

MARCH 2021

# FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



## Message from the Board

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Community of Learning committee. It was another well attended and very well received event. I'd like to send a special thank you to the hosting city Vancouver and newly appointed CEO Maria Howard. Family Service of Greater Vancouver hosted both days this year, last October 7th 2020 and March 11th 2021.

A special shout out to Simone Plusa, who kept us organized, and Gregg Taylor for ensuring the content reflected our theme of Leadership in 2021. Other committee members were Kim Morrison, Executive Director Catholic Family Services of the Battlefords; Nancy MacDonald, FSC Board Vice Chair and Executive Director of Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia; and Laura Chen from The Family Centre of Northern Alberta.

As part of the COL, Sacha Médiné spoke to us about the racial justice movement generated as a result of the killing of George Floyd. Sacha called upon us to "hold on to the urgency" and invited us as leaders to:

- Understand our own racial location and personal place in structurally racist organizations
- Learn to name and talk about blackness and antiblackness
- Be willing to contemplate and celebrate the transformation of our organization
- Be informed from the bottom but transform from the top
- Be led by BIPOC voices and wisdom inside and outside our organization
- Build person and organizational capacity

Stay tuned, we will be creating more opportunities to come together to discuss "hot topics" with membership agencies across Canada.

Take care and remember to be kind to yourselves,

Pauline Smale  
Board Chair

# CEO Spotlight: Janine Baumann

Janine Baumann has been the Executive Director of Family Service Saskatoon since January of 2018. She has extensive management experience and has held various leadership roles throughout her career in the non-profit sector.

Janine obtained her Master of Arts degree from the University of Calgary and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan. She has spent her career committed to work that promotes inclusion, caring, and compassion. Janine is honoured to work at an agency that provides services to support people on their path to wellbeing and in fostering healthy relationships. She is passionate about developing services to meet the needs of the community and looks forward to continuing this work in her current role.

In her down time, Janine enjoys relaxing at the lake with her family, reading, spending time with her friends, and dreaming about travelling again some day.



## Families & Schools Together (F&ST) Study

Families & Schools Together (F&ST) is an evidence-based parent program designed to support children's academics, social skills, and mental health (Family Service Canada, 2020). Family Service Canada (FSC) delivers the F&ST program in 5 of our 33 community agencies. The efficacy of American versions of F&ST is well supported in the literature (e.g., Crozier et al., 2010) but less is known about how F&ST is implemented in a Canadian context.

Research is needed to determine how F&ST is implemented in Canada and whether the program is perceived as effective. Further, an overview of other parenting programs will provide perspective into the value and effectiveness of F&ST in the current Canadian context and whether the program needs to be adapted to better support families. Our hope is to investigate how FSC's community agencies are implementing F&ST and to research potential alternative parent programs used elsewhere globally.

We want to interview key stakeholders from FSC's member agency staff and the families and teachers with whom they work. Interview responses will be analyzed and a literature review will be conducted to review alternative parenting programs. This study will culminate in the creation of stakeholder working groups and knowledge translation materials, ultimately influencing family service delivery across Canada.

To sign up for an interview, please visit: <https://doodle.com/mm/laurenttrafford/fast-interview-signup>. Upon interview sign-up, you will receive a package of information about the research team and our study.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the investigators: Lauren Trafford ([ltraffor@ualberta.ca](mailto:ltraffor@ualberta.ca)) & Veronica Smith ([vs2@ualberta.ca](mailto:vs2@ualberta.ca))

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**CALLING ALL FSC STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE F&ST PROGRAM**

Help us shape the future of Canada's family programming by participating in our research study

Whether you are currently helping to facilitate an online version of F&ST, or you have taken part in the delivery of a previous cycle of F&ST in the past, we are interested in hearing your opinions on the program!

**REACH OUT TO US TODAY!**

**LAUREN TRAFFORD & VERONICA SMITH,  
RESEARCHERS**

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# Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

Family Plus/Life Solutions Inc. (Family Plus) is leading the development of a Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) in Greater Saint John and Southwestern New Brunswick. The CYAC will provide wrap-around support to children/youth (and their non-offending caregivers) when they experience sexual abuse. Family Plus was chosen to develop and operate the CYAC based on the agency's reputation, and its expertise in the area of sexual abuse treatment.

A CYAC is a child-and-youth-focused, safe location where children, youth and their supporters start their healing process following an experience of sexual abuse. A CYAC Coordinator will assist with coordinating services and supports for each child/youth, and non-offending family members. Multiple service providers will be present at the CYAC, including:

- Saint John Police Force
- Kennebecasis Regional Police Force
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Horizon Health Network (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner; Pediatrician)
- Department of Social Development (Child Protection Services)
- Department of Justice and Public Safety
- Anglophone School District South
- Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Communities are discovering the value of CYACs. In Canada, there are 45 CYACs either in operational, development, or feasibility assessment stages.<sup>1</sup> In communities without CYACs, families often are left to self-navigate multiple complex systems. Children/youth are often interviewed by multiple service providers. Families do not always receive consistent information on services. Appointments are scheduled at multiple locations, on multiple dates, which creates additional commitments for families.

CYACs have been demonstrated to:

- Increase coordination and collaboration. Service Providers see themselves as a cohesive team;
- Improve the criminal justice system experience for the child/youth (including minimizing the system-induced trauma of the investigation process and legal proceedings);
- Improve access to services by providing individualized service coordination for each child/youth/family;
- Improve evidence collection during investigation; and
- Improve conviction rates in criminal cases.<sup>2</sup>

The CYAC will change the lives of children so that each child and youth recognizes:

- I AM BRAVE
- I AM worthy of appropriate love and care
- I AM entitled to feel all of my feelings
- I AM believed
- I AM supported by professionals who will approach me in a trauma-informed, child focused manner



1 Child and Youth Advocacy Centres. (n.d.). Retrieved December 14, 2020, from <https://cac-cae.ca/>

2 KTA Inc. (2017). A National Association for Child and Youth Advocacy Centres/ Child Advocacy Centres in Canada: Report on the Feasibility and State of Readiness in the Sector for a National Association (final report). P. 1.