

Foster Family Coalition

Winter Newsletter 2026

As the new year settles in across Yellowknife and the NWT, we're excited to share what this season holds for the Foster Family Coalition. In this winter edition, you'll find highlights from upcoming winter events, programs we offer, and the many ways our community continues to come together in support of youth in care.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our caregivers, partners, volunteers, and community members who have helped support our youth and the work of the Foster Family Coalition. Your care, time, and commitment make a real difference.

The Foster Family Coalition is here for foster caregivers, Adoptive parents, youth, and those interested in fostering or adopting. We are a family that believes in supporting one another, strengthening caregivers, and helping youth feel safe, valued, and connected. Together, we continue to build a caring community where everyone belongs—especially during the winter months.



Programs

- ✓ Northern Stars Program
- ✓ 4Y Program / 4Y Justice Program
- ✓ Camp Connections
- ✓ Volunteer Programs

A look inside Winter 2026

- ✓ Winter Activities
- ✓ Weekly Skating
- ✓ After School Program
- ✓ New Caregiver Classroom



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Welcome 2026!!

A new year brings new challenges but also great things! Be proud of supporting children/youth and their families through the holiday season. I know that this can be a challenging time for many.

We have not reached out to many of you because we do not have an updated contact list from the department since December 2024. Please reach out to Ashley (executive_assistant@ffcnwt.com) directly and give consent in your email to be on our list.

We want to make sure that we have your name to enroll you for the Legal Expense Insurance. This insurance will cover your legal fees if there is an allegation against you and you require a lawyer. There is also a very helpful information line that you can call to get advice. More information is on our website at: <https://www.ffcwt.com/legal-expense>

We are changing all of our insurance for the organization to a different Insurance Broker. As you may be aware, Hub International Insurance hosts a Charity Golf Tournament each summer and the proceeds go to Camp Connections and we thought we should switch to them. The new information will go out in the spring newsletter and the website will be updated at that time.

In the fall Ashley and I started to attend meetings with the department and the regions called the Foster Care Working Group. We meet virtually with the department and regions to talk about ways we can work together to make positive changes. The objectives are to: collect, review and analyze existing and new data; develop and implement a comprehensive foster care recruitment strategy; strengthen caregiver retention and support and to work on strategy development. As this committee works hard, I am optimistic that you will see some positive changes.

In the fall I was included in a Train the Trainer for a training program that the department was considering adopting for the NWT. It was decided afterwards not to move forward with that training. We are launching a caregiver portal through google classrooms so that you can take advantage of the free training that we have our staff complete before they work with youth. I think you will find it very helpful. Ashley will have more information about how to sign up in the newsletter.

We have been working hard to comply with some of the new requirements for staff that we hire. You may have seen there are some new requirements for you as well. If you need support with any of this feel free to reach out.

Thank you for all that you do for children and families in your community. If there is anything that we can support you with, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Tammy Roberts
FFC-NWT Executive Director

Tammy Roberts



Board of Directors



President : Rebecca Cabell

Vice President: Lea O'Keefe

Treasurer : Dawn Pottinger

Secretary : Karen Cesar

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Director : Rebecca Linkletter



HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming a Board member, you can apply simply by emailing our Executive Assistant Ashley Gresl, at Executive_assistant@ffcnwt.com. And she will send you the form to fill out; from there you will be contacted about the position.





REIMBURSEMENTS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

2026



Foster parent recruitment and retention remains a challenge in some NWT communities. It is essential that children in foster care receive the services they need while maintaining strong connections to their family, community, and culture. One important step toward sustained support is implementing a foster care rate system that reflects regional cost-of-living differences across the NWT and ensures equitable compensation. Discussions on this issue will continue.

FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCE

Foster care allowance is for each youth who is in care that can be provided on top of their per diem rate. They may cover items such as:

- Birthday and Christmas Gifts.
- Recreational activities such as bikes, lock, helmets, skateboard, etc.
- Graduation Costs.
- Vacation travel.
- And much more.

Please consult with your child/youth's social worker to discuss what else is covered.



PER DIEM RATES

Foster Families are provided a daily basic per-diem to cover room and board. This varies per community. There are specialized rates for children and youth that require additional supports. Please speak to your social worker.





FOSTER FAMILY
COALITION

TRAINING



NEW YEAR NEW CLASSROOM

NEW CAREGIVER CLASSROOM

We are so excited to announce our new "Caregiver Classroom"! A central hub of resources and training designed to support the youth in care. Inside, you'll find a variety of self-paced training modules, helpful guides, and practical tools to support your role as a caregiver.

The classroom will be updated regularly, with new content and resources added over time to help you stay informed and confident in your work.

Please note : To join, you will need a Google account or Gmail address. We encourage all caregivers to join and explore the resources available!

Whether you're looking for strategies to support youth, learn new skills, or stay connected with the latest resources, this Classroom is here to support you every step of the way.

Training Coordinator : Royce Dier

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CLASSROOM FOR CAREGIVERS

Please scan the QR Code on the left for a fast and easy way to open the classroom.

Scan the right QR code for direction straight to the FFCNWT Website.

P.R.I.D.E TRAINING

P.R.I.D.E. stands for **Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education**. It was developed by the Child Welfare League of America and has been adopted for use in the majority of States in the US and the majority of Canadian Provinces as a pre-service training program for prospective foster and adoptive parents.

The training is designed to strengthen families and to provide the knowledge and skills needed in order to provide quality foster care as part of a professional team working to protect and nurture children, and strengthen families.

P.R.I.D.E is free and you can work through it at your own pace online. If you are interested in signing up for this training program, please send us an email!

CLASSROOM



WEBSITE



Training_assistant@ffcnwt.com



867-766-3326



5125 50TH STREET YELLOWKNIFE



THE 4Y PROGRAM



Annual Impact Summary - Program Overview -



The 4Y Justice Program provides relationship-based individualized support to justice-involved youth, helping them navigate the justice system while building stability, confidence, and connections to community supports, in 2025, feedback was gathered from youth participants, program staff and community partners to understand the program’s impact and areas for growth. Across all groups, results demonstrate strong alignment: the 4Y justice program is widely viewed as trusted, effective, and essential in supporting some of the community’s most vulnerable youth.

Youth Experience : Feeling Supported, safe, and helped

- Help getting to court, school, and appointments.
- Consistent encouragement and emotional support.
- Support in understanding and dealing with court matters.
- Access to food, routines, and daily stability.
- Learning respect, problem-solving, and healthy living.

Youth Voices :

- “Helps me get to school and with getting to court”
- “Supporting me”
- “Help me with dealing with problems in court”
- “Being able to live a healthy life”

Youth suggestions for improvement focused primarily on more food, more activities, and more staff, reflecting appreciation for the program and a desire for expanded support rather than dissatisfaction.

Staff perspective : Skilled, Committed, & Stretched

Justice Navigators reported feeling confident in their ability to support youth using trauma-informed, strengths-based, and culturally safe approaches. Staff highlighted strong training in FASD, crisis response, cultural safety, and collaborative case management.

Key challenges identified were system-level barriers, including limited housing, mental health, and medical resources, and the complexity of supporting youth through major life transitions. These findings underscore the need for increased capacity and resourcing, not changes to the program model.



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4Y JUSTICE PROGRAM

COMMUNITY PARTNER FEEDBACK : TRUSTED AND IMPACTED

Community partners overwhelmingly agreed that the 4Y Justice Program :

- Builds youths confidence, life skills, and realistic goal-setting.
- Is trusted by youth and their families.
- Collaborates effectively across justice, housing, health, and social services.
- Contributes to reduced future justice involvement.

COMMUNITY PARTNER VOICES:

- "I've been on the front line for 17 years and have never seen such an impactful and essential program for our most vulnerable youth"
- "Showing up to court with a kid who does not have an invested parent or guardian is immeasurable"
- "The relationship work you do with your clients and willingness to meet them where they are at is incredible"

CONCLUSION

In 2025, the 4Y Justice Program continued to demonstrate deep, meaningful impact. Youth feel supported and respected, staff deliver skilled and compassionate care, and community partners view the program as a cornerstone of youth justice support. Continued investment will allow the program to meet growing demand and further strengthen outcomes for justice-involved youth.

LOOKING AHEAD :

Stakeholders consistently emphasized the need for:

- Increased and sustained funding
- Additional Staff
- Expanded youth housing and transitional supports.
- Continued growth in cultural, recreational, and creative programming.



ALL CHILDREN AND
YOUTH AGED UNDER 12
MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT.

(LIMITED SUPPLIES OF
SKATES AND SAFETY
GEAR ARE AVAILABLE)

WEEKLY OPEN *Skate*



Date :



Starting December 3rd
2025.



Contact :



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Location :



Smooth and renew
without irritation

Northern Stars Program



FFCNWT

The Northern Stars After school program are doing variety of fun activities indoors and outdoors!

The Northern Stars Program did a variety of fun festive filled crafts, activities, and more!!!!

Inside and out christmas cheer was all about !



Always an adventure with our little stars

Stars Schedules

- ★ Built Gingerbread cookies
- ★ Snowman building contest
- ★ Snowman building contest
- ★ Sledding @ Rabbit hill
- ★ Christmas Crafts

Contact Info :

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Hannah Jones

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The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT (FFCNWT) is offering a Afterschool Program Service to all kids in care of ages 12 and under, providing a safe and fun environment.

CAMP CONNECTIONS

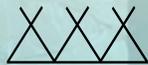


CAMP CONNECTION 2026



We are excited to announce that register for Camp Connections will open April 1st 2026. We cant wait to welcome our campers back for the 2025 Season.

This year camp will run five seven-day sessions with a four day break in between.



CAMP SESSION DATES

	Arrival Date	Departure Date
Session 1:	June 29 th Ages 7-11	July 5 th /2026
Session 2:	July 10 th Ages 12-14	July 16 th /2026
Session 3:	July 21 th Ages 7-11	July 27 th 2026
Session 4:	Aug 1 st Ages 12-18	August 7 th 2026
Session 5:	Aug 12 Ages 7-11	August 18 th 2026

SESSION INFO

These sessions are seven days long filled with fun cultural experiences.

Sessions provide a unique opportunity for campers of all ages to engage in fun activities and develop new skills, and build lasting friendships.

This summer we will add some new fun activities and adventures.



www.ffcnwt.com





Wondering how to register?

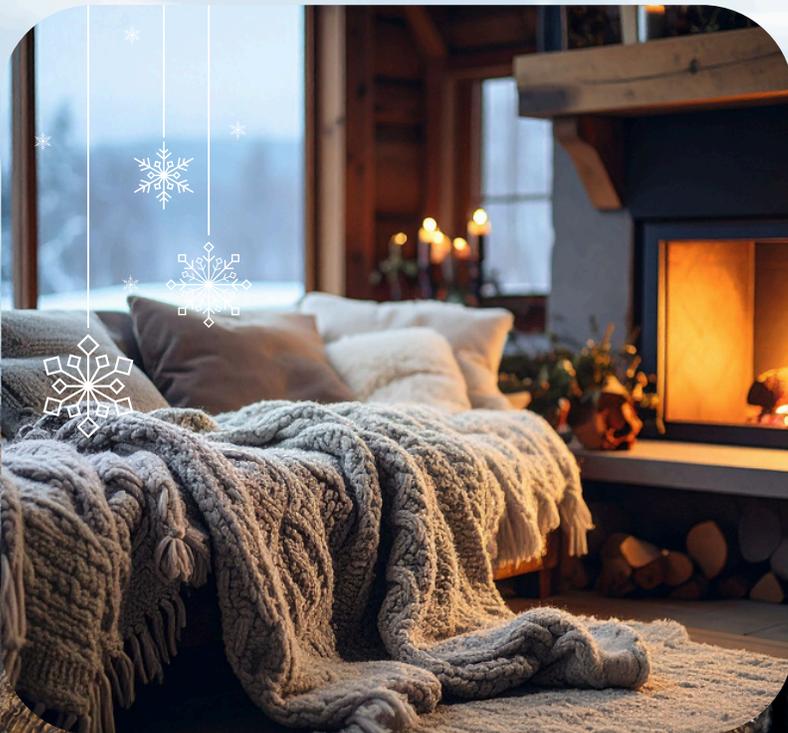


Come join us for a summer of amazing adventures, long lasting memories, meeting new friends, exploring traditional stories, crafts and much more!

Make sure you secure your spot ASAP!

Registration is \$250; if you do need to cancel, please do so 7 days prior to the starting season. It is located on the Inghram Trail.

Drop-off and pick up dates and times will be posted closer to the summer.



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