

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Hello all!

It is so nice to be typing this message while reflecting on the wonderful time together we had at the COL in October. For those of you who were unable to join us, we missed you! Hopefully next year, we can see many more. The central theme of the speakers was resilience; a topic we all could write a book on. While the speakers provided a variety of information, I feel the highlight of the meeting were the times when we met as colleagues and discussed what was going on and how we were doing.

That is one of the main reasons why I feel so honoured to be appointed as the new board chair. Being part of a community of committed, caring, resilient experienced leaders is definitely an honour. But more so, a community where the leadership is respectful, gentle and humble. This is an environment where I know I will learn lots and feel supported in my learning too!

I look forward to the year ahead and will do my best to keep up to all the great things that Pauline and the board directors managed with such style. I am excited to get to know you all better and encourage you to feel comfortable to reach out to me at any time. Calls from colleagues are always my weekly highlight.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends and make sure you pause in your care for others, to check in on your resilience tank and make sure it has some fuel!

As we say in my home... Merry Christmas... and cheers to all!

Maria

CEO Spotlight: Natasha McKenna

Natasha joined Family Service PEI (FSPEI) as the Executive Director in April 2022. She is based in Epektwik (Prince Edward Island) located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Prior to joining FSPEI, she was a manager of Education and Community Development at CMHA PEI. In previous roles, she worked with community organizations and First Nations across Canada in the design, delivery, and evaluation of programs to improve the financial security and well-being of people living on a low income.

Natasha has a BA in History from UPEI and a Masters in Adult Education and Community Development from OISE/University of Toronto where she focused on Workplace Learning and Social Change. She is a board member with the Community Sector Network of PEI.

One of her go-to activities/coping tools is going for a run or a walk in the woods. She has completed two marathons to date in Chicago (2017) and Berlin (2018) and is thinking about training for her third in 2023. Location TBD!

As a new ED, she felt an incredible amount of relief (and joy!) on her first call with her Family Service Atlantic colleagues. In a role that can feel overwhelming at times, to have this connection to incredible leaders who have been there (or are also there right now) immediately made her feel grounded and connected. That feeling was only amplified with the chance to attend her first Community of Learning Event in Vancouver.

As a person living with a mental illness, she has had her own challenges trying to access help. She is committed to increasing access to trauma informed services and programs for individuals and families and eliminating barriers to service. She is grateful for the opportunity to keep learning in this role and for this network to learn from and with.



Photo taken at the Community of Learning in Vancouver

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.

