



Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia

Suite 350, 99 Wyse Road, Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5

Telephone: (902) 424-3071 Fax: (902) 424-5199 Toll Free: 1-888-845-1555

www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca

WELCOME TO THE FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

We are pleased to learn that your home is now an approved foster home, and we welcome you to the Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia (also referred to as The Federation).

The Federation is a charitable organization funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and governed by a board of directors, who are all foster caregivers.

Please read through the information in this welcome package and keep it for future reference.

Included in the package you will find:

- A Federation fact sheet
- A foster caregiver checklist
- A map showing the region each board member represents
- A diagram outlining the structure of the Board of Directors
- Contact information for the Association Presidents
- Insurance handout (Property)
- Our Most Recent Newsletter (which can also be found on our website at <http://www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca>)
- Insurance Brochure (Accident/Injury)
- FFFNS Introduction Brochure
- Foster Caregiver Basic Core Training Brochure
- Training Brochures (during the Fall and Spring)
- Memorial Bursaries Brochure
- Foster Allegation & Support Services Brochure
- Membership Card for your Wallet

We look forward to meeting you at some of our foster family events in the future.

Sincerely,

Gary Landry, BSW, RSW
Executive Director

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia (FFFNS)

FACT SHEET

TRAINING:

PRIDE Pre-Service Program:

- For prospective foster caregivers
- 27 hours, typically 9-3 hour sessions
- Mandatory prior to approval

Sensitivity Training Program for Foster Families:

- Increase Foster Caregiver awareness and understanding as it relates to cultural, linguistic differences, physical and learning disabilities, and sexual orientation
- 2-day program
- Mandatory
- Contact the Federation to register

CPI (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training):

- Instruction on the levels of behaviour in crisis development, and teaches appropriate skills/techniques to use as a response to the behaviour
- 2-day workshop
- 1 day refresher annually
- Mandatory
- Contact the Federation to register

MEMORIAL FUND:

Jenny Cajolais Memorial Bursary is a bursary for birth and adopted children of foster caregivers.

Thelma Goodall Memorial Bursary is a bursary for children-in-care and former children-in-care

- Offered once a year
- Forms are available through the FFFNS website at www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca/resources
- Forms are sent out to each Agency/Department office in the New Year

FOSTER ALLEGATION & SUPPORT SERVICES:

For Foster Caregivers undergoing an allegation of abuse or neglect of a foster child, or who are appealing a decision made by the Agency which effects the foster home or foster family, the Foster Allegation & Support Services worker will:

- Provide support throughout the investigation and appeal process, **at the foster caregiver's request**
- Provide explanation of the "Protocol for Investigating Allegations of Abuse or Neglect in the Foster Home", child welfare policies and procedures, and the "When You Disagree" process,
- Provide the foster family with knowledge about the availability of insurance coverage through the Department of Community Services, and
- Represent the foster family's best interest through consultation with the Home Agency to support referrals to community resources and/or professional resources.

For Foster Caregivers who are experiencing a challenging time other than an allegation, the Foster Allegation & Support Services worker will:

- Provide support during this time,
- Maintain confidentiality unless there is a duty to report,
- Assess the needs of the foster caregiver and/or family, and
- Refer to Foster Outreach & Therapeutic Services and/or Community Resources as required.

Please contact the Executive Director, Gary Landry at (902) 424-2043 or the Foster Allegation Support Worker, Jill Martin at (902) 424-2711.

See reverse.....

COMMUNICATION LINK:

- Send out regular correspondence regarding changes made by the Department which affects foster caregivers
- Distributes semi-annual newsletter
- Respond to verbal and written communication from foster caregivers
- Gathers information for the Department of Community Services, from foster caregivers, regarding issues affecting the delivery of foster care in Nova Scotia.

General inquiries regarding additional services can be directed to:

Gary Landry, Executive Director
Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia
Suite 350 - 99 Wyse Rd., Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5
Phone (902) 424-2043

Foster Caregiver Checklist

Foster caregivers are provided with the checklist shown below and when asked to take a foster child into their home, the foster caregivers should request answers to all of these questions.

Please note that given the nature of placements which are often done on an emergency basis, answers to all of these questions may not be immediately available. However, both the social worker and foster caregivers should strive to compile and exchange this information in as short a time as possible.

Present Circumstances

- ____ 1. What is the age, sex, gender identity, and school grade of the child?
- ____ 2. What physical provisions do I need (crib, car seat, diapers, etc.)?
- ____ 3. What was the previous school attended?
- ____ 4. What is the child's legal status (temporary care agreement, temporary care, permanent care)?
- ____ 5. Why is the child being placed?
- ____ 6. How does the child interact with others, with younger/older children?
- ____ 7. Does the child have siblings? If so, are they placed in care?
- ____ 8. Where are the parents living?
- ____ 9. Are there specific problems, behaviours and/or unusual habits? What issues are particular to this child?
- ____ 10. What are the familiar routines for this child? Likes or dislikes?
- ____ 11. Are there appointments to keep (medical, mental, health, probation, court)?
- ____ 12. Do I need to transport this child?
- ____ 13. What are the child's strengths, positive traits, and talents?

Family Situation

- ____ 1. What is the relevant family history?
- ____ 2. Are there family contact/visits/telephone calls?
- ____ 3. Are there other people with whom it is important for the child to remain in touch?
- ____ 4. Will this be a short or long term placement?

Past History

- _____ 1. Has the child suffered physical/emotional/sexual abuse/neglect?
- _____ 2. How does the abuse/neglect relate to the care of this child?
- _____ 3. Has the child exhibited any violence towards others?
- _____ 4. Has the child made any allegations of abuse towards others?

Medical

- _____ 1. How is the child's physical health?
- _____ 2. Does the child suffer from allergies?
- _____ 3. Does the child require medication?
- _____ 4. Does the child have special medical needs?
- _____ 5. When were the last medical/dental check-ups?
- _____ 6. What is the child's Health Card number?
- _____ 7. Do I have authority to sign medical consent forms?
- _____ 8. Who is the child's doctor?

Agency Situation

- _____ 1. Will there be pre-placement visits?
- _____ 2. What is the plan for the child?
- _____ 3. Will there be court proceedings?
- _____ 4. Who is the social worker?
- _____ 5. When will the social worker have contact?
- _____ 6. What is the emergency, after office hours, procedure (for crisis)?
- _____ 7. When will the child's personal belongings arrive?
- _____ 8. What are the financial arrangements for this child?
- _____ 9. Does this child require a special needs per diem?

Board of Directors

Western Region

Lloyd Sweeney 902-749-7341 joysweeney1@gmail.com
 Rob Richardson 902-637-8010 FFFNSboardmember6@outlook.com

Northern Region

Carolann Zegray 902-899-5958 1975@eastlink.ca
 Mary Ann Burke 902-870-1254 maryannburke610@gmail.com

Mi'kmaq Mainland

Darlene Arseneau 902-986-9112 darlensarseneau@gmail.com

Mi'kmaq Cape Breton

Cindy Poulette 902-578-9213 cindypoulette1@icloud.com

Board of Directors

Eastern Region

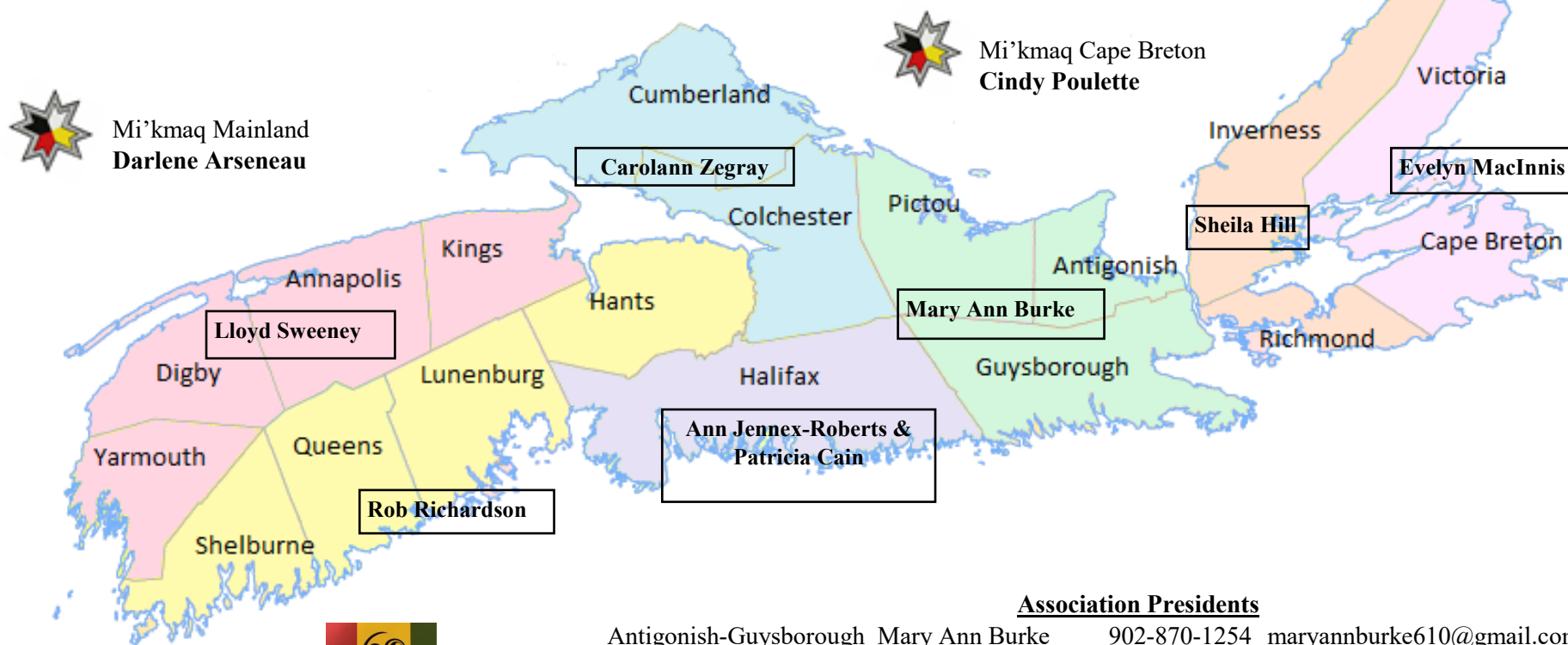
Sheila Hill 902-302-3345 bill_sheila_hill76@hotmail.com
 Evelyn MacInnis 902-371-1799 russeve@hotmail.com

Central Region

Ann Jennex-Roberts 902-448-2407 ajennexroberts@hotmail.com
 Patricia Cain 902-802-1782 lynn05cain@gmail.com

African Nova Scotia

Iona Smith 902-802-4539 ionasmith1801@gmail.com
 Vacant



African Nova Scotia (all regions)

Iona Smith
Vacant

Association Presidents

Antigonish-Guysborough	Mary Ann Burke	902-870-1254	maryannburke610@gmail.com
Cape Breton-Victoria	Wendell Fraser	902-574-3044	ds.fraser@ns.sympatico.ca
Cumberland-Colchester	Rose Anne Wright	902-899-0936	roseannewright1@gmail.com
Central	Ann Jennex-Roberts	902-448-2407	centralregionfamilies@gmail.com
Inverness-Richmond	Sheila Hill	902-302-3345	bill_sheila_hill76@hotmail.com
Pictou	Flora Burns	902-926-2439	burns@tncweb.ca
Yarmouth	Celina Robinson	902-742-4838	rcb@eastlink.ca

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia Association Contacts

Inverness-Richmond Foster Parent Association

Sheila Hill, President

1748 Janvrin Harbour Rd, RR 1
West Arichat, NS B0E 3J0
(902) 226-3778
bill_sheila_hill76@hotmail.com

Cape Breton-Victoria Foster Family Association

Wendell Fraser, President

3400 Wood Ave
New Waterford, NS B1H 1V3
(902) 862-8916 (home)
(902) 574-3044 (cell)
ds.fraser@ns.sympatico.ca

Cumberland/Colchester County Foster Family Association

Rose Anne Wright, President

132 Burrows Dr, RR 2
Brookfield, NS B0N 1C0
(902) 673-3320
roseannewright1@gmail.com

Antigonish/Guysborough Foster Family Association

Mary Ann Burke, President

4025 Highway 316, PO Box 166
St. Andrews, NS B0H 1X0
(902) 870-1254
maryannburke610@gmail.com

Pictou County Foster Family Association

Flora Burns, President

484 Gusset Rd, RR 1
Merigomish, NS B0K 1G0
(902) 926-2439
burns@tncweb.ca

Central Region Foster Family Association

Ann Jennex-Roberts, President

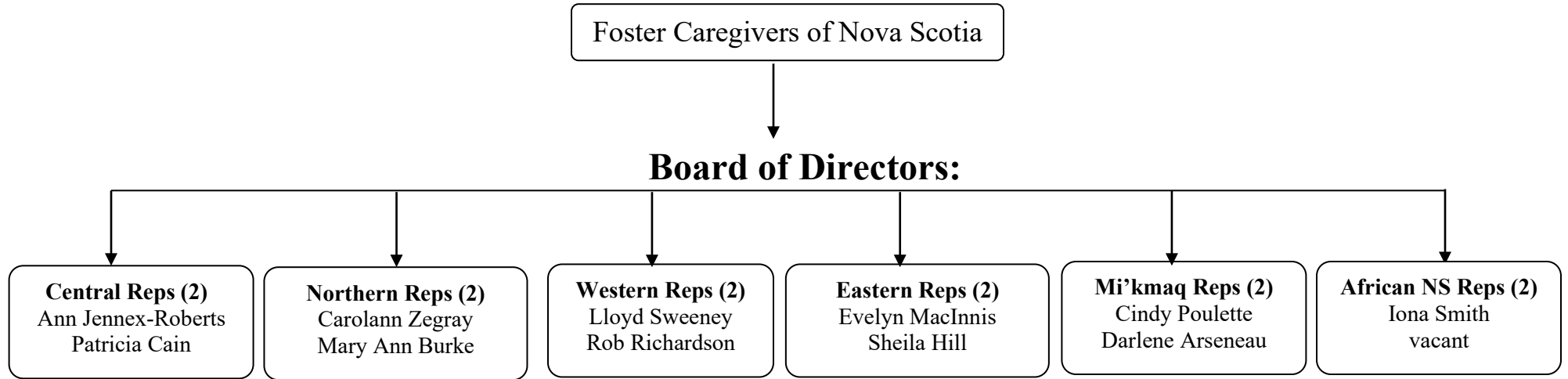
2520 Oxford Street
Halifax, NS B3L 2T4
(902) 448-2407
centralregionfamilies@gmail.com

Yarmouth County Foster Family Association

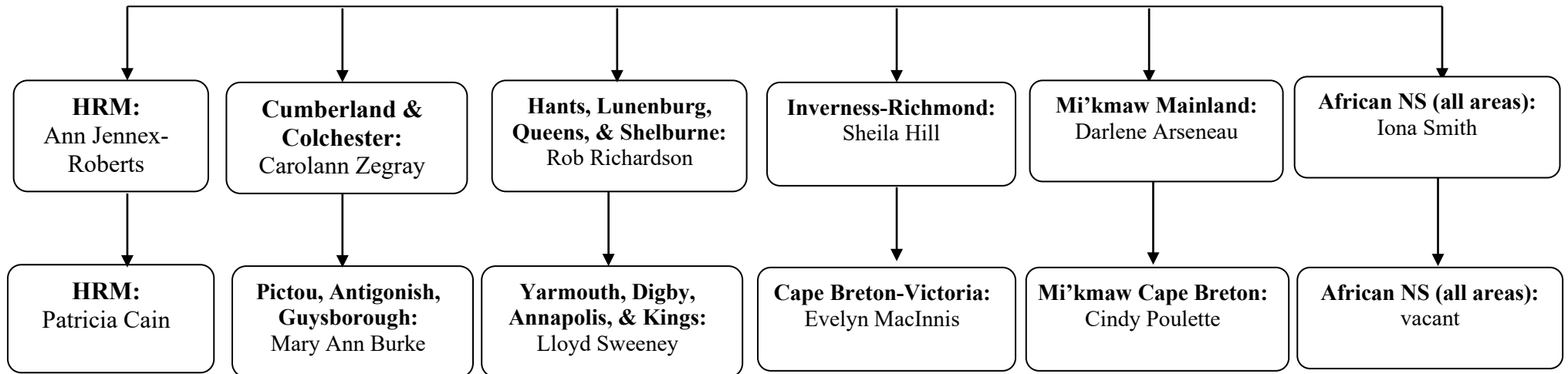
Celina Robinson, President

44 Pembroke Road
North Chegoggin, NS B5A 5H3
(902) 742-4838
rcb@eastlink.ca

**2023/2024 Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia
Board Structure**



Regional Representatives are Foster Caregivers



Self-Funded Insurance Program

Process for Foster Caregivers Claiming Property Damage.

Effective October 1, 2016, the new process for foster caregivers seeking reimbursement for property damage under the self-funded insurance program will be as follows:

Please fill out the attached claim form and email it to fostercareclaims@novascotia.ca or call the Risk Management and Insurance Services at 1-844-424-4450.

A fillable copy of the claim form can also be found at www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca

FOSTER CARE SERVICES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A CLAIM

Q. How soon do I need to contact with Risk Management and Insurance Services after damage has occurred?

- A. All claims must be submitted within **48 hours** of the incident. You can email us at fostercareclaims@novascotia.ca or call us toll-free, at 1-844-424-4450.

Q. What if I don't notice or know about the damage within 48 hours? Will I not be covered?

- A. If this should happen, contact us anyway, and we will assess whether there is anything we can do for you. In exceptional circumstances, we can provide coverage as long as the claim was begun within five days of the incident. You need to contact us as soon as you are aware of the loss or damage, however, because we cannot guarantee that any claims submitted more than 48 hours of the event will be able to be covered.

Q. The child in my home has serious behavioural issues, and frequently damages my property – a dented door here, a hole in the wall there... Shouldn't I just wait until there is some significant damage so it can all be repaired at once?

- A. You need to call regarding each incident where damage occurs. If you wait until you think there are enough repairs to make it worthwhile fixing, or until the child leaves the home, you will not qualify for the program.

Q. What kinds of things does the program cover?

- A. The program covers losses or damages to your property caused by a child in care placed in your home. The damage could have been accidental or intentional.

Q. What kinds of things are not covered under the program?

- A. This program **does not** cover these things:
- Damage or loss not reported within the **48** hour timeframe

- General wear and tear
- Accumulated loss/damage or damage that has occurred over a long period of time
- Personal injury to yourself or others in your home. If you are under 65 and injured while you have a child in care placed in your home, you may be covered under the foster parents' personal injury insurance program.
- Losses from use or operation of the foster parent's motor vehicle are excluded from this program.

Q. What documents do I need to provide when I first contact you about my claim?

- A. The Claim Form provided
- B. Please include any pictures or information necessary to the claim. Please ensure there are multiple pictures showing the size and extent of damage.

Q. What should I do with the damaged item? Do I need to save it?

- A. Please do not dispose of the damaged item until the claim process is complete. Damaged items may be collected and become property of Government.

Q. What form of settlement can I expect? Will you replace my damaged item with a new one?

- A. Our first priority is to repair the damage. You should know, however, that this program is a reimbursement program and not a replacement program. This means that if the item cannot be repaired, you will be given the value of the item less the standard insurance industry's depreciation percentage, if applicable. For example, if your five year old wool coat was damaged beyond repair, your payment might not be enough to buy you a brand new coat like the one that was destroyed. The payment would reflect that you had five years of wear out of that coat and it was not worth as much as when you first bought it.

Q. What can I expect after I contact you about my claim?

- A. Someone will be in contact with you within two business days to talk to you about your situation. The insurance adjuster assigned to your file will begin an investigation. An investigation is what we call our process for managing your claim. It involves talking to you (and possibly others) about the incident, looking at the documents you submit, and seeking professional guidance from others. Someone may need to visit your home to see the damage and make a determination as to how they will proceed with your claim.

Q. Do I need to get quotes?

- A. You may be asked to submit two quotes from different sources for the repair/ cash value of your loss. This could include supplier invoices for materials, contractor invoices, flyers, online advertisements, photographs of the item in a store, etc. Once we receive your claim and open a file, we will let you know what documents we will require from you.

Q. What if I disagree with the type of repair, or the reimbursement amount offered?

- A. We have a dispute resolution process which is initiated when you send your concerns in writing to the Risk Manager, Insurance & Risk Management, Internal Services Department, P.O. Box 186, Halifax, NS B3J 2N2, or by email, at fostercareclaims@novascotia.ca.



Toll Free: 1 844-424-4450
Fax: 902 424-2325
E-mail: FosterCareClaims@novascotia.ca

FOSTER CARE SERVICES
NOTIFICATION OF DAMAGES OR LOSS

PLEASE NOTE:
**ALL CLAIMS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LONGER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE
INCIDENT OR DAMAGED OCCURRED.**

To: Risk Management and Insurance Services
Internal Services Department
1672 Granville Street,
PO Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia

From: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Civic Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____

Foster Care Social Worker: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date Loss/ Damage Occurred: _____

Details Surrounding Loss/Damage:

Please attach any invoices, receipts, or photos of the damage or loss.

Fostercare



Eligible Foster Parents Province of Nova Scotia Department of Community Services

*This brochure is intended to serve as a **high level summary only**; restrictions, limitations and all provisions apply as per the contract. Every effort has been made to ensure that the summary is accurate; in situations of variance, the group insurance contracts will govern actual coverage.*

Sutton Special Risk
Accident Policy #056/023204A

To make a claim, foster parents should contact
Sutton directly at 1-800-461-3292.

Claims inquiries: claims@suttonspecialrisk.com

Eligibility

Foster Parents of Nova Scotia under the age of 85 who have a foster child(ren) in their care.

Scope of Coverage

Worldwide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for injury due to an accident

Principal Sum

\$50,000

Weekly Accident Indemnity (for eligible members under age 65)

Weekly benefit amount: \$200

7 days waiting period (from 1st day if hospitalized)

Maximum number of weeks payable: 13 weeks

Must satisfy policy's definition of disability

Additional Benefits

Accident Medical Expense Benefit – Maximum \$2,000

Surgical Reattachment Benefit – 50% of benefit shown in Loss Schedule

Repatriation Benefit – Maximum \$15,000

Identification Benefit – Maximum \$15,000

Rehabilitation Benefit – Maximum \$15,000

Rehabilitative Physical Therapy Benefit – Maximum \$10,000

Funeral Benefit – Maximum \$5,000

Bereavement Benefit – Maximum \$1,500

Spousal Retraining Benefit – Maximum \$15,000

Special Education Benefit – 5% of Principal Sum to a maximum of \$10,000

Day Care Benefit – 5% of Principal Sum to maximum of \$5,000 per year

Family Transportation Benefit – Maximum \$15,000

Home Alteration and Vehicle Modification Benefit – Greater of \$25,000 or 10% of Principal Sum to a maximum of \$50,000

Psychological Therapy Benefit – Maximum \$10,000

Seat Belt Benefit – Maximum 10%

Felonious Assault Benefit – 10% of the Principal Sum to a maximum of \$10,000

Parental Care Benefit – 10% to maximum of \$10,000

Loss Schedule

If injury due to an accident results in accidental death, dismemberment, loss of speech and/or hearing, paralysis or loss of use, within 12 months of date of the accident, benefits payable as a percentage of Principal Sum, as follows:

Loss of Life	100%
Loss of Both Arms	100%
Loss of Both Legs	100%
Loss of Both Hands	100%
Loss of Both Feet	100%
Loss of Entire Sight of Both Eyes	100%
Loss of One Hand and One Foot	100%
Loss of One Hand and Sight of One Eye	100%
Loss of One Foot and Sight of One Eye	100%
Loss of One Arm	75%
Loss of One Leg	75%
Loss of One Hand	67%
Loss of One Foot	67%
Loss of Entire Sight of One Eye	67%
Loss of Thumb and Index Finger of Any One Hand	33%
Loss of Four Fingers of Any One Hand	33%
Loss of All Toes on One Foot	25%
Loss of Speech and Hearing in Both Ears	100%
Loss of Speech	67%
Loss of Hearing in Both Ears	67%
Loss of Hearing in One Ear	25%
Paraplegia	200%
Hemiplegia	200%
Quadriplegia	200%
Brain Death	100%

Termination of Coverage

Coverage terminates at the earlier of age 85 or the date the Foster Parent no longer has Foster Children in their care.

The Province reserves the right to amend or terminate benefit plan coverage. This brochure is intended to serve as a high level summary only; restrictions, limitations and all provisions apply as per the insurance policy. Every effort has been made to ensure that the summary is accurate; in situations of variance, the group insurance policy will govern actual coverage.

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia is a charitable organization funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and governed by a Board of Directors, who are foster parents.

Mission Statement:

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia is a collective voice for all foster parents in Nova Scotia. In pursuit of this mission, the Federation will ensure assistance and support for foster families and Foster Family Associations.

Objectives:

- To ensure the integrity of the Federation as the collective voice for all foster parents
- To better equip foster parents in the provision of the best possible child care
- To promote a positive profile of foster care
- To encourage the development of Foster Family Associations and Support Groups
- To continually work toward improving foster care in Nova Scotia

Board of Directors

CENTRAL REGION:

PATRICIA CAIN (902) 802-1782
ANN JENNEX-ROBERTS (902) 422-2407

NORTHERN REGION:

MARY ANN BURKE (902) 870-1254
CAROLANN ZEGRAY (902) 899-5958

EASTERN REGION:

SHEILA HILL (902) 302-3345
EVELYN MACINNIS (902) 371-1799

WESTERN REGION:

LLOYD SWEENEY (902) 749-7341
ROB RICHARDSON (902) 637-8010

MI'KMAW REPRESENTATIVES:

Cape Breton:

CINDY POULETTE (902) 578-9213

Mainland:

DARLENE ARSENEAU (902) 986-9112

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN REPRESENTATIVES:

IONA SMITH (902) 435-4539
VACANT

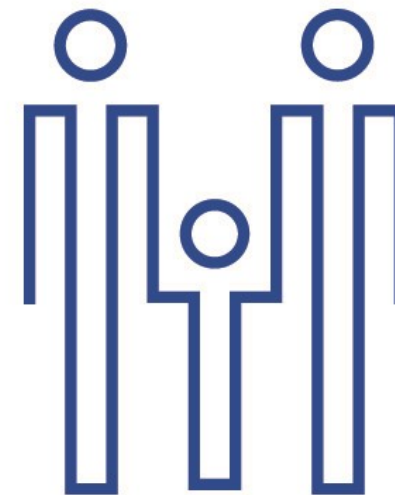


**Federation of Foster Families
of Nova Scotia**



*"A Communication link
with Foster Families
across the Province"*

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia



350-99 Wyse Road
Dartmouth NS B3A 4S5
(902) 424-3071
1-888-845-1555
Referral Line: 1-800-565-1884
www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca

Foster Family Associations and Support Groups

Foster Family Associations and Support Groups can provide support for foster parents, remove the feeling of isolation, provide an avenue to voice concerns, frustrations and anxieties, and maintain an active link between the Federation, District Offices/Agencies and local foster families. Foster parents who are actively involved in their local Association/Support Group feel more supported and connected to other foster parents, the Federation, District Offices/Agencies.

Associations and Support Groups often organize social events and educational presentations on such things as:

- Parenting Strategies
- Anger Management
- Grief and Loss
- Relationships with Birth Parents
- Learning Disabilities
- Early Childhood Intervention

...and sometimes it's nice to just sit and talk about the week you've had!

Memorial Bursaries

- Offered once a year, deadline is May 31st
- Application forms are available from the Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia website at <http://fosterfamilies.ns.ca> or by calling the office at 902-424-3071
- Two types of bursaries are offered:

Jenny Cajolais Memorial Bursary is a bursary for birth and adopted children of foster parents.

Thelma Goodall Memorial Bursary is for foster and former foster children.

Newsletters

The Federation Office sends out a newsletter twice a year with important updates from the Staff, Board of Directors, Association Presidents, and the Department of Community Services

Submissions are also accepted from all foster parents. If you have something you would like to see in a future newsletter, please reach out to the office.

Foster Allegation & Support Services

For foster parents undergoing an allegation of abuse or neglect of a foster child, or who are appealing a decision made by the Agency which effects the foster home or foster family, the Foster Allegation & Support Services will:

- Provide support throughout the investigation and appeal process,
- Provide explanation of the "Protocol for Investigating Allegations of Abuse or Neglect in the Foster Home", child welfare policies and procedures, and the "When You Disagree" process,
- Provide the foster family with knowledge about the availability of insurance coverage through the Department of Community Services, and
- Represent the foster family's best interests through consultation with the Home Agency to support referrals to community resources and/or professional resources.

For foster parents who are experiencing a challenging time other than an allegation, the Foster Allegation & Support Services will provide:

- Provide support during this time,
- Maintain confidentiality unless there is a duty to report,
- Assess the needs of the foster parent and/or family, and
- Refer to Foster Outreach & Therapeutic Services &/or Community Resources as required.

Please contact the Executive Director or the Foster Allegation & Support Social Worker at the Federation for additional information.

MAKING A DONATION

The Federation depends upon the generous support of foster families and the public so that we may provide these bursaries. Donations to the Memorial Bursary Funds from individuals, organizations, and the business community would be most welcome.

Tax deductible receipts will be provided for all donations.

If you wish to donate to one particular fund (The Thelma Goodall Fund or the Jenny Cajolais Fund) please indicate. If you do not indicate a preference, your donation will be split between the two funds.

Please complete the form below and forward to the Federation office. Thank you for your generosity.

I/We wish to assist the Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia in providing financial assistance to young people who have been touched by the foster care system so that they may continue their education.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

I want my donation to go to:

- ☐ Thelma Goodall Memorial Fund
- ☐ Jenny Cajolais Memorial Fund
- ☐ Split between both

My donation is for:

- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500
- ☐ Other \$ _____

MISSION STATEMENT

**The Federation of Foster Families
of Nova Scotia is a collective voice
for all of Nova Scotia.**

**In pursuit of this mission, the
Federation will ensure assistance
and support for foster families and
Foster Family Associations.**



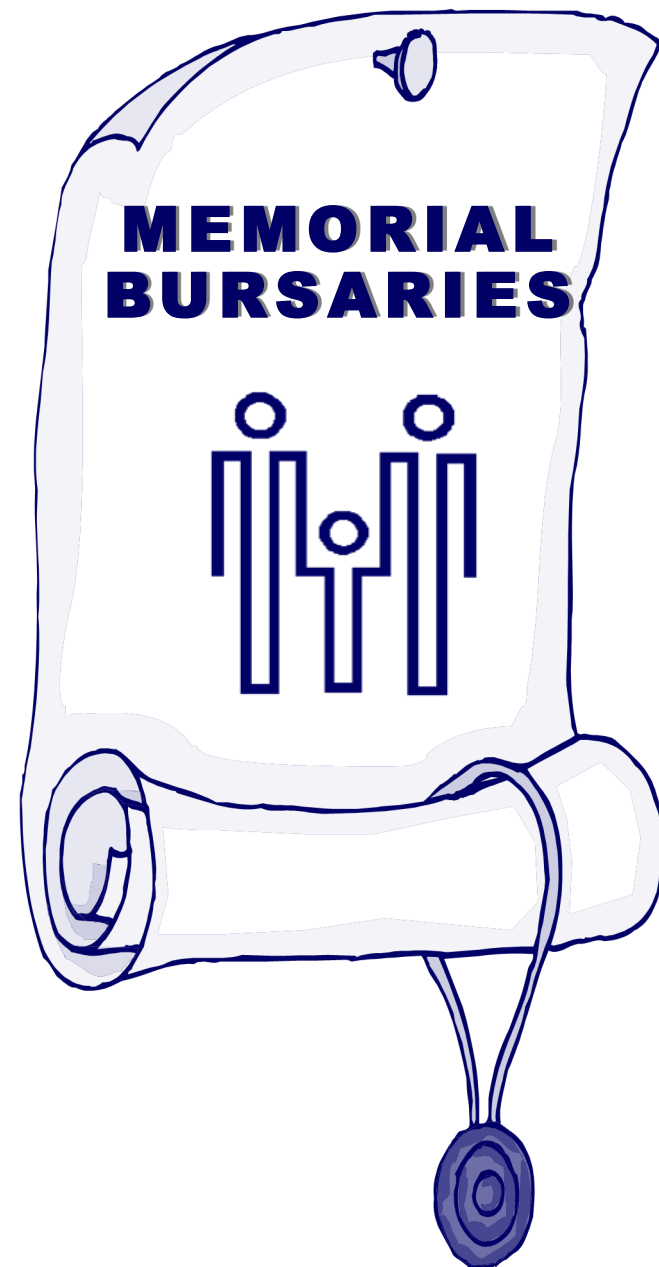
Mailing Address:

**Federation of Foster Families of
Nova Scotia**
99 Wyse Road, Suite 350
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5

*Phone: (902) 424-3071
1-800-565-1884
Fax: (902) 424-5199*

www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca

Deadline is May 31st



**FEDERATION
OF FOSTER FAMILIES
OF
NOVA SCOTIA**

THE FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia was founded in 1974 and has since become the collective voice of foster families in Nova Scotia. Our main task is to advocate for a quality foster care service. We assist local associations in supporting foster families in their area, provide educational opportunities for foster parents to equip them with the skills needed to offer the best possible care for the children in their home, and work with the Department of Community Services in developing policies and procedures which enhance the foster care experience for the entire foster family.

Throughout the history of the Federation, the Board of Directors has been sensitive to the accomplishments of those who have reflected the best of what the foster care system represents. Through the awarding of Lifetime Memberships or Honourary Foster Parent Certificates, the Federation recognizes foster parents, social workers, child welfare administrators and other community members who have made an impact on the foster care system. Several years ago it was recognized that we should also show support to those foster children who wished to further their

education, and thus, the Memorial Bursary Program was born.

Today, there are two Bursary programs which respectively recognize the determination of the foster children and the birth children of foster parents who are continuing their education.

The **Thelma Goodall Memorial Bursary** was named in honour of the mother of Elizabeth Hamilton. Elizabeth and her family were active in the foster care community and Elizabeth was one of the people instrumental in beginning the Canadian Foster Family Association.

The **Jenny Cajolais Memorial Bursary** was named in honour of the deceased daughter of Claude and Jackie Cajolais. Claude and Jackie, former foster parents, were very active on the Board of the Federation, known at that time as the Federation of Foster Family Associations of Nova Scotia.



MEMORIAL BURSARY FUNDS

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia has established two Memorial Bursary Funds to assist young people in continuing their education in either a college, university, vocational institution, or other special education programs.

When possible, four bursaries will be awarded annually, two from each fund:

Bursaries are a minimum of \$250.00 and a maximum of \$500.00

The **Thelma Goodall Memorial Bursary** is available to children in care or former children in care.

The **Jenny Cajolais Memorial Bursary** is available to the birth or adopted children of foster parents.

Applications are available from your local Foster Family Association, your local agency or district office, or by writing or calling the Federation office:

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia
99 Wyse Road, Suite 350
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5
Phone: 424-3071
Fax: 424-5199

Bursary applications must be postmarked or faxed to the Federation office on or before **May 31st** of each year.

A three member selection committee made up of one Executive Member of the Federation and two community representatives, review all applications and select the recipients.

Foster Allegation & Support Services

Foster families are entitled to representation as per the *Protocol for Investigating Allegations of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Homes (2021)* to ensure they understand the investigation process and are aware of their rights within the process. The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia welcomes the opportunity to provide services of the Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker through funding from the Department of Community Services.

Foster families are also entitled to support services. If you have an issue or challenge that you would like to speak to someone about, please contact the Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker.

*Due to confidentiality, foster families must contact the FASS social worker directly to request services.

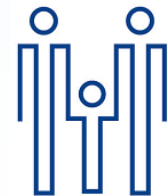
Federation of Foster Families
of Nova Scotia

Jill Martin, MSW, RSW
Foster Allegation & Support
Services Social Worker

99 Wyse Road, Suite 350
Dartmouth NS B3A 4S5
Phone: 902-424-2711
or 1-888-845-1555
www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca

FEDERATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

FOSTER ALLEGATION & SUPPORT SERVICES



Foster Allegation Investigation - Process

The Foster Allegation & Support Services (F.A.S.S.) Social Worker, **upon request by a foster family**, will provide the following services as outlined in the *Protocol For Investigating Allegations of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Homes (2021)*.

- Promote Protocol awareness and understanding, including possible outcomes;
- Provide consent forms to the foster family which permit the Foster Allegation & Support Services Social Worker to consult with the Home Agency and Investigating Agency;
- Provide the foster family with knowledge about the availability of insurance coverage through the Department of Community Services by contacting their Agency/District Office, if required;
- Consult with the Foster Care Social Worker regarding support services provided to the foster family during the investigation;
- Support the foster family throughout the investigation process including attendance at meetings to ensure foster families questions, comments, and concerns are verbalized and to ensure the foster family understands the questions being asked;

- Assist the foster family in accepting the final outcome of the Investigation and articulating their concerns, if any, to the Agency/District Office;
- Consult with the Foster Care Social Worker on behalf of the foster family for follow-up support services upon completion of the Investigation Process;
- Represent the foster families' best interests through consultation with the Home Agency to support referrals to community resources and/or professional resources as the result of an allegation investigation;
- Provide assistance or support to Agency staff during the Protocol Investigation including:
 - attendance at meetings to assist the Agency in discussing concerns or questions regarding the investigation process;
 - when appropriate, support the Agency decision to close the foster home and assist the Foster Care Social Worker in concluding the Agency's relationship with the foster family;
 - with the foster family's consent to provide periodic updates on the general well-being of the foster family and to ensure the Foster Care Social Worker can provide assistance and/or support.

Formal Review Process

The F.A.S.S. Social Worker, **upon request by a foster family**, will:

- Review with the foster family their concerns regarding the foster home closure due to the findings of the Child Protection Investigation;
- Assist foster families with written correspondence related to the review process, if required;
- Assess the need for ongoing support based on the needs of the foster family;
- Provide support to families in accepting the outcome of the investigation and subsequent review process.

Support Services

The F.A.S.S. Social Worker, **upon request by a foster family**, will:

- Provide support during a challenging time other than allegations;
- Maintain confidentiality unless there is a duty to report;
- Assess the needs of the foster parent and/or family;
- Refer to Outreach & Therapeutic Services and/or Community Resources as required.

Mission Statement

The Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia is a collective voice for all foster parents in Nova Scotia. In pursuit of this mission, the Federation will ensure assistance and support for foster families and Foster Family Associations.

Contact Us:

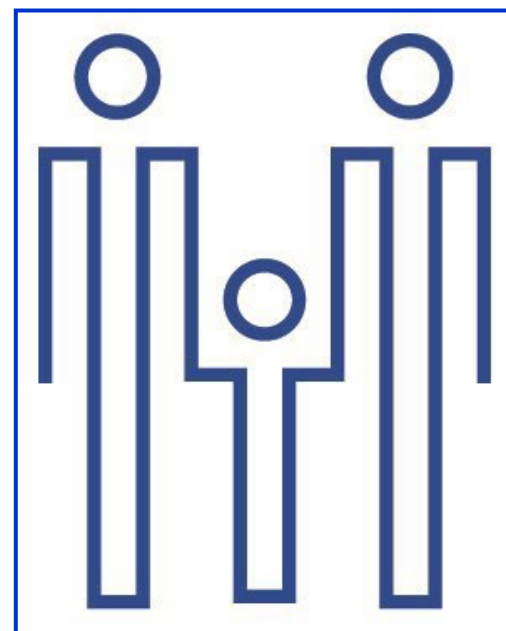
Federation of Foster Families of
Nova Scotia

99 Wyse Road, Suite 350
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5

For training inquiries:
(902) 424-5665
1-888-845-1555

www.fosterfamilies.ns.ca
2023

Foster Parent Basic Core Training



An information bulletin for Foster Parents
and Adoptive Parents produced by:

**The Federation of Foster Families
of Nova Scotia**

Basic Core Training is the fundamental component necessary to meet the requirements for the INTRODUCTORY LEVEL OF CARE and consists of:

1. *PRIDE Foster/Adopt Pre-Service Program*
 2. *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training*
 3. *Sensitivity Training Program for Foster Families*
-

How Does This Affect Foster/Adoptive Parents?

Participation is expected for all Foster Parents approved as General, Contract, or Specialized Families. Two-parent families require both parents' attendance at training.

Participation in the PRIDE Foster/Adopt Pre-Service Program is expected for all prospective Foster & prospective Adoptive Parents.

Kinship Foster Parents and Adoptive Parents are invited to attend the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training Program and the Sensitivity Training Program if they chose to do so.

The [PRIDE Foster/Adopt Pre-Service Program](#) is essential to the pre-assessment process and shall be provided for all potential Foster Parent & Adoptive Parent applicants.

Foster Parents are expected to attend [Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training](#) within one year of receiving their first placement. Yearly re-certification is required.

Foster Parents are expected to attend the [Sensitivity Training Program](#) within two years of receiving their first placement.

The PRIDE Foster/Adopt Pre-Service Program

The PRIDE Foster/Adopt Pre-Service Program is a training program for prospective Foster Parents and prospective Adoptive Parents.

Program participants are introduced to the knowledge, resources, and support systems that will help them provide a safe and nurturing home environment to the children and youth who have come into their care. The goals of the PRIDE Foster/Adopt Pre-Service Program are:

1. to introduce the “basics” of fostering & adopting; that is,
 - a) how children come into care
 - b) your role as a foster/adoptive parent
 - c) reasons why children behave as they do
 - d) the child's needs while they are in your care
2. to help you decide if your family is ready to foster or adopt
3. to begin the process of working as a team member.

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention was introduced to Foster Parents in Nova Scotia in 1994 through the joint efforts of the Department of Community Services and the Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia. In 2011, the Federation received approval from the Crisis Prevention Institute to train and certify adoptive parents in the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training Program.

The program teaches practical skills and techniques to:

1. recognize the stages of crisis development and choose the appropriate responses,
2. effectively intervene verbally, and
3. provide the best *care, welfare, safety and security* for everyone involved in the crisis.

The Sensitivity Training Program

The Sensitivity Training Program, launched in 1997, was developed by Foster Parents, Social Workers, Adult Educators and representatives of various community groups and organizations. It is designed to encourage Foster Parents to study and discuss:

- the importance of promoting self-esteem and individuality,
- the harmful effects of prejudice of any form,
- the need to appreciate differences in children and youth who may be of a different race, religion, or language group, and
- the need to respect and value all children regardless of their culture, sexual orientation, or ability level.

This two-day participatory workshop, which consists of guest presenters, video presentations, and small group discussion, is facilitated by foster parent trainers and community trainers.

If you would like more information...

For information about Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NVC) or Sensitivity Training please contact the Federation Training department by phone at 902-424-5665 or by email at michele.roberts@novascotia.ca.

For questions about PRIDE Pre-service please contact your foster care social worker.