

JANUARY 2022

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Happy New Year.

The Board has already met this year, and we are quite excited about potential opportunities for Family Service Canada (FSC). We have a strategic session set up for the end of March, which will provide us with a roadmap for the next year. One of our priorities this year is to find potential opportunities to work together on parenting education programming, gender violence initiatives, and financial empowerment initiatives. We believe we can leverage our national scope and expertise to enhance our collective offerings.

We have decided, based on your feedback, not to host a virtual Community of Learning (COL) in March. We are already thinking and planning ahead to the fall of 2022 and hope that we will be together in person at our next COL. Stay tuned.

Over the next several months, we will be highlighting our FSC board members. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with questions or comments. One of the most valuable components of FSC is the network.

Pauline Smale
Board chair

Critical Incident Response (CIR) Training

FSEAP (Family Services Employee Assistance Programs) has long provided Critical Incident Response for workplaces across Canada. Under the guidance of Family Service Canada, we are pleased to announce a new CIR training program for Family Service agencies. This live 2-part webinar series builds on best practices literature and provides a comprehensive overview of how to deliver critical incident response services that promote psychological safety, wellbeing, and resilience among employees and teams after experiencing a traumatic incident in the workplace.

This training covers the nature and frequency of critical incidents in the workplace, how to incorporate Psychological First Aid (PFA) and the A.C.T. Model principles into practice with individuals and workgroups, and how to organize response to incidents in the workplace. Additional focus will be placed on exercising cultural competency in the workplace setting, responding to mass disasters, and how to promote resiliency and self-care.

For more information please contact cir@fseap.ca or register today at <https://fseap.learnupon.com/store>

Board of Directors Spotlight: Nancy MacDonald

Nancy MacDonald is Executive Director of Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia, Vice-Chair of Family Service Canada, and Chair of Family Service Atlantic. She is a mother of 4 young adults and proud to call Nova Scotia her adopted home. Nancy has been working with her organization for 24 years and has been in her current role for over 12 years. She remains committed to working collaboratively with community and government partners to step into service delivery gaps both provincially and nationally. She is a strong advocate for the unique and creative work of Family Service Organizations and believes firmly that we are always better working together.



“Family Service Canada has always been immensely valuable to me. Early on as a Director, attending the annual COL conferences and hearing about the phenomenal programs other organizations were running always provided me with the incentive to continue enhancing and improving the programs we facilitated. As an ED, FSC has provided me with much needed tools and resources to assist me along the way. These are big jobs that we rarely come completely trained for, and with my FSC membership, I have had the pleasure of accessing very knowledgeable ED’s who have provided vital support and knowledge. As a Board member, I now have the privilege of working alongside one of the most outstanding group of leaders I can think of, and I am challenged every meeting to reflect on how I can be better in my role in their presence”.

Women’s Financial Empowerment Program at Family Services Ottawa

The goal of the Financial Empowerment Program is to support financial independence and empowerment for women, girls, Two Spirit, trans, and non-binary peoples who have experienced gender-based violence.

We have partnered with financial literacy advocates and community workers who are supporting women experiencing gender-based violence. Together we have created educational resources covering a variety of financial topics, including:

- RESPs for Low Income Families,
- Financial Literacy for new Canadians,
- The 10 signs of Financial Abuse,
- Protecting your Finances in a Relationship
- Building a Financial Exit Strategy, and
- Financial Literacy Resource Guide for Service Providers

Our resources are available for anyone to use and distribute. We have them available in 7 languages: English, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Somali, and Farsi.

You can access the resources here: <https://familyservicecanada.org/portfolio-items/fso-financial-empowerment/>

Why is Financial Literacy Important?

Financial Literacy is when an individual has the skills and knowledge that allows them to make informed and effective decisions with their financial resources. We know Financial Literacy is a lifelong journey of learning. When a person’s financial circumstance changes, so do the skills required to understand it and make healthy choices.



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.

