

February 2025

FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



Message from the Board

Hello all!

It is February already, and for most provinces in Canada, I believe this is the month for “Family Day”! It is an essential day for FSGV in Vancouver.... February 17th.....when we partner with our downtown public library to do a day of celebrating families and talking about some of the key supports to help manage the challenges of being a family in today’s world! It is a fun day, and our slogan is.....”You define family. We support it”!

I would love to hear about what others may be doing for their community Family Day. If you want to share, please send a note to Simone Plusa at Splusa@fsgv.ca, and we will definitely share it with the group.

This idea of support and coming together is so central in the work we do and how we, as a community at FSC, support each other, too. At the Community of Learning in the Fall, we heard how many people want to keep having the opportunity to talk with each other about services, challenges and simply just connecting. In response, we will set up a virtual Fireside Chat in late spring. It will be a chance for people to connect virtually and share. We will have some amazing guests and are just in the process of working out the details..... Please stay tuned!

Cheers,
Maria

FSC Board Chair

HR Affinity Group

The HR Affinity Group has been coming together since June of 2023. We meet monthly, the second Tuesday of every month for an hour, 10:00 – 11:00 am MST. There is a regular core group of attendees from St. John to Vancouver, including Regina, Peel and Edmonton. Other FSC members have joined on and off (Winnipeg, Calgary and Saskatoon).

I wanted to extend another invite to anyone grappling with HR challenges or trends. This group runs without an agenda, we want to be responsive and fluid in our conversations. There has not been a meeting that does not run the full hour. There is always so much to talk about, so many similar questions and so much wisdom.

As of February, I, Pauline Smale, have passed the hosting function to my colleague Stephanie Kolibaba. She is the HR Director from our shop here in Edmonton. If you are interested please email her at stephanie.kolibaba@familycentre.org.

We would love to have you.

Here is what one member had to say.....

“The HR group is priceless! Since the first meeting, it’s been an invaluable way to connect, support, and learn from wonderful colleagues across Canada. Thanks to FSC for creating the container for these priceless conversations and connections to happen.” - Leanne Zacharias Navera (Regina)



HR Director, Stephanie Kolibaba

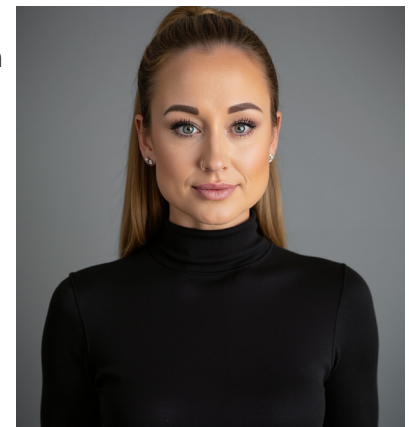
CEO Spotlight: Hayley Kennedy

Hayley Kennedy is the Executive Director for PARTNERS Family Services, located in Humboldt, SK. PARTNERS Family Services is a mid-sized non-profit that delivers support and services focused on mental health and addictions counselling, crisis intervention, interpersonal violence prevention and support, and youth-focused collaborative services.

Hayley began their professional journey in the non-profit sector as a Program Coordinator at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kingston, ON. There, they quickly recognized the challenges faced by underserved communities and the importance of effective advocacy. Their passion for social justice led to a series of community-serving roles, including crisis intervention and outreach in Northern Ontario, mental health counselling in Nova Scotia, intensive behaviour management on Vancouver Island, and working with high-risk individuals and families in the inner city of Saskatoon.

Throughout their career, Hayley has successfully launched and managed initiatives that address critical issues such as homelessness, poverty, interpersonal violence and child maltreatment. Having worked across Canada, Hayley believes in the power of collaboration and community engagement to find innovative ways to meet the needs of communities.

Hayley is passionate about supporting the non-profit sector and works as an independent consultant with small community-based organizations to grow their capacity to deliver on their mission. Hayley also serves the communities in rural Saskatchewan as a Community Coroner. Outside of their professional commitments, Hayley resides in Humboldt, SK, with their husband and two children.



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.

