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& TRAININGS.....1**



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SUMMER.....2**



**BC RCY REPORT:
MISSING.....2**

STFC – SUPPORTING FOSTER FAMILIES

CARIBOO MEET AND GREET

A time to meet with Tabitha Fournier (Network Facilitator) and Marna Forsyth. We would love for you to join us, update us, and connect with other foster parents in your area.

Wednesday, July 19
8:00pm – 9:00pm (PST)
Zoom ID: 819 1465 3995

IN PERSON

KAMLOOPS

Foster Parent Drop-In

Wednesday

9:00am – 11:00am (PST)

The Loft - 290 Maple Street
(2nd Floor of the grey building)

**EAST KOOTENAY Foster Parent
Drop-In** is breaking for the summer.

VIRTUAL

WEST KOOTENAY

Foster Parent Drop-In

Fridays 11:00am - 12noon (PST)

Zoom ID: 250 608 7674

WEEKLY *Communiqué*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FALL EVENTS AND DATES

KERRI ISHAM (POWER UP EDUCATION)

Sexual Health Education for Teens with Special Needs in Grade 8+

Monday, September 18 9:30am – 11:30am (PST)

Not able to make it? (or not able to get all the info down?) No worries! We have arranged a replay week. Register for the event and then you will receive a link to the recorded replay video. Replay access available Sept 26 9:00am – Oct 3 9:00am (PST)

THE WHITE HATTER

Internet Safety: Monitoring, Filters and Tools

Wednesday, October 4 7:00pm – 8:30pm (PST)

Not able to make it? (or not able to get all the info down?) No worries! We have arranged a replay week. Register for the event and then you will receive a link to the recorded replay video. Replay access will be available. Dates T.B.A.

DR. LINDA O'NEILL TRAUMA FOCUSED WORKSHOP IN KAMLOOPS

See attached posters for more details
and watch for the upcoming poster for Dr. Linda O'Neill training.
For more info, please contact Marna Forsyth at: 250 609-2017 (phone / text)
or email: mforsyth@interiorcommunityservices.bc.ca

TWO SIMPLE EXECUTIVE FUNCTION STRATEGIES TO AVOID FAMILY STRESS & STAY CONNECTED DURING SUMMER BREAK

2023 Think Social Publishing, Inc "For many students it's officially summer break. No routine, no schedule! Wait...no routine and no schedule?! That means the routine and schedule of the academic year that gave consistent and predictable structure is gone. With those elements missing from the day-to-day, or changing from week to week, the summer break can be a stressful one. We'd like to share a couple of strategies/tools that we rely on routinely to help kids and their families connect with each other and collaborate to reduce the stress and anxiety that unstructured time and change in routine might elicit."

Read the full article by visiting: <https://www.socialthinking.com/Articles?name=summer-break-executive-function-strategies>

Representative For Children And Youth Report

MISSING: Why are children disappearing from B.C.'s child welfare system?

"Over a nine-month period that ended the 2022 calendar year, my Office received more than 500 reports regarding children and youth in provincial government care who were lost, missing or away from their placement and who experienced a critical injury or were considered at risk of harm during the same time. Those reports to the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) represented 198 distinct children, four of whom died.

During this same time period, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) received more than 12,000 calls about other children and youth who were also missing or absent from their placements but for whom there were no identified safety concerns.

There is, in fact, a wide spectrum of "missingness" from the system of care – ranging from children who are missing for a short period, to those who disappear and never return home. As Representative, I am extremely concerned at the numbers of young people who are missing from a system that is supposed to protect and nurture them. It should be an issue that troubles all British Columbians."

"To be clear, this project is not meant to cast blame on individuals who work with these children – as part of MCFD or Indigenous Child and Family Services Agencies (ICFSAs) or elsewhere – but rather to begin to explore the

role of the child-serving system in creating the conditions that lead to so many children and youth becoming lost, going missing or disappearing from care. We know there is lots of good work happening across the province. We know there are social workers and service providers searching for missing children and youth on their own time, despite systemic restraints that limit their ability to respond to these young people.

We know, too, that the personal characteristics of young people alone do not cause them to become lost or missing. It is vital that we consider the complexity involved and how various systemic factors intersect with the context of each young person and how the societal context and/or system responses can create risk."

RECOMMENDATIONS (read the full report for all 9)

"Child and Youth Voice"

5. Immediately remove the requirement for youth to be 'habitually' missing before workers are directed to work with the child or youth to determine why they go missing.
6. Adopt the recommendations from In Harm's Way? Serious Occurrences Report Vol. 2, 2017, to include information on: why the child left, what happened while they were away, if medical care was required, and what could be done to prevent them from needing to leave again.

(Note: this should be sent as a resubmission and should not delay the initial reportable timeline).

LANGUAGE

7. Immediately develop resources and guidelines for staff on the use of child-centred, person-first and identity-first, destigmatizing language when speaking to and documenting the lives of children and youth in the child-serving system.
8. MCFD should also begin a full learning and development initiative, for all service lines, to train staff on the use of child-centred, person-first and identity-first, destigmatizing language when speaking to, and documenting the lives of, children and youth in the child-serving system.

To be implemented by Sept. 1, 2024"

To read the full report, visit:

<https://rcybc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/RCY-Missing-April2023.pdf>

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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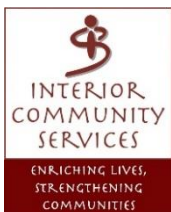
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WELCOME TO FED CONNECTS!

Fed Connects is a virtual space where the Fed Family can come together, share their experiences, stay well and learn new things!

WORKSHOPS • LIVE EVENTS • DISCUSSIONS • INFO SHARING
AND LOTS MORE!

BY COMING TOGETHER, WE'RE NOT ALONE

Have a youth in care? Be sure to check out our website or Facebook page!

Need resources or information?

Check out our website!

Are you wanting more information about upcoming training in your area, helpful resources or information about our program?

Find all this and much more at our website:

www.icsfp.info



Find us on Facebook!

Connect with us on our

'ICS Support To Family Care Network' Facebook page and our agency's 'Interior Community Services' Facebook page.

"There are those who see the need and respond. Those people are my heroes." Fred Rogers