

FEBRUARY 2024

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Hello all!

February is a month in Canada where we all have very different needs. Some of us are still escaping to warm, sunny climates while others are trimming roses and counting the number of bulbs that survived the deer nibbling! As we come out of this month, many of us are wrapping up year end financials, service delivery metrics, and thinking ahead about contract renewals and new budgets! The cycle of our busy lives done with commitment and determination regardless of the challenges we may be facing!

As March approaches, there is one very important day I want to give a shout out to: March 8th - National Employee Appreciation Day!

As I constantly remind my board, our greatest asset is our staff. In a time of housing and financial hardship, many of them lean in even closer to serve others. The last couple of staff who left FSGV apologized for leaving and needing to find a better salary! I am sure your staff, like ours, have such a strong level of care and dedication to the clients they serve and the work they do. This is the strength of the social service sector and I hope you will join me on Friday, March 8th with a big THANK YOU to our teams. They certainly deserve it!

Cheers,

Maria Howard
CEO, Family Services of Greater Vancouver

CEO Spotlight: Nancy MacDonald

Nancy is the Executive Director of Family Service of Nova Scotia, and leads the 54-year-old newly transformed provincial serving organization. She has been with her organization for 27 years and has led it alongside her Assistant ED, Mary Jo Church, from a small regionally based therapeutic service delivery model to a multi-program, multi-site provincial serving Family Service Organization.

Nancy and her team are passionate about system change. More than half of the large provincial programs they run were researched and developed internally and then funded by government due to their ability to step into recognized system gaps.

Nancy has been a very long time member of Family Service Canada and says it is her primary source of executive leadership support and sector trend identification!



National Community of Learning Conference

In the fall of 2023, members of Family Service Canada gathered in Saint John, New Brunswick, for the National Community of Learning conference. The theme of Connection resonated throughout the two days with the speakers, break times, and social events. Throughout the presentations, participants learned the importance of understanding their personal leadership and how that impacts their teams and community.

One of the highlights of the conference was the introduction to the Road Map for FSC, which is beginning to explore the idea of a Guiding Framework for FSC to advance an advocacy strategy.

Time spent with others from our National Organization is always time well spent, whether through learning from speakers, conversing with colleagues between sessions or enjoying social events.

The theme for the 2024 COL is Collective Impact – a concept introduced by John Kania and Mark Kramer and published in 2011 in the Stanford Social Innovation Review. The Collective Impact approach holds that many social problems are too complex and require coordinated efforts from various partners and sectors.

To lead us on this journey will be Paul Born, the co-founder and President of Tamarack Institute, for over 20 years and a global leader on issues of place, collective impact, and community. Through an interactive keynote and workshops facilitated by Paul who relies on his years of experience to provide practical, hands-on support with the goal of making community engagement easier and more effective.

Given that we will be in Toronto, with Peel next door, one of the most diverse communities in Canada, you will get to experience a taste of culinary and the arts of what promises to be simply ASTOUNDING, and possibly LIFE-CHANGING. Don't take my word for it as I am from Peel, just join us!

We look forward to you joining us in Toronto, October 28-30th for the COL. We guarantee you will be refreshed and inspired, and leave with the knowledge and sense that you are a part of something bigger.



*Community of Learning, October 3 & 4, 2023
St. John, New Brunswick
Connection: Building Capacity Together*

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.