

NORTHERN FOSTERING NEWS



HAPPY NEW YEARS!!!

We hope you have had an opportunity to rest over the holidays and be with your family.

The FFC-NWT has been right up until the holiday break prepping the Comfort Kits and training a new staff!

In this edition of Northern Fostering News you'll learn about:

- Comfort Kits
- Staffing changes to the FFC
- Stay in School Awards & Tutoring
- Camp Connections news for 2018!
- Board Development
- P.R.I.D.E Training

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MONDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

Foster Family Coalition of the NWT

@Ffcnwt





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Welcome to 2018!

Here is hoping that you had a relaxing holiday season with your family and friends. I took time off over the holidays to spend with my family.

Things are really changing around here and we are moving really quickly so I know the rest of the winter is going to fly by.

Nicole Garbutt is taking a 6 month leave of absence from the FFC and is touring many different countries overseas, don't worry, she will be back to make sure that Camp Connections runs smoothly this summer. I am happy to have Jody Robbiard in the office helping out until she returns. I also have a Social Work practicum student from Aurora College starting in the office 2 days a week until the end of April.

We are also really excited to continue to work with the Department of Health and Social Services on many projects that will benefit you and the children that you care for. We meet on a monthly basis and talk about ways we can make the system work better for us all.

The Legal Defence Insurance to foster parents helps with legal expenses if they are charged with an offense against a youth in their care. We are heading into our second year with the program and are adding names to the list as we receive them. If you have not yet received your certificate please fill in the attached form and return it to the FFC office. If you have any question, don't hesitate to call us.

The P.R.I.D.E. online is also heading into another year. You can now take Pre-service P.R.I.D.E online as well as the first 4 CORE modules at your own convenience. We have more and more people signing up for the training. This is an excellent way to make sure that we are all prepared to work with children and families If you are living in a smaller community and need help with the online



training, talk to your social worker and they can help you out! We will be doing a face-to-face Pre-Service P.R.I.D.E. for five Thursdays in a row in Yellowknife starting on January 25th. Call the office if you are interested and have not yet attended.

We just recently finished stuffing the Comfort Kits and they have been shipped out to the regions for distribution. This is our 3rd year partnering with the Children's Aid Foundation to provide backpacks with care items in them for children and youth as they enter foster care. The Ted and Loretta Rogers Comfort Kit Program has been a huge success in the NWT.

We have also just entered another partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation and details about that will be available in the near future.

The Scotia Capital Stay In School Awards and Tutoring are now available. First deadline is January 30th, 2018. Funding is limited so apply early!

Not sure if you heard the news but the Camp Connections Cookhouse is down!! Demolition happened in early November and we are now working on the plans for the re-build that will be happening as soon as the snow is gone. We have so many donations and partners on this project that we are anticipating session 1 of camp to be right on schedule. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please let us know.

We will be holding board development training for our board in Yellowknife from March 1 – 4, 2018. This will be the first time that our board has gotten together in a number of years. We are looking forward to spending time together and working to ensure that foster/ adoptive parents are supported in the NWT.

Let's hope the rest of winter is as beautiful as it has been so far!

Tammy Roberts
FFC-NWT Executive Director



PRESIDENT REPORT

This has been a very busy winter for us at the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT. Tammy travelled to Whistler BC in October for her role on the Canadian Foster Family Association board. Having her on the executive of the Canadian Board is an invaluable resource for us here in the North.

Chris DeWolf, one of our board members in Fort Smith is also the NWT representative for the Canadian Board.

We are excited about having Jody Robbiard on staff for the duration of Nicole's leave of absence. She has worked with me for many years at Arctic Defensive Driving and I know she will be a great fit for the FFC-NWT!

Our annual Comfort Kit Project has taken a good portion of our winter to complete. On December 27th we held a packing party to fill the backpacks before shipping them out. Good thing too as we have more backpacks this year than ever

This coming March we will be hosting a board development-training weekend in Yellowknife. We would love to see a full board of directors to kick this off. It would be an excellent opportunity to start fresh with a new board and all be on the same page to make positive changes moving forward for the FFC-NWT.

If you, or someone you know would be a good fit for our board please get in touch. Details on how to become a board member will follow in this newsletter.

Yours in Fostering,
Dawn Pottinger



Staff Changes

We are very happy to introduce Jody Robbiard to the team at the Foster Family Coalition!

Jody has worked with our board president, Dawn at Arctic Defensive Driving over the years and has done contract work for the FFC-NWT with her accounting skills. She has been working in the office since late October on the Comfort Kit Project and will be stepping into the role of interim Camp Director and Executive Assistant to the FFC-NWT.

Nicole Garbutt is on a six month leave of absence from the Coalition as her and her partner travel the world! She will be back to work for Camp in mid July. Jody can be reached at Nicole's email address; ffc@ffcnwt.com

Starting in January for the first time the FFC-NWT will have a practicum student! A social work student from Aurora College will be working part time hours on a few different projects that allow direct client access for the benefit of their education. This partnership will free up time for Tammy and Jody to focus on other projects and allow the FFC-NWT to offer more services!



Big Changes are taking place at Camp Connections!



The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is grateful for the partnership of Hub International Insurance Brokers, Kasteel Construction, Wilf's Restoration, Breakaway Drilling, The City of Yellowknife and NWT Construction for the demolition of the cookhouse.

If you would like to get involved in Camp Connections or our cookhouse rebuild, coming in spring 2018, please contact The FFC-NWT at: info@ffcnwt.com or through our website www.ffcnwt.com



WWW.FFCNWT.COM



CANADIAN NATIONAL FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

This summer the Canadian Foster Family Association will be hosting its annual conference and meetings in Saskatoon, Sask on June 15th and 16th

Tammy Roberts will be in attendance as the Secretary for the CFFA board and FFC-NWT board member from Fort Smith, Chris DeWolf will be attending as the NWT board member. This is a great opportunity to network and learn new skills at the workshops to become a better foster parent!

More Details to follow in the April Newsletter.



COMFORT KITS

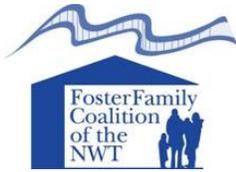
The FFC-NWT has been fortunate enough to receive funding once again from the Ted & Loretta Rogers fund to offer Comfort Kits to children and youth across the NWT who are entering care.

A large piece of feedback we received last year was a need for more youth backpacks. This has been taken into account and more youth bags will be sent to all regions! We have a whopping 274 bags to be sent out across the NWT.

The FFC-NWT is so thankful to all the volunteers who came out to our “stuffing party”

Once again we budgeted 3 hours for it and we were done in 45 minutes thanks to volunteer power!





The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is launching P.R.I.D.E Training Online!

P.R.I.D.E Parent Resource Information Development Education:

- Pre Service for potential and existing foster & adoptive parents
- Core Modules for potential and existing foster & adoptive parents
- Online support

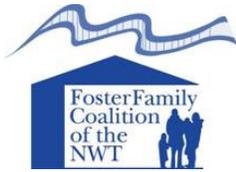
To Access Training:

- Work at your own pace and from home
- Computer access can be coordinated regionally and FFC-NWT Office

Contact The FFC-NWT @ ffc@ffcnwt.com or Toll Free at 1-866-233-0136 to sign up for Free!

A great way to incorporate the class discussion element of PRIDE Training is to organize a group training session in your community while following along to the Online model!

Learn in a group setting without having to coordinate a trainer to attend! Hear stories and share experiences with other foster & adoptive parents and social workers!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

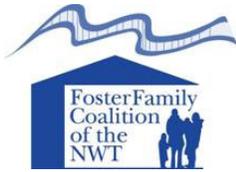
Do you want to make a difference to fostering in the NWT in a more impactful way? A desire to organize meetings and networking sessions in your community? The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is looking for board members!

Currently the positions that are open for election are:

- 1 Position from the Deh Cho
- 2 Position from the Sahtu,
- 2 Position from the Beaufort Delta
- 2 Positions from Hay River

The FFC-NWT is planning a board development meeting in Yellowknife the first weekend in March. This is the perfect time to submit a letter of interest or nominate someone to join the board. Aside from the upcoming board development, the monthly commitments are to a teleconference board meeting monthly and to be a model of fostering in your community and region, assisting in recruitment and participating in Foster Family Appreciation Week events are an asset.

Please see the nomination form; which can be filled out for oneself, on the following page. Please contact the FFC-NWT at info@ffcnwt.com or Toll Free at 1-866-233-0136 to find out more information.



FFC-NWT Board Member Nomination Form

Nominations must be made by a foster parent or you can nominate yourself.

I, _____ nominate _____
(name of the person suggesting the Board member) (name of the person to sit on the board)
For a position on the Board of Directors with the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT.

The person I am nominating is from the community of: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____

Signature of Nominee: _____

Please answer the following questions about the person who you would like to serve on the Board of Directors. This will be on the voters ballot that will be mailed to foster parents in your region in late February.

1. How long have you been a foster parent and what do you like most about it?

2. What can you do for the FFC-NWT?

3. What do you feel is important for foster parents in the NWT?



**Interested in Fostering or Adopting in the Northwest Territories?
We're here to support you!**

"The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is a unified voice dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and youth in care by supporting foster families' well-being."

The FFC-NWT exists for foster and adoptive parents and has many wonderful resources, supports and programs. The FFC is a non- profit, charitable organization that was formed in 2002 that consists of volunteer board members from across the territory.

Our Yellowknife office is staffed by a full-time Executive Director and Executive Assistant offering:

- ✓ **One-on-one, customized support**
- ✓ **Northwest Territories Foster Family Guide**
- ✓ **Toll-free phone support line**
- ✓ **Online support** and discussion groups (private)
- ✓ **Legal Defense Insurance** (liability insurance for foster parents)
- ✓ **Quarterly Newsletters**
- ✓ **Training** (online, private and group)
- ✓ **Stay in School Awards** (up to \$350/year)
- ✓ **Comfort Kits** (Essential and supportive items for children who come into care)
- ✓ **Helping Children Soar Scholarship Program**
- ✓ **Car Seat Installation Clinics**
- ✓ **Camp Connections Summer Camp**

We are here to ensure that your transition to becoming and succeeding as a foster parent is well supported. WELCOME!

Consent to Release Contact Information

By signing this form you are consenting to:

- Sharing your contact information with the FFC-NWT so that they can offer you **support and information**.
(You will not be asked to buy anything and you can choose the method of contact the FFC-NWT has with you)
- Sharing your contact information with the **Legal Defense Insurance Fund** for your liability insurance policy for foster parents only.

If you have any questions about the services of the FFC-NWT or what it means to sign this form, please do not hesitate to contact the FFC-NWT, toll-free at 1-866-233-0136.

I, _____ herby consent to the release of my contact information to the Foster Family Coalition.

Phone Number

Mailing Address

Email Address

Signature

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A winning poster from the 2016 contest!

The Foster Family Coalition of the NWT is here to support you.

Please do not hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns, or just want to chat.

Toll-Free Support Line: 1.866.233.0136

Phone: 867.766.3326

Email: info@ffcnwt.com

Website: www.ffcnwt.com

Drop in to our office, located at 5125 50th Street
(former Dene Nation Building)