD updates, and discuss local fostering trends. Contact co-chairs, Tom Robinson at [sunrisestart@hotmail.com](mailto:sunrisestart@hotmail.com) or Ashley at [AshleyVisser@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AshleyVisser@gov.bc.ca) for more information or to suggest a discussion topic.

*Relax. No one else knows what they're doing, either.*

Ricky Gervais

# Upper Island News and Events

## Caregiver Lunch and Learn

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Presenter: Myra Kohler, Program Coordinator, Sexual Abuse Intervention program (SAIP)

Topic: *CRFS Sexual Abuse Program*

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Presenter: Kerri Reihl, Program Coordinator, Community-Based Victim Services

Topic: *CRFS Intimate Partner Violence Program*

Campbell River Family Services, Conference room, 487-10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Second Thursday of the month)

Caregiver Lunch and Learn is your space to connect with peers, build community, and engage with practical learnings. March and April's learnings introduce participants to Campbell River Family Services SAIP and Victim Services programs. If you have an interest in this topic, whether or not currently caring for children or youth, please join us. Bring your lunch or join us for the light refreshments supplied. Contact Lindsay or Judy for more information.

## Safe Babies Caregiver Knowledge Exchange

Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 11:00am

Topic: *Substance Use Updates and Trends*

Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am

Topic: *Screen Time Guidelines and Considerations*

Campbell River Family Services Boardroom, 487-10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

This is a hybrid event. Attend in-person at CRFS or join online via the Zoom link found in on Caregiver Learning Network.

Mary Catherine Williams, Regional Safe Babies Coordinator, facilitates online Knowledge Exchange sessions providing a monthly opportunity for Safe Babies caregivers to refresh their skills and connect with their Vancouver Island peers. For more information about the Knowledge Exchange or for Safe Babies caregiver support, contact Mary Catherine at [safebabies@fpsss.com](mailto:safebabies@fpsss.com). For more information about our meetings or your copy of the Knowledge Exchange PowerPoint slides, contact Judy at [uicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:uicoord@fpsss.com).

## Foster Caregiver In-person Coffee Meeting

No group during the March break

Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am to 11:30am

Host to be announced by email (Fourth Tuesday of the month)

Your Campbell River Foster Parent Association welcomes all foster parents to their casual "round the kitchen table" gatherings which they host in members' homes. The group offers confidential discussion and practical tips from experienced caregivers to help you support the child or teen in your care. For information including host's address, please watch your inbox, or contact Judy at (text/call) 250-204-1566 or [uicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:uicoord@fpsss.com).



## Become a FOSTER CAREGIVER In Campbell River

If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster caregiver in the Campbell River area, have them contact **250-286-7542 (MCFD)** to learn how, and to find out about up-coming Foster Hope Information Sessions.

## Foster Caregivers Needed in Campbell River

MCFD is recruiting caregivers to provide teen placements, placements for large sibling groups, and short-term and flexible placement homes who can team with biological families.

*Foster Homes*  
Needed in your Community

Is your nest feeling a little empty? Do you miss the pitter patter of little feet or the thump thud of teenage feet? You've raised your children and watched them succeed. Can you give one more child a chance to grow wings and fly?

**fosterhope**  
Together we can make a difference.

Go to [fosterhope.ca](http://fosterhope.ca) to learn more or register for an information session



# "Family" Such a small world for such big feeling

# North Island News and Events



**REGIONAL OFFICE**  
1-888-922-8437 OR [admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)

## PORT HARDY

### Foster Placement Support

North Island foster parents are encouraged to check in with our local Foster Caregiver Support/Resource worker at North Island Community Services to discuss fostering resources, suggest a workshop topic, or just say hello. Contact 250-230-3484 or [c.jorgenson@nicommunityservices.ca](mailto:c.jorgenson@nicommunityservices.ca).

### Becoming a Foster Parent in North Island

If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster parent in North Vancouver Island please have them contact Rhonda Wall (MCFD) at 250-949-8011. We are currently seeking Relief, Respite, and Emergency homes.

### Provincial Support Agency Caregiver Learning Network (PSACLN)

Are you looking for Caregiver Continuing Learning and Education options accessible from the comfort of your home? Have you developed a learning plan with your resource worker? We are here to help you meet your learning plan goals! PSALN offers a variety of learning opportunities developed specifically for BC's caregivers. Check out the many On Demand videos featuring a variety of topics. Register for an online workshop via the PSACLN. You can connect with the Caring Families Society to borrow a book or DVD. Contact Judy [uicoord@fpsss.com](mailto:uicoord@fpsss.com) or [community@fpsss.com](mailto:community@fpsss.com) for details.



## Investigation and Resolution Support Program

Are you going through a  
*Quality Care Review?*  
*Family Care Home Investigation?*  
*Serious dispute with the ministry?*

**Investigation and Resolution Support Workers** can help you

- ✓ Understand what will happen
- ✓ Present the facts and your situation
- ✓ Support you without judgement
- ✓ Understand your choices and rights

### Investigation and Resolution Support Workers

- Are experienced caregivers
- Have received specialized training
- Are sworn to confidentiality
- Are familiar with foster care policies

The Investigation and Resolution Support Program supports foster caregivers engaged in the Investigation Process or a serious disagreement with Ministry staff.

[caring-families.ca](http://caring-families.ca)

1-888-922-8437

## Become a **FOSTER CAREGIVER** In North Island



If you have a friend, co-worker, neighbour, or childcare provider interested in becoming a foster caregiver in North Vancouver Island please have them contact  
Rhonda Wall (MCFD) at 250-949-8011  
We are currently seeking Relief, Respite, and Emergency homes.

## Cheryl Jorgenson

North Island Foster Parent Support Coordinator

*Friendly, non-judgmental, confidential support services to North Island caregivers. Cheryl invites foster caregivers to self-refer and contact her to learn about the variety of services she can provide.*

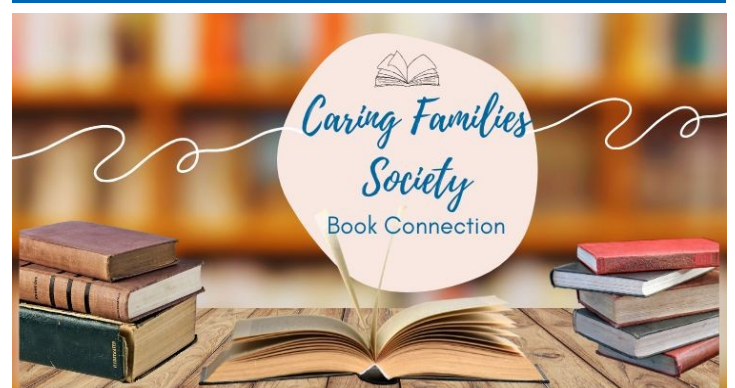


250-340-3841

[fosterfamily@nicommunityservices.ca](mailto:fosterfamily@nicommunityservices.ca)

*Two-Eyed Seeing refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing and from the other eye with the strengths of Western ways of knowing and to using both of these eyes together.*

[Bartlett, Marshall, & Marshall, 2012](#)



See a book you think would help you provide better care to a child in your home? Let us know and we will have it shipped to your door.

[admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)

1-888-922-8437

# Foster Homes



Needed in your Community



Maybe you've never  
thought about fostering  
Maybe you've thought  
about it for a long time  
Maybe now is the time

*It all begins with the click  
of a mouse*

Go to



**fosterhope.ca**

to learn more or register for an  
information session



- Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm to 7:30pm <https://bit.ly/4oMGqFH>
- Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon to 1:00pm <https://bit.ly/3Mv9xjt>
- Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm to 7:30pm <https://bit.ly/4rNmiWL>
- Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 noon to 1:00pm <https://bit.ly/4oHmT9K>
- Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm to 7:30pm <https://bit.ly/3KAKScU>
- Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon to 1:00pm <https://bit.ly/44ebsiz>



# BC SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Join Caring Families Society in expressing admiration and gratitude for all the Social Workers who give their time, passion, and support to build strong and healthy communities where everyone belongs.

**MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> TO MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>**

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## SOCIAL WORK; HERE TO STAY

Take a moment to reach out to the social workers in your life that share your commitment to creating nurturing, safe spaces for children and youth to rest while they and their families heal and become strong again.



## Rights of Foster Parents

To help ensure that children and youth in care receive the best possible care, foster parents have the following rights:


1. The right to continuing professional development opportunities with respect to caring for children, and to participation in professional foster parent associations.
2. The right to be consulted and be able to have meaningful input into decisions affecting the foster parents home, family and other placements in the home.
3. The right to be involved in the development of the child's Plan of Care and informed of changes to the plan.
4. The right to limit access to private spaces within their own home, to special possessions, and to private or personal conversations, in the same way their own children are limited.
5. The right to refuse a placement if they feel they cannot meet the child's needs regardless of the home level.
6. The right to be able to continue to participate in cultural, social and religious activities of their choosing, while honouring rights, values and beliefs of the foster child.
7. The right to be considered as a permanent family for a child, along with all other suitable homes if the Director determines that a permanent plan is in the child's best interest.
8. If requested and permitted by legislation, the right to be provided with notification of the serious illness, injury, or death of a former long-term placement, when this information is known.
9. The right to receive available information for the care of the child, including, but not limited to, any history of violence or illegal activity, as well as medical, educational, behavioural, personal care and relevant family information in addition to guardianship, custody and access arrangements. In the case of an emergency placement, information is received as soon as possible.
10. The right to be provided as soon as possible with reasons when a child is removed from a foster parent's home.
11. The right to be informed of standards expected by ministry staff and consequences of not meeting the standards.
12. The right to access information contained in any and all documents related to themselves which are held in the Director's custody, subject to all relevant legislation.
13. The right to access support of their choosing, and the right to be assisted in contacting the British Columbia Federation of Foster Parent Associations, the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents, or any other support provider or agency on any issues concerning, but not limited to, Child in Care Standards and Conflict Resolution.
14. The right to be provided with reasons an agreement is terminated or suspended and the right to appeal the decision.
15. The right to be treated with consideration, trust, honesty, respect, acceptance, and fairness in all circumstances by ministry staff and community service providers and the right to request the ministry's assistance when situations arise that involve verbal or physical abuse of the foster parent by a child or youth in care or their family members.
16. The right to be informed of their Rights and the regional process or protocol for resolving differences or disagreements between the ministry and foster parents.
17. The right to receive services to support and stabilize a placement.
18. The right to be provided with access to support services when placements are terminated to minimize the foster parents' feelings of disruption and grief.

Foster Family Handbook [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/foster\\_family\\_handbook.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/foster-parenting/foster_family_handbook.pdf)




# Spring Break

March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup>



Caring Families Society wishes all foster families a happy Spring Break. Whether it is calm and quiet, or a flurry of activity, enjoy the time together, find outdoor adventures, soak up some sun, sleep in, and look for reasons to smile.



Summer will be here before we know it!





**PROVINCIAL SUPPORT AGENCY  
CAREGIVER LEARNING NETWORK**

**PROVINCIAL SUPPORT AGENCY  
CAREGIVER LEARNING NETWORK**

Administered by:

Caring Families Society, Okanagan Foster Parents Association,  
and Interior Community Services

Workshop	Date, Time	Facilitator	Registration Link
The Business Side of Fostering	Thursday, April 9 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 9:30am to 11:30am	Interior Community Services	<a href="#">Business Side of Fostering April 2026</a>
Overview of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC	Tuesday, April 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:00am to 11:30am	The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC	TBA

PSACLN develops accessible, virtual learning opportunities to Foster Caregivers, Kinship Care Providers, and Contracted Agency Caregivers. PSACLN enhances caregiver knowledge, skills and abilities, and helps to foster a healthy caregiving network. The Caregiver Learning Management System (CLMS) is an online system available to all caregivers in BC. Caregivers can view their past CLMS workshop documents (including certificates) and register for new and upcoming workshops.

***Together We Thrive:  
Empowering Caregivers through Collaborative Learning***

Go to [www.psacln.ca](http://www.psacln.ca) to learn more or to [support@psacln.ca](mailto:support@psacln.ca) if you require assistance



# Caring Families Society Contact Information

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<b>CARING FAMILIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>				
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<b>INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION SUPPORT TEAM (FORMERLY PROTOCOL SUPPORT)</b>				
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<b>COMOX VALLEY LOCAL</b>				
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## CARING FAMILIES SOCIETY OFFICES

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We invite any letters or comments.

**How are we doing? Do you have Comments? Suggestions? Queries? Island Connection Submissions?**

Please feel free to contact us anytime Toll Free at 1-888-922-8437

Victoria telephone: 1-778-430-5459 fax: 1-778-430-5463

Nanaimo telephone: 250-618-8327 fax: 1-778-430-5463

or email us at [admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com)



### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Caring Families Society is a CARF Accredited Grass Roots organization committed to providing meaningful and accessible support, education and networking services which will continually enhance the skills and abilities of foster caregivers to deliver the best care possible to the children in their homes.

**Funding:** Caring Families Society is a Registered Society that is funded through contracts with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide support services, networking, communication and on-going training opportunities for foster caregivers of the Vancouver Island Region.

### Regional Office Location:

145-735 Goldstream Avenue,

Victoria, V9B 2X4

**Phone: 1-778-430-5459**

**Fax: 1-778-430-5463**

**Toll Free: 1-888-922-8437**

**Websites: [www.fpsss.com](http://www.fpsss.com),**

**[www.fosterhope.ca](http://www.fosterhope.ca)**

### Hours of Operation:

Monday to Thursday: 9:00am to 4:00pm

Friday: 9:00am to 1:00pm

### ISLAND CONNECTION MAGAZINE:

Published five times per year and mailed free of charge to foster homes and MCFD offices in the Vancouver Island region.

### ISLAND CONNECTION INFORMATION

Eva Vowles

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[fosterhope@fpsss.com](mailto:fosterhope@fpsss.com)

## ADVERTISING?

You can place an ad in this publication—for as little as \$40.00 per issue.

Contact Caring Families Society at 778-430-5459 or Toll Free at 1-888-922-8437 for information about our extremely affordable pricing.

Some restrictions apply.



*Foster Caregivers are  
Making a Difference!*



*For all you do,  
we Thank You!*



**Caring Families Society**

Foster Caregivers Foster Hope | You're there for the Kids; We're here for You

Serving the Vancouver Island Region | Call Toll Free 1-888-922-8437

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