

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

The Board has continued to work with Lisa Watson, CEO and Co-Founder of Openly (changeopenly.com), to develop our organizational strategy. We have identified 3 action priorities:

- Clarify and Communicate FSC's Purpose Value and Guiding Principles
- Develop and Document a Clear, Consistent Experience for Membership
- Develop Value-Add Knowledge Products and Programs

As well we have created a more robust theory of change. Much of which was established at the Community of Learning (COL) with your input in October (see page 2).

Save the date:

The next Community of Learning will be held in **Cape Breton, Nova Scotia from October 8th-10th, 2019**. We are looking for three members to support the work and help organize the event. If you are interested please email Nancy MacDonald, FSC Vice-Chair, at nmacdonald@fsens.ns.ca

CEO Spotlight: Pauline Smale

As the CEO of The Family Centre Pauline provides leadership, direction and guidance for the organization's activities and acts as a professional adviser to the Board of Directors. As CEO she analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of all organization operations and ensures that the outcomes The Family Centre produces meets the expectations of its clients, customers and stakeholders.

Pauline has been working within the human service sector for over 30 years, 27 of those years has been with The Family Centre. "My work with The Family Centre (TFC) has been very gratifying, filled with change, opportunity and learning. My values and beliefs align closely with TFC and it has been my pleasure and passion to serve both agency and community in my several capacities over the years. It is my assertion that TFC has contributed to significant shifts in how individuals and families receive support in Edmonton as I believe we play an important role in bringing their voice to the conversation finding ways to solve complex problems that inhibit health and wellbeing. TFC is bold in her contention that the status quo is not sufficient and works tirelessly to address significant gaps and inequities in systems, services and approaches." Presently, TFC supports over 20,000 individuals and families each year.

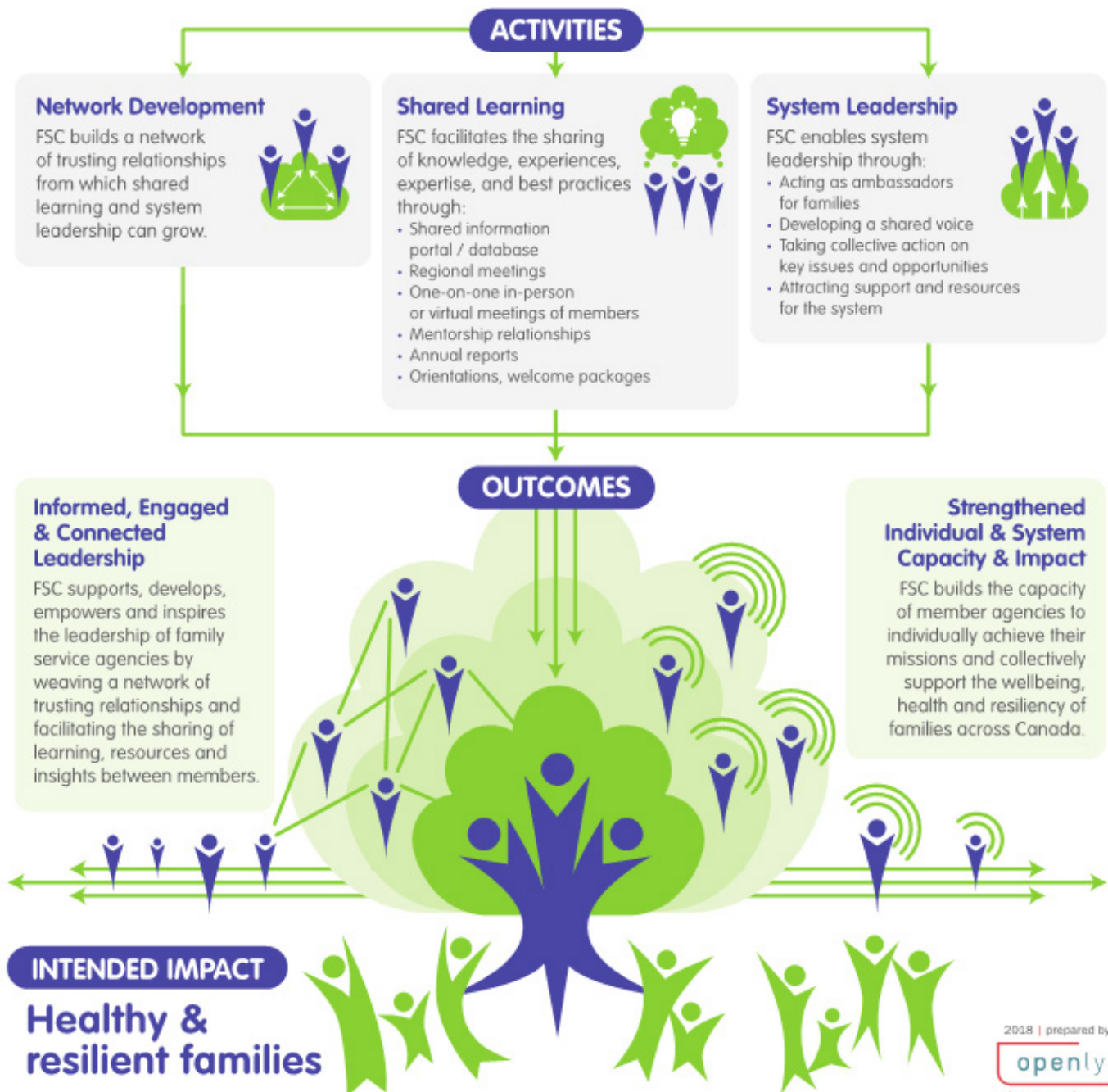


Pauline currently sits on the Board of Align as Vice Chair, a provincial member agency and co-chairs the Edmonton Chapter. On a national level she is the Chair of Family Service Canada, a national network of family serving agencies.

Theory of Change



If we nurture and facilitate trusting relationships, shared learning and system leadership,
We expect that leaders will be more informed, engaged and connected, and that capacity and mission achievement will be amplified in organizations and across the family service system
So that together we can build healthy and resilient families.



Providing Safe Spaces for Women and Children

Each year, thousands of women and children in Alberta are victims of family violence.

Catholic Social Services (CSS) is working to not only alleviate, but address the root causes of the social issues which contribute to family violence, and make lasting change in our communities.

Last year alone, CSS provided shelter and support to nearly 100 women and more than 150 children fleeing domestic violence through three housing options in Edmonton: Drexel Place, Valeda House, and La Salle.

Drexel Place is a unique housing option for women and children and also provides for women who have no children with them: it serves those who would have a hard time getting into other shelters. The residence offers everything from cooking classes and child minding services, to employment counselling, and has a keen focus on finding the people they serve long-term, sustainable housing. The end goal of the program is to set women up for success long after they leave.

"It's an important program because we can meet the needs of a variety of clients," says Taylor Munro, Drexel Place's Team Leader. "Family violence doesn't come in just one form. We have a lot of flexibility."

Munro oversees Drexel Place and its sister operation, Valeda House, a six-bedroom supportive housing program for moms struggling with addiction and are in need of stability, wrap-around services, and one-on-one supports. Valeda House asks clients to be alcohol and drug free for only three days before coming to the temporary shelter, providing options to pregnant women and mothers with babies 24 months or younger, who would otherwise have nowhere to turn for help.

La Salle, a secondary stage shelter, features 11 individual suites, where mothers can live with their children for up to one year while they rebuild their lives and prepare to reintegrate into the community.

La Salle offers many in-house supports to it's the people they serve, including child and parent relationship workshops, self-esteem building exercises, and nutritional counselling, as well as educational support for children, and child minding for mothers who are attending classes.

"Everyone in our community has the right to feel safe in their own home," says Dr. Troy Davies, CEO of Catholic Social Services. "We are grateful to provide hope to women who are vulnerable and need assistance in returning to a life of greater stability."

For more information on these and other programs, visit cssalberta.ca.

