

JUNE 2023

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Hello,

On behalf of the Family Service Canada (FSC) Executive Directors I'd like to wish you the best going into the spring. I hope you and your teams have all been well and healthy.

The FSC Board meets throughout the year and continues to explore how to promote learning and the exchange of expertise through the relationships of our member agencies. This is how the Affinity Group idea came about. Please let us know if you would like more information about the two groups meeting to discuss HR and communications efforts.

The monthly newsletter continues to highlight our leaders and current programming making a difference across the country. The 2022 Community of Learning (COL) held in Vancouver in October was a great time to reconnect, despite the weather not cooperating! We are looking forward to this year's COL on October 4 and 5 in Saint John, NB. The theme will be Connection. A Save the Date has gone out via email. More information will be coming shortly but if you missed the email, please connect with Simone Plusa at splusa@fsgv.ca.

It is that time of year when membership dues are payable. Please follow this link to the membership fee calculation form: <https://fseap.jotform.com/230784071174051> (which includes instructions and contact information) and submit before July 31, 2023. Attached is an EFT authorization form for payment by EFT. If your agency is experiencing substantial hardships, please do not hesitate to connect with me. We are here to support you and your community.

Cheers,
Maria

Maria Howard (she/her)
FSC Board Chair

CEO Spotlight: Kirk Englot

Kirk Englot is excited to be the incoming CEO of Family Service Regina, a prominent non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals and strengthening families in the Regina community. With a wealth of experience in the community-based service sector and an unwavering commitment to making a positive impact, Kirk brings a dynamic and transformative approach to his new role.

Kirk's journey began at Family Service Regina in 2006 when he joined the organization as a Counsellor where he witnessed firsthand the profound impact that compassionate support and person-centred, strength-based practice can have on individuals and families facing adversity. This experience fueled his passion for social justice and inspired him to pursue a master's degree in Social Work with an emphasis on leadership and collaboration-based social justice projects, equipping him with the necessary skills to effect transformative change on a larger scale.

Kirk has held a leadership role at Family Service Regina since 2012, allowing him to hone his expertise in program development, social enterprise, organizational management, and community engagement. He has earned a positive reputation for his collaborative leadership style and for fostering inclusive and diverse work environments that empower individuals to reach their full potential.

Kirk's approach is characterized by deep empathy and a relentless drive to create sustainable community-based solutions to complex social issues. He firmly believes that the most effective solutions are rooted in a comprehensive understanding of the complex interplay between social, economic, and systemic factors. Committed to evidence-based practices and a focus on innovation, he has consistently championed programs that uniquely address gaps in service, and improve equitable access to services.

As the incoming CEO of Family Service Regina, Englot is excited to work with the organization's dynamic and committed staff and leadership teams to continue the organization's social impact in our community. His intention for Family Service Regina is that it will continue to evolve as a beacon of hope, providing comprehensive and compassionate services that transform lives and build a stronger, more resilient community.



Family Services Ottawa announces New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Family Services Ottawa (FSO) is pleased to announce the appointment of Elyse Schipper as Executive Director. Effective June 26, 2023, Elyse will take over from retiring Executive Director, Deirdre Speers.

Elyse is a values-driven and strategic leader with a 15+ year track record of excellence in the non-profit sector. She has dedicated much of her career to initiatives that expect and enable a high quality of life for all, and particularly through the lens of family and community. Her commitment to raising the bar for mental health care was driven by family experience, which led to her role as co-founder of Pine River Institute and Foundation, a first-of-its-kind wilderness and live-in treatment centre outside of Toronto for youth struggling with mental health and addictive behaviours. As a consultant, she helped develop a culturally relevant mental health and addiction treatment program for First Nations youth, a post-secondary diploma program in Nature-based Therapy, and she has advised both private and non-profit organizations on growth, fundraising, and strategy. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director of Pleo, a family peer support organization based in Ottawa that supports families of children struggling with mental health challenges, and a recipient of Best Non-Profit Employer – Workplace Mental Health in 2022.



“As a community member and colleague, I have often referred families to FSO, sought guidance from FSO leadership, and learned from FSO’s 2SLGBTQI+ public education workshops, said Ms. Schipper, FSO Executive Director designate. “I am thrilled for the opportunity to contribute to FSO’s amazing community impact and legacy.”

“Throughout her career Elyse has proven herself to be a strong advocate for children, youth and families, said Harry Binks, Chair of the FSO Board of Directors. “Her ability to engage stakeholders with a common vision, bridge partnerships, and build resilient organizations with compassion, teamwork, gumption and kindness will guide her vision and strategies at FSO.”

Please join our Board in welcoming Elyse to our FSO team.

Sincerely,

Harry Binks

Harry Binks, Board Chair, Family Services à la famille Ottawa

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.

