

SEPTEMBER 2022

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Are you planning to attend this year's Community of Learning Conference in Vancouver from October 25 to 27? Register today! The Early Bird Deadline is Friday, September 30!

You can still register after Friday, but there are a few good reasons you shouldn't wait!

September 30 is the last day to book your hotel with the group rate! The conference is at The Listel Hotel (www.thelistelhotel.com). The group rate of \$159.00/night is only available if you book your room by September 30. Information about how to book your stay and the limitations on the group rate is found in the information package, which you can access after registering. You'll find the link to the information package in the confirmation message you receive after registering.

Register before the early bird deadline to receive a gift! The Pacific Umbrella, designed by self-taught and award-winning artist Maynard Johnny Jr., Coast Salish/Kwakwaka'wakw, is beautiful rain or shine.

About COL 2022

This year's conference, Resilient Leadership: You can do What You Love and Still be Tired, is a chance to reflect on the unique challenges of leadership during a pandemic. Our first in-person event since 2019 explores resilient leadership and how we can remain effective amidst unpredictable circumstances. We're looking forward to hearing the insight and wisdom from each of you and from our conference speakers:

- **Zahra Esmail**, CEO, Vantage Point
- **Dan Levitt**, CEO, KinVillage
- **Benjamin Perrin**, Author and Professor Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia
- **Niki Sharma**, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development and Non-Profits

We've also organized an exclusive, catered evening at the Museum of Anthropology on October 26. Be sure to select the "Evening at the Museum of Anthropology" add-on when registering to secure a spot for yourself and anyone else you're registering.

Are you ready to register?

This year's event is limited to Family Service Canada members and a handful of selected guests who have been invited to attend. We emailed the registration link to you on September 20th. **If you need the link again, please email Laura Chen at laura.chen@familycentre.org.**

Hope to see you there!

Board of the Directors Spotlight: Deirdre Speers

Deirdre Speers is the Executive Director of Family Services Ottawa (FSO). Deirdre brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in the charitable and municipal sectors specializing in mental health, family social services, housing, childcare and community development. Previously, Deirdre's leadership roles included serving as President and CEO of the YMCA-YWCA National Capital Region, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria as well as governance roles on local and national Boards.

"It is important to me to help build stronger communities one person or one family at a time. Being able to bring my personal values to a workplace that shares similar perspectives and focuses on building resilience, helping people through transitions, and supporting people when they face challenges makes each day very fulfilling. During the last two years, it has been inspiring to watch the FSO team members support our families, individuals and community through the stressors and challenges of the pandemic. I strongly believe FSO has made a difference in bringing service providers together to find collaborative solutions to help people where and when they needed it most."

Deirdre is a member of the Family Services Canada Board of Directors, a member of the Public Affairs Committee of Family Services Ontario and the current Chair of the Champlain Region Mental Health & Addictions Network.



"Family Services Canada has provided such great training and development opportunities as well as a platform for leaders to discuss the on-going challenges of leading during what we can certainly say have been challenging times. The support and camaraderie of my colleagues across the country so important to me as I navigated new challenges. Thank you to all the members of Family Services Canada for your willingness to share, chat and inspire."

Kit's Place in Saint John

This fall, Family Plus in Saint John, NB, is moving. We are excited to announce our new location in the Lancaster Mall, on the west side of our city. This is a perfect location for many reasons, including easy access off the main highway, on a bus route, surrounded by many amenities, and offering the utmost privacy. Renovations are creating a beautiful centre that will host Kit's Place (our CYAC) and our therapy services in one space.

Thanks to the network of Family Service Agencies across Canada, we were able to design a community-based centre built on best practices and learnings from our colleagues. Being part of a national network of Family Service Agencies and CYACs offers access to support, knowledge, programs, and collaboration. For this, we are truly grateful.

We are excited to expand our services to sexual assault victims and their families using a client-centred approach in a safe and welcoming environment. Kit's Place is designed so families can access all the services they need in one place, receive coordinated support, and minimize the trauma for the victim and their families. Our services will be delivered by a partnership of trusted agencies, who have the proper resources for investigation, treatment, management, and prosecution of child and youth sexual abuse.

Why Kit's Place? Because a kit is a baby fox and red foxes are Indigenous to New Brunswick and are known to be resilient, adaptable, and smart. We feel this represents the children and families we will serve.



Katina (clinical manager), a representative from Saint John Energy, and Sharon CEO) with donated foxes. Each child attending Kit's Place will receive a fox.

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.

