

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

September is always a busy month and with the reopening of most schools throughout the country there was another element of change and uncertainty. I heard a good saying the other day that sort of summed it up for me, “business as unusual”.

Unfortunately, not all Canadian families are thriving and our work is as important as ever. In an annual report card released by UNICEF, Canada ranks among one of the countries with the strongest economic environmental and social conditions for growing up, however it also rates us below the 25th percentile in health and wellbeing outcomes for children. Existing inequities have worsened as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. Canada is now ranked 30 of 38 countries for child wellbeing (down 5 spots from the previous report). Countries with wider income inequalities correlate to lower overall wellbeing. Check out the full report on our website (www.familyservicecanada.org).

We’ve had some recent ED changes within the network. Sue Mallon from carya, a longstanding member of FSC, has retired. Sue has been a strong advocate of families and an important member of FSC over the years. She was a leader in the network and volunteered on the board on more than one occasion. Sue was a no-nonsense leader who taught many of us so much about the business we are in. Congratulations on your retirement Sue. We have featured the new CEO of carya in this Newsletter.

Another long standing FSC member, Patricia Jones, has chosen to leave Catholic Family Service taking on a new position as CEO with the Calgary Homeless Foundation. Patricia also served on the FSC board staying for two full terms. Patricia, always an ideas person generating content and concepts for the annual Community of Learning. Also, providing her insight on communication, fund development and marketing to the board. Thank you Patricia for the time you devoted to FSC.

Our virtual Community of Learning is quickly approaching us. Please take the time to join us on October 7th. We have two keynote speakers, Dan Pontefract and Darren Eveleigh, and three FSC agencies sharing some innovative programming, sure to spark some new ideas. If you’d like to invite some colleagues to the event, we are opening up the COL for a great price of \$50. Each participant will also receive a signed book by Dan Pontefract. We’ve attached a poster for you to circulate should you chose to do so.

Pauline Smale
Board Chair

CEO Spotlight: Monique Auffrey

Monique Auffrey is the Chief Executive Officer of carya, a role she began in September of 2020. Located in Calgary, Alberta, carya is one of the city's oldest and largest social services agencies. Previously, Monique was CEO of Discovery House, a social profit organization providing care to women and their children fleeing domestic violence. During her time at Discovery House, the organization was recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Charities, as well as one of Canada's top three women's shelters. Her creative leadership pushed Discovery House to think differently about their response to domestic violence, guiding the development of programs for children that help them recover from trauma and break the cycle of abuse. She also led Discovery House in the establishment of a number of community collaborations, including a shared referral and intake program with two other Calgary agencies.

Monique is also highly influential in the wider non-profit sector, sitting on the Alberta Family Violence Death Review Committee and participating in the National Housing Strategy Round Table in Ottawa. She is the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Organization of Social Workers and an Advisory Board Member of the Global Institute of Social Workers. As a published author, Monique's work influences policy on social work, housing and homelessness.



Upheaval: Leadership in Times of Change

Wednesday, October 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pacific

Join us on October 7, 2020, for our Annual Community of Learning conference. Our two keynote speakers will offer perspectives on team leadership and engagement.

Dan Pontefract is a leadership strategist, thinker, keynote speaker and best-selling author. With 25 years of experience helping leaders and organizations shift to higher performance levels and success, he knows how to lead through change and challenges.

Darren Eveleigh uses brain science to challenge conventional management models and build strong, resilient teams. His passion for organizational culture change and re-inventing leadership developed as he led large teams in different organizations, including education and government.

We want to know what is happening in your agency. Let us know about your successes, new initiatives, important changes in staffing, anniversaries, etc. We will include them in future issues of our newsletter.



Member Presentations

We're also excited about three presentations from our members:

New Ways for Families Program | Kathy Jones, Family Services PEI

Human Trafficking: A Survivor Based Approach | Chuck MacLean, Family Services of Peel

Community Innovate – An Online Connection Tool | Christine Mahoney, Catholic Family Service of Calgary & Mark MacAulay, Family Services Ottawa

AGM and Networking

The one-day virtual conference will also include our AGM and several chances to connect, including BYOB cocktails, to wrap up the day.

Sign-Up Today!

Your first registration is FREE. Additional tickets are \$50.

Register on our website at <https://FamilyServiceCanada.org/COL2020>



2020 COMMUNITY OF LEARNING CONFERENCE

UPHEAVAL

Leadership in Times of Change

October 7, 2020, on Zoom

 Family Service
Canada

The graphic features a light blue background with a laptop on the right displaying a Zoom meeting with four participants. A hand is shown writing on a notepad in the foreground. A small dog is peeking from the bottom right. The text 'UPHEAVAL' is in large green letters, and 'Leadership in Times of Change' is in dark blue. The date 'October 7, 2020, on Zoom' is in dark blue. The Family Service Canada logo is in the bottom left.

We want to know what is happening in your agency. Let us know about your successes, new initiatives, important changes in staffing, anniversaries, etc. We will include them in future issues of our newsletter.



Supported Independent Living Program (SILP)

Catholic Family Services of the Battlefords offers a Supportive Independent Living Program (SILP) to provide support to adults with cognitive disabilities, assisting them to live independently in the community. Support is interpreted broadly and may include advocating for our clients, supporting involvement in community events, and assisting with housing and employment. Participants learn skills to manage a household and their money. All services are based on a Person Centred Plan built on their personal interests, talents and goals. Many clients are estranged from their families and seeking to build connections. Others share their lives with family members and we facilitate conversations with clients and families about dreams and goals for the client's lives.

SILP also runs a Community Program (CP) that involves the client in fun group activities such as: snow-shoeing, disc golf, swimming, board games, outdoor games, bike riding and wood carving, just to name a few. Summer usually includes beach days as well. We also have many learning opportunities and focus on wellness such as yoga, traditional teachings, spirituality and art therapy. Activities are held at our agency and in the community at different facilities, which allows our participants to become familiar with community resources. Participants are continually developing life skills and social skills. We often have a waiting list for this popular program as participants tell others about how much fun they are having.

Holidays and cultural days are a highlight. Participants and staff share about their traditions and, definitely the related foods!

Connected to the fun is enhanced social connections, confidence in doing things independently and improved health and well-being.

Shown below are participants snow-shoeing and on a wagon ride and our staff at a Hallowe'en party where we willingly join in the fun and games!

