

AUGUST 2023

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada

Message from the Board



Register today to attend this year's Community of Learning Conference in Saint John, NB from October 3 to 5! The Early Bird deadline is Tuesday, September 5. You can still register after this date, but there are a couple of good reasons you shouldn't wait!

- 1. September 4 is the hotel deadline to receive the group rate.** The conference is being held at the Hilton Saint John.
- 2. Register before the early bird deadline to receive a gift!** The Saint John team has arranged for a hand-curated New Brunswick gift box for all of those who register by September 5.

About COL 2023

This year's conference theme, "Connection: Building Capacity Together", was selected as a result of conversations during the last COL, as well as conversations at the Board table. We define connection as it pertains to relationships that are necessary in our work. Relevant always, but particularly as we revisit how we work with each other and our communities since COVID.

Connection and relationships are at the core of what we do. This year's focus on connection is intended to help build connections within our organizations and amplify capacity and mission achievement across the family service system. We are looking forward to the discussions amongst our group, and hearing from our conference speakers listed below:

- **Don Darling**, Former Mayor of Saint John, Facilitator, and Business Advisor
- **James Mullinger**, Award-winning British Comedian based in Canada
- **Nicole Paquet**, Senior Advisor, Leadership Culture, and Strategic Change, The Connected Leader
- **Trish St. Onge**, Executive Director, Navera Community Connections Inc.

Events

A welcome gathering to watch the Serenade of the Seas cruise ship depart harbour, a tour of Family Plus, and a maritime Kitchen Party dinner have also been organized. Please be sure to pre-register for each to secure a spot for yourself and anyone else you may be registering!

Ready to register?

This year's event is limited to Family Service Canada members. A registration link and hotel booking information was emailed to you on August 17, 2023, by Simone Plusa. Please connect with her at splusa@fsgv.ca if you would like to receive the information again.

Hope to see you there!

CEO Spotlight: Maria Howard

Maria Howard has led Family Services of Greater Vancouver as CEO since September 2020. She is an experienced leader with a demonstrated record of advancing the non-profit sector in support of people in need. Having started as a rehabilitation counsellor, she has spent her career supporting and advocating for people who are challenged by health and social issues to live the fullest life possible, engaged in their communities.

Maria holds an MBA in Leadership from the University of Athabasca, and an M.Ed. in Rehabilitation from the University of Washington. With decades of extensive business experience, she has held leadership positions in the public healthcare sector, as CEO of the Alzheimer Society of BC, as well as provincial and national governance roles. At FSGV, she leverages her operational excellence, while guided by a commitment to caring and inclusive communities.



It is Maria's natural alignment of personal values and professional impact that has allowed her to be effective in her career; she is a change-maker and leader with a hopefulness and vision that energizes and builds confidence in both internal and external stakeholders.

Currently, Maria serves as the Chair of Family Services of Canada, Regional Director with the Federation of Community Social Services of BC, and as a board member with Voices in Motion, an intergenerational choir for people living with dementia in Victoria, BC. In her personal life, Maria enjoys travelling with her family, gardening, and spending time with her two best four legged friends!

Critical Incident Response Training Series: Best Practices for Critical Incident Response in the Workplace

This four-part module 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.

A critical element of a robust employee assistance program is being prepared to respond to critical or traumatic incidents in the workplace. This training provides hands on simulations of applying critical incident response in various contexts. This includes consultation and support to leaders, as well as 1:1 and group interventions for employees, to assist the impacted workplace to return to functioning and stability.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Session 1

Registration Opens: August 7 | Course Begins: August 21

Role Play: Please email shorne@fseap.ca with your selection.

Session 1: September 27, 1 -4 PM EST

Session 2: October 11, 1 – 4 PM EST

Session 2

Registration Opens: October 9 | Course Begins: October 23

Role Play: Please email shorne@fseap.ca with your selection.

Session 1: November 29, 1 – 4 PM EST

Session 2: December 6, 1 – 4 PM EST

Register at FSEAP.Learnupon.com

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Horne at shorne@fseap.ca