

Inform'Accueil

| Inform'Accueil | Volume 20 | Number 01 | April 2024

**DEFENSE,
CARING
AND SUPPORT**
in a 100 humain way!



Fédération des familles d'accueil
et ressources intermédiaires
du Québec

50
years



Here
for you
and your
children

When you know you're well surrounded, life is sweeter. When you know that people you trust are there for you, you can breathe deeply, take the time to look ahead and believe that anything is possible.

For 50 years, the FFARIQ has been looking after Quebec's foster families. By listening, supporting, and taking action in the field, we protect families' rights and make tools available to help them on a day-to-day basis.

Because every foster family in Quebec who opens their door, and their heart deserves all the loving support they can get to help their children spread their wings.



Table of Contents

05	A word from the President
06	Events
08	Decoded laws and negotiations
09	Life Story
12	Tips from the pros
13	Did you know?
14	Inter-regional and training
15	Côte Nord region
16	Gaspésie / Îles de la Madeleine region
17	Quebec region
18	Mauricie Centre-du-Québec region
19	Laval region
20	Montréal-Batshaw region
21	Laurentides Region
22	Outaouais region
23	Reference Partners
24	Need help or information?

A Word from our President



This is a very important year. The FFARIQ is celebrating its 50th anniversary!

Hello dear foster families,

Five decades of supporting families who open their doors and their hearts to children in difficulty. 50 years that the FFARIQ, a movement made up of foster families, has put children at the heart of its priorities.

In the coming year, we will be marking this important milestone. Already, you will notice that we've refreshed our Inform'Accueil. We have also added a new section in response to your request in the 2022 survey. You wanted to know more about the reality of foster families, research projects, surveys, and polls. You'll find all this and more in the Did you know? section.

Your role has become increasingly necessary for the good of our society. The DYP's June 2023 annual report showed an 8.39% increase in the number of reports, for a total of 125,839 reports processed in Quebec.

It's thanks to foster families like you that many DYP children are able to rebuild their self-confidence and self-esteem. It's the place you give them in your caring, stable, and secure homes that helps them get back on their feet.

The FFARIQ has been working every day for 50 years to help you pursue your mission with children in the best possible conditions. And we intend to do so for a long time to come!

Changes to the FFARIQ Board of Directors

This year is also an important one, as for personal and family reasons, Geneviève Rioux has resigned as President of the FFARIQ to take on other challenges. We would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the past 8 years in defending and supporting Quebec's foster families.

As a result, the Executive Board had to be reshuffled. As provincial vice-president, I was appointed interim president. Having been a foster family for 20 years, Regional President for the Côte-Nord and Interim Regional President for Gaspésie/Les Îles, I'm committed to ensuring that the crucial role of foster families is recognized. The presidents of the 8 regions and I will be there for you, working together on this important mission.

Interim Vice-President Annie Blouin, Laval Regional President. Patricia Anctil was replaced as Treasurer, having resigned, by Carolle Desjardins, Outaouais Regional President. We would like to thank Patricia for her great commitment to the FFARIQ and all her work as provincial treasurer. She will continue to act as Secretary for the Quebec region.

Extraordinary Lump Sum

On March 15 and 16, foster families voted 91,8% in favor of the proposal presented to the Ministry. We'll be keeping a close eye on what happens next, and letting you know when the money is paid out. Stay tuned for your personal newsletters.

In closing, the Board of Directors joins me in wishing you and your little ones a happy spring. Have fun at the sugar shack and enjoy the sun's gentle rays!

HERE for you and your children,

Mélanie Gagnon

Acting Provincial President

FFARIQ

Events!

Mark your calendars:

Regional and provincial elections

Here's everything you need to know about the 2024 elections. First of all, the regional committees of each of the eight regions represented by the FFARIQ will be contacting their members shortly. You will be invited to participate in the Annual Regional Meeting (ARM), which will be held in hybrid mode, i.e. face-to-face and online. This is an ideal way for families with schedule or distance constraints to take part in this important

meeting. What's more, if you didn't have the opportunity to vote by mail, you will be able to do so during your ARM, whether you participate in person or online.

Our Acting President Mélanie Gagnon will say a few words at the opening of each ARM and talk about her vision for the coming year.

Positions up for election in 2024

REGION	TITLE	OUTGOING OCCUPANT	TERM OF OFFICE
03 - Québec	President	Christiane Robitaille	4 years (2024-2028)
	Secretary	Patricia Anctil	4 years (2024-2028)
	Director	Andrée Bouchard	4 years (2024-2028)
04- Mauricie	President	Sylvain Bilodeau	4 years (2024-2028)
	Secretary	José Dionne	4 years (2024-2028)
	Treasurer	Véronique Hayes	4 years (2024-2028)
06 - Batshaw	President	Claudette Gauthier	4 years (2024-2028)
	Treasurer	Brenda Gortler	4 years (2024-2028)
07 - Outaouais	President	Carolle Desjardins	4 years (2024-2028)
	Treasurer	Éric Gosselin	4 years (2024-2028)
	Director	Line Waters	4 years (2024-2028)
09 – Côte-Nord	Vice-President	Vacancy	4 years (2024-2028)
	Treasurer	Cynthia Gagnon	4 years (2024-2028)
11 - Gaspésie	Vice-President	Nancy Blais	4 years (2024-2028)
	Treasurer	Sylvie Anglehart	4 years (2024-2028)
13 - Laval	Vice-President	Fatiha Chihai	4 years (2024-2028)
	Treasurer	Manon Lanthier	4 years (2024-2028)
15 - Laurentides	Vice-President	Sophie Quenneville	4 years (2024-2028)
	Secretary	Chantal Derisse	4 years (2024-2028)



Provincial election

As is now customary, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held independently of the symposium. You will be invited to take part in this online meeting on October 11. The Board Executive will report on the past year's activities. It will also be an opportunity to vote for the positions up for election if you haven't already done so by mail.

Bringing you all together for the Annual General Meeting, no matter where you live, is important to us.

Positions up for election in 2024

TITLE	OUTGOING OCCUPANT	TERM OF OFFICE
President	Mélanie Gagnon	4 years (2024-2028)
Secretary	Francine Boutin	4 years (2024-2028)

**Checklist
Regional and provincial elections**

STEPS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS	REGIONAL DEADLINE	PROVINCIAL DEADLINE
Sending nominations	1 st to April 29, 2024, 5 p.m.	1er to August 30, 2024, 4 p.m.
Voting period	From May 6 to May 16, 2024, 5 p.m.	From September 16 to September 30, 2024, 4 p.m.
Deadline for receipt of postal and online votes	May 16, 2024, at 5 p.m.	September 30, 2024, at 4 p.m.
Annual meetings, voting and counting of ballots by scrutineers. People attending the ARM will be able to vote in person or online at that time. AGM attendees will be able to vote online at that time.	May 24, 2024	October 11, 2024

Decoded Laws And Regulations

The FFARIQ is taking advantage of its appearance before a parliamentary commission to address a number of negotiating issues.

On February 7, the Commission de la santé et des services sociaux invited the FFARIQ to present its observations during the parliamentary review of the Act respecting the Commissioner for Children's Welfare and Rights.

The FFARIQ explains the importance of a better understanding of your role by the Quebec population. The FFARIQ sheds light on its vision of the role of the commissioner, notably through the transfer of the CDPDJ's powers in the area of youth protection and the creation of a Charter of Children's Rights, but also on the commissioner's contribution to your daily life.

Using concrete examples, the FFARIQ explains how the **commissioner's mission must complement its own**. The new commissioner must add his or her voice to yours to denounce unacceptable situations, such as the disparity that exists in the treatment of **proximity foster family applicants (PFF)** and accredited foster families, as well as the children they foster. For example, the commissioner should be a springboard for improving the difficulties you encounter with certain financial allowances (**reasonable operating expenses, personal expenses allowance, clothing budget, transportation, etc.**) and which impact the children.

The FFARIQ illustrates to elected officials the importance of training workers to better understand the role of foster families and provide them with better support. This lack of support is at the root of your requests to review the process for **moving** children with significant difficulties and highlights the need to improve your **safety through the** collective agreement.

The negotiation of your collective agreement enables the FFARIQ to address these issues, but the granting of full powers to the Commissioner is necessary, so that the problems you raise also converge with our decision-makers on behalf of the children in our care.

Your negotiating committee

Life Story



Hafssa Elmirou and Hicham Afendi
Foster family since december 2021
2 biological children - 4 foster children
Type: family resource
Region: Laurentides

Foster family: a Noble Profession

"We can offer them a stable environment that might make them forget the bad start they had in life."

Hafssa Elmirou comes from a large family. She has 8 brothers and sisters. In 2008, she and her husband Hicham Afendi moved from Morocco to Quebec. Accustomed to large families, it was no surprise that Hafssa created her own job here, opening her home daycare service in 2010.

Among the children who attended her daycare center, Hafssa took in some who were being followed by the DYP. She was particularly moved by the story of a grandmother who had become a proximity foster family for her grandson, and who was no longer able to care for the child. This led to the couple's decision to make a place in the heart of their family for other children.

"I help children in need," confides Hafssa. We reassure them. We give them confidence. We create a cocoon where they feel safe. We know that what they've been through isn't easy, and that it's going to mark them for the rest of their lives, so we help them to experience joy with us. We make them feel part of the family."

Nora's arrival

On December 22, 2021, a 2-year-old boy arrived at the family's home. The next day, the DYP asked Hafssa if she could take in another child, even though the agreement stipulated that the family could only offer one place. So close to Christmas, and with all Hafssa's love for children, it was impossible for her to refuse. That's how 2-year-old Nora came into their lives. **With her came a bag of clothes, a pacifier, and a cuddly toy.** The little girl was calm. Hafssa remembers giving her a snack, then going to her day-care center in the basement to give her a few toys. A small bond began to form between them.

The first few days went relatively well. Little Nora was very tired and slept a lot, sleeping nearly 15 hours a night plus an afternoon nap. To avoid destabilizing her, she continued to attend her nearby day-care center. "The vacation season went well. We tried to give the children a warm Christmas and gave them presents," recalls Hafssa.

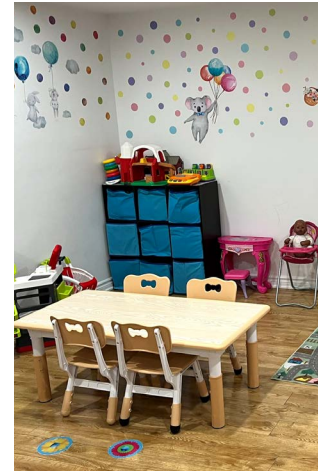
Reassuring little Nora

Then the family discovered Nora's temper. When she's upset, she throws tantrums. She has an oppositional disorder which, if she's in a bad mood, causes her to lash out and say "no". Bedtime has become a problem. So has getting dressed, especially when what she's asked to wear isn't to her taste. At daycare, Nora sometimes refuses to follow instructions. She doesn't like to be upset.

When Nora's environment becomes insecure, she is more prone to seizures. The context in which the biological parents' visits take place creates anxiety-provoking situations. To avoid some of the insecurity experienced during visits, the foster family provides transportation, since the transporters provided by the youth center often change. Sometimes, it's not the same person coming and going. This feels very insecure for the child.

From January 2022, Nora was able to see her biological parents for one hour a week, together even though they were separated, on a supervised visit. "At first, she would have fits when she left her biological parents, but then that faded. Now she calls us Mom and Dad and her biological mother Mom too," says Hafssa. Six months later, Nora saw her sister again at a party at her grandmother's house.

Her dad had to stay in a detox center for a while, as well as workshops and training in anger management and violence. He had supervised visits with Nora, then scheduled calls once a week. However, his attendance was poor and he often failed to report back, which was very distressing for little Nora. He tried to contact Hafssa, despite the fact that contact between biological parents and the foster family is not permitted.



As for visits with her mother, these were made at her grandmother's, who could then supervise the visit. Mom makes a lot of effort. She has 3 children, all of whom are in foster care. The schedule of supervised and unsupervised visits makes it difficult for her to hold down a job. Nora used to see her biological mother 1.5 hours a week. However, the mother's failure to comply with certain conditions led to a return to supervised visits.

This instability led the judge to order, on November 1er 2023, a placement until majority of little Nora with the Elmiron-Afendi family. Much to the couple's delight. Nora is much better now. She's smiling, and some of the educators thank Hafssa for taking her in. When the family's eldest biological child picks her up at the day-care center, Nora is proud to say that she's her big sister.

A noble profession that involves the whole family

"Even though you get paid to be a foster family, it's a noble profession for me. It reminds me of my daughters when they were little. When we became a foster family, my daughters were already young adults. They were often in their rooms, their noses on their phones or tablets. Now they have little brothers and sisters. They help us a lot. My oldest has moved to a condo, but she comes to the house every day. She helps us with baths and meals," says Hafssa.

Hicham left his job as an agent at Emploi-Québec to look after the children. They now have 4 in foster family. "It's definitely a lot of time, especially for the 0-5 age group. One of us has to be with them, but young children are like putty. We can offer them a stable environment that may help them forget the bad start they've had in life. If they experience love with us, they'll develop self-esteem and more confidence," emphasizes Hafssa.

For this owner of a family day care, becoming a foster family is a natural step. "When the daycare kids leave at 5, it makes me cry. I get really attached to them. The children we take in

as foster families are the same, but we're lucky enough to have them with us 24 hours a day," she confides. If she had a bigger house, she'd take in a lot more than just four!

The importance of tools

As owner of a family daycare service, Hafssa has taken several training courses, including a certificate in early childhood and another in intervention with children living with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and intellectual disabilities. She continues to take refresher courses for her daycare center, and also follows training courses with the FFARIQ.

Deeply committed to the well-being of children, Hafssa wanted to equip herself to welcome children with special needs. Last December, she welcomed a child with mild ASD into her daycare center. "There are a lot of things I learn in my role as a home educator, thanks to the advice and intervention plans of the occupational therapists and specialized educators who come to my daycare center, which I can transpose to my children. I try to support the children as best I can, while ensuring their overall development," she concludes.

“It takes patience and generosity to be a foster family, but if you love children, don't hesitate. It will change your life!”

Tips from the Pros



The transition to adulthood and its challenges

As your children grow up and approach adulthood, you're probably wondering how you can best support them. Here are a few tips for you!

The transition to adulthood can seem daunting for children in foster care, but there are practical tips to help them navigate this period of their lives.

1 Education and career planning

Education is a key element in easing the transition to adulthood for young people. Here are a few tips to help them continue their studies and plan their careers:

- Define educational goals to motivate them to continue their studies and focus on their future.
- Explore career options learn about available training and opportunities to make informed decisions about their professional future.

2 Financial knowledge and independence

Managing finances is an essential skill for easing the transition to adulthood.

- Establish a budget and manage their money to avoid financial difficulties and plan their future.
- Access specific financial assistance programs that can help them meet their needs and financial goals.

3 Building a support network

Having a strong support network is essential to ease the transition to adulthood.

- Seek healthy, positive relationships that allow them to feel supported and connected to others.
- Participate in community activities such as hobby groups, sports clubs, or volunteer organizations to meet new people and connect with their community.

4 Access to health care and mental health services

Here are a few tips to help them access these services:

- Providing information on health and mental health care resources can help them find the help they need.
- Accompaniment in the healthcare system, including helping them book appointments, understand medical procedures and feel supported during their visits. (in collaboration with the caseworker)
- Promote mental health and encourage young people to seek support when needed to help them cope with the emotional challenges they may encounter in their transition to adulthood.

5 Developing life skills

Here are some important skills to develop:

- Teaching young people to manage their time and establish routines can help them become more organized and achieve their goals.
- Developing problem-solving skills can help them face the challenges of everyday life and make informed decisions.

By helping young people develop these skills, we give them the tools they need to succeed in their transition to adulthood.

Trainer:
Valérie D'Aoust, IFSSS



Did You know?

What do Quebecers think about adoption?

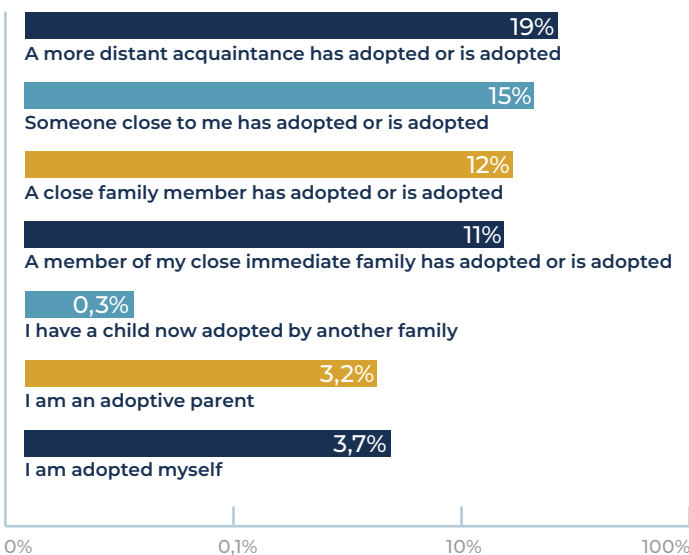
Mixed bank foster families take in children they hope to adopt. However, between the wish of these families and adoption, there are several elements to take into account, including approval by a judge and the agreement of the biological parents.

COCON adoption (Comité de concertation adoption Québec) commissioned L'Observateur to carry out an exclusive survey to find out Quebecers' perceptions and understanding of adoption, including their level of knowledge and awareness of adoption in general, their opinion of the reality of the various members of the adoptive triad, and their level of support for the provision and support of adoption services.

Nearly 2 out of 3 Quebecers are concerned by adoption

A majority of Quebecers (64.2%) feel closely or remotely concerned by adoption, whether because they know someone in their circle, family or social network who has adopted or is being adopted.

Quebecers affected by adoption



Adopting seems more difficult

The survey also revealed that Quebecers think the challenges are greater for adoptive parents. For 68% of respondents, adopting would be more difficult than becoming a biological parent. Nearly 1 in 4 respondents, however, believe that the challenges are just as great in adoption situations as in biological parenthood.

Putting a child up for adoption: yes or no?

The Observer asked survey respondents how they felt about parents "giving away" their children for adoption.

Although the family model in which children are raised by their biological parents is the one recognized as being in the right order, for 87% of respondents, it is acceptable for a child to be made available for adoption when the biological parents demonstrate neglect, abuse or when the state judges their parenting skills to be inadequate.

For 64% of respondents, it's equally acceptable to give a child up for adoption in cases where the biological parents don't have the resources to support the child. On the other hand, 11% of respondents feel that, whatever the circumstances, it is preferable for a child to remain with his or her biological family.

A few observations

The 2020 survey revealed a number of findings:

- Adoption is perceived as complex. Perceptions of adoption are multifactorial and differ according to the point of view of the adoptee, the adopter, or the biological parents.
- 1 in 3 respondents would like to know more about the various adoption-related issues.
- Adoption is perceived as more difficult than becoming a biological parent.
- According to respondents, people involved in adoption should have access to more services and support.
- Adoption support organizations are not well known.

For complete survey results, visit coconadoption.ca/recherches/

Inter-regional and training



Hello to you all,

We're working hard to offer you training tailored to your needs. Here's some important news and information for you.

Online and face-to-face training courses

We've analyzed the popularity of training courses offered in recent months, enabling us to target an offering that's more in tune with your reality. From now on, we'll be giving priority to online training. It will still be possible for you to attend a face-to-face training session. To do so, you will need to contact your regional committee, in collaboration with the institution, to ensure that a minimum number of participants is registered.

Training, a source of good tips!

Alexandre Mercier, foster family in Mauricie/Centre-du-Québec has been welcoming 3 children since April 2021. To date, he has taken 10 online training courses, some of them twice. He tells us about Oppositional Defiant Disorder:

“The training has given me the know-how to deal with children in a way that doesn't escalate and make the atmosphere negative for several hours, and that enables me to act more passively than reactively. Now, when the situation becomes more intense, we call it a "little red flag". It makes us realize the situation and change our approach. Thanks to this training, the family climate is more harmonious and moments of opposition are quickly contained.”

English courses

Almost 90% of the training courses currently offered can be given in English, to make them more accessible to the English-speaking foster families we have in the regions served by the FFARIQ. In order to maintain this offer, we will soon be sending out a newsletter inviting you to register your interest in these training courses. Thank you for responding in large numbers.

YOUR CONTRACT as a foster family

Training courses are available to help you understand the guidelines surrounding your role, your requests, and your expectations. Here's one you'll find on VotreEspace in the Training section of the FF Know-How module.

Financial and administrative aspects - The outline of the specific agreement

In this course, you will learn about:

- The specific agreement is a contract signed by mutual consent between the resource and the institution. It cannot be modified or negotiated without your approval;
- The basis of the contractual relationship, which must be specified in the contract, such as the number of places, the age and gender of the children, the duration of the contract, etc.;
- This contract can be signed by one or two people.

Contract addenda and other forms

The only way to modify a contract during its validity period is to add an addendum. This can change the identity of the sponsor, the number of recognized places and the type of user.

This form is filled out at the foster family's request and is not to be used when a child leaves for a short stay in a rehabilitation center.

At any time, you can contact the FFARIQ before signing a form or contract with the institution. We'll guide you to what's best for you.

Good training to you all!

Jean-François Rioux

Provincial Regions' Coordinator
Training Manager
Tel.: 819 696-8594
jfrioux@ffariq.ca





Côte-Nord Region

↑ From left to right:
Cynthia Gagnon (Treasurer)
Roxanne Laforest-Bourgoin (Secretary)
Mélanie Gagnon (President)

Hello dear foster families,
From Tadoussac to Kawawachikamach, via Forestville,
Baie-Comeau and Sept-Îles, we're happy to be there for you!

Classification

We haven't received any requests for classification reviews. Which is good news. However, we know from experience that there are sometimes things that fly under the radar because it seems only natural to do this for the children you care for. Don't hesitate to contact us to make sure that the services you offer to children correspond to the classification in which the institution has registered you. It's your right to be recognized and remunerated for the real responsibilities and burdens you have to assume.

Good collaboration with the DYP

Our collaboration with the DYP is going very well. The current social worker informs me when there is a problem with the foster families. She even gives my business card and contact details to new foster families so that they have access to information on the services that the FFARIQ offers to help them on a daily basis. This situation is quite exceptional and we really appreciate it.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to contact us if you have any questions about transportation, harmonized visits between you and your biological parents, and so on.

Positions up for election: are you interested?

Two positions will be up for election at the annual regional meeting on May 24: treasurer, vice-president. All two positions are for 4-year terms. We invite you to join the Côte-Nord team

in supporting foster families in our magnificent and vast territory. Please see the Events section for full details.

Regional tours: precious moments

The regional tour took place on March 19 and 20. It's a great opportunity to help each other and break isolation. Here's what the meetings are like:

- Exchange with other foster families in our region;
- Find out about your entitlements, such as special expenses, transport, etc.;
- To be accompanied by experienced foster families;
- Inform you about the latest Local Committee meetings, etc.;
- Keep you informed about PL37, negotiations, the exceptional lump sum, elections, upcoming changes, etc.

I wish you a beautiful spring with your little ones.

Mélanie Gagnon
Regional President
Côte Nord
Tel.: 418-587-0209
mgagnon@ffariq.ca





Gaspésie / les Îles-de-la-Madeleine Region

↑ From left to right:
Mélanie Gagnon (Acting President)
Nancy Blais (Vice-President)

Missing from photo:
Jolyane Tremblay (Secretary)
Sylvie Anglehart (Treasurer)
Sandra Bourdages (Director)

Hello dear foster families,

I'd like to start by introducing the foster families from other regions to just how vast this beautiful territory really is! This region covers the entire Haute-Gaspésie, including Les Méchins and the Matapédia Valley. And, of course, Îles de la Madeleine.

I would also like to thank the foster families of Gaspésie/Les Îles for the trust they have placed in me over the past 3 years as interim president. Representing you was essential and an honour for me. I'm now handing over the presidency to Nancy Blais, who has been vice-president for the past 2 years. She knows the region's issues well and has made the regional tours with members. The position of President was not up for election this year. Nancy will serve until 2026.

Nancy has been a foster family for over 10 years and has a background as a specialized educator, so she's well equipped to represent you. And with 6 children of her own as a foster family, she knows first-hand the realities of children and the families who care for them.

Increased consultations for classification

Over the past 2 years, we've noticed that more and more foster families are consulting the FFARIQ about their classification. The reality of remote regions means that there are many changes in the social workers. This has an impact on support for foster families. Is this due to a lack of manpower? Perhaps.

As a result, new foster families don't feel supported by the institution. In fact, one new foster family told us that after 2 days, she would have given up because she felt so helpless.

This story reminds us how important it is for the FFARIQ and its regional committees to be there for our foster families. Call us, even for what may seem like a small matter. We're here for you, and we'll help you solve the problems you face every day.

Regional tour

Our regional tour took place in March. We went to meet you in the 4 corners of the region: Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, Gaspé, Chandler and Carleton-sur-Mer.

Mark your calendar: regional elections

Regional elections will be held on May 24. Nancy Blais is Vice-President and Sylvie Anglehart is Treasurer. These positions are for a 4-year term. We invite you to consult the Events section of this Inform'Accueil for full details. Get involved! It's a rewarding experience.

I wish you a wonderful spring and leave you in good hands with the Gaspésie / Îles team!

Mélanie Gagnon

Interim Regional President
Gaspésie/Îles de la Madeleine
Tel.: 418 587-0209
mgagnon@ffariq.ca





Québec Region

Hello foster families, from Charlevoix to Portneuf to Quebec City!

↑ From left to right:
Chantale Moreau (Vice-President)
Francine Boutin (Treasurer)
Christiane Robitaille (President)
Patricia Anctil (Secretary)

Missing from photo:
Andrée Bouchard (Interim Director,
Québec region)

Lower classification levels

There seems to be a downward trend in the level of assessment of children in our region at classification meetings. Often, this is due to a misinterpretation of the child's needs. Your regional committee is there to ensure that the child's needs are adequately recognized and that you are compensated fairly. Don't hesitate to discuss your concerns with us.

Relations with the institution

We've developed a good relationship with the institution regarding the training program. I'm able to accompany our foster families on these trainings, which allows me to see what they need. What's more, the training offered by the institution often focuses on the adult in foster care. By being there, I'm able to shed light on the realities of foster care for children.

There's also a big change in social workers, which means that services for foster families are **slow, especially when it** comes to requests to move a child when a situation requires it. For example, one family wanted to move a 24-year-old ASD child to an adult foster family. They were told it would take 1-2 years! It also takes a long time to respond to the need for support when problems arise with a child.

We also noticed differences in understanding and interpretation of the collective agreement from one social worker to another. For example, the DYP says that the CPR course is reimbursed by the FFARIQ, which is **false**. It is the institution that must reimburse this training.

Regional tour

Did you take part in the regional tour held on March 15 at Sagamité restaurant in Quebec City and at Roquemont restaurant in Portneuf on March 18? We talked about the following topics:

- Exceptional lump sum;
- Deployment negotiation;
- Lower classification levels;
- Upcoming activities;
- Sharing daily experiences.

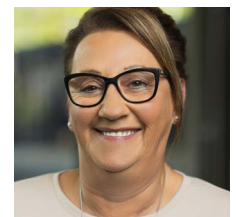
We invite you to attend these meetings in large numbers, as the topics discussed have an impact on your everyday life.

Special guest at ARM

Nancy Audet will be our special guest at the ARM on May 24. She will share her insider's view of the reality of foster care and the relationship with the youth center on a daily basis. We hope to see you there! You will receive all the details by newsletter or by mail, depending on the means of communication you have chosen.

It will also be an opportunity to elect your representatives to the positions of President, Director, and Secretary. See the Events section of this Inform'Accueil for details. Your regional committee is your ally in helping your little ones spread their wings.

Christiane Robitaille
Regional President
Quebec
Tel.: 418 262-4222
crobaille@ffariq.ca





Mauricie/ Centre-du-Québec Region

↑ From left to right:
Jean-François Rioux (Vice-President)
Véronique Hayes (Treasurer)
Sylvain Bilodeau (President)
Kim Peterson-Bussièrès (Secretary)
José Dionne (Director)

Hello dear foster families,

At the time of writing, we're getting ready to embark on a regional tour of our 4 usual locations: Shawinigan, Trois-Rivières, Victoriaville and Drummondville.

Regional tour: an event not to be missed!

The tour will cover the following topics:

- Negotiations follow-up;
- Training follow-up;
- Points to be discussed following our last Local Committee for Concerted Action: making staff unavailable, respite;
- Questions seen on our regional Facebook: special expenses, transport category, allowance management;
- Annual regional meeting;
- Sugar shack.

Customized classification

Several foster families have asked us about their classification, which has been lowered, even though they are required to provide the same level of service. I would remind you that there is a challenge mechanism in place. If you don't agree with your classification, you can call on Mr. Jean-François Rioux at any time to review it with you. If there are grounds for dispute, he will accompany you to the meeting.

Special costs

We realize that special charges on the South Shore often pose more problems than those on the North Shore. That's why

we're putting this issue on the agenda for the next regional tour, so that we can clarify things with you and take note of the problems.

The pleasure of being together

On April 20, we will be holding our sugar shack event. Since the choice of large-capacity sugar shacks was limited, we opted for the Prince sugar shack in Saint-Wenceslas. You'll be receiving details of this event shortly, and we look forward to your participation in large numbers.

Positions up for election

In closing, I would like to remind you not to forget our annual regional meeting, to be held on May 24 at Drummondville's Hôtel Dauphin. It will be held in person and will also be offered by videoconference. Elections will also be held this year for the following positions: President, Treasurer and Director. We will send you all the information you need and the procedure for submitting your candidacy if you are interested.

As this will be the last issue of our Inform'Accueil before the vacations, I wish you and your little ones and grown-ups a wonderful summer. Enjoy every moment.

Sylvain Bilodeau
Regional President
Mauricie Centre-du-Québec
Tel.: 819 696-8592
sbilodeau@ffariq.ca





Laval Region

↑ From left to right:
Natacha Étienne (secretary)
Manon Lanthier (treasurer)
Fatiha Chilhai (vice-president)
Annie Blouin (president)

Hello dear families,

We're delighted to welcome the first signs of spring! I hope your end of 2023 has been marked by great festivities, and that 2024 is off to a great start.

Need help checking your classification?

As of right now, we have little negative feedback on classifications in our regions. However, it's important to remain sensitive to this issue. If you have any concerns or suggestions about classifications, we can discuss them together. Your regional committee is there to support you and, if necessary, to accompany you in an in-depth analysis to help you in your approach to the institution.

A collaboration to improve with the DYP

It's great to see that in our region, satisfaction with social workers is very high, generally reaching 99%. This is a testament to their dedication and professionalism, and the positive impact they have on families.

However, it is regrettable to learn that some families encounter difficulties with childcare workers. Some seem to have difficulty grasping the **partnership and collaborative** nature of foster family work. If you're experiencing this kind of situation, there are things we can do to help. Simply contact us. Remediating such a situation is essential. It is by discussing this issue that we will come to a clear understanding of the working relationship to be established for everyone's well-being.

New foster families in the region

Many foster families have recently been accredited. Welcome to all of you! Your commitment to the well-being of our children is important and appreciated. I would like to take this

opportunity to invite you to join us at our events. These are precious moments to overcome the isolation and benefit from the experience of other families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the foster families of Laval, and the members of my team. In Laval, we're like a big, close-knit family, sharing solid values. We're becoming increasingly close with our members, and it's with great joy and pride that I represent my wonderful region.

Events not to be missed

I hope to see many of you at upcoming events:

- Annual Regional Meeting. It will be held on May 24. You will find all the details in the Events section of this Inform/Accueil.
- Sugar shack outing. We're actively preparing for this wonderful day at the Chalet des érables on April 14. You can sign up for either the 10 a.m. or noon table. We look forward to seeing you there!

Keep up the good work and don't forget: you can always contact us, we'll always be there for you.

Annie Blouin
Regional President
Laval
Tel.: 514 292-3564
ablouin@ffariq.ca





Montréal/Batshaw Region

↑ From left to right:
 Ross Wilson (Vice-President)
 Brenda Gothler (Treasurer)
 Claudette Gauthier (President)
 Darlene Oliver (Secretary)

Hello dear foster families,

This new year is a very special one. It's the 50th anniversary of the FFARIQ. Many surprises are in store! We'll keep you informed via our various networks (newsletter, private Facebook).

We inform you

On March 22, our regional tour took place in Lasalle to share FFARIQ's progress on current issues:

- The negotiations
- The 50th anniversary
- Bill 37
- What's new at the FFARIQ
- The exceptional lump sum

Partnership with the DYP

It has been established with the institution that we work in collaboration with the social workers for the good of the foster families' children. We do not tolerate social workers threatening foster families with the removal of their children if they do not do as they are told. Partnership requires discussion for the sake of the child. It's our duty to see to it. Right now, there's a lot of movement among social workers. It's an insecure environment for children, who are constantly having to tell their story and adapt to a new person.

Guaranteed fun!

On April 7 at 11 a.m., you're invited to bring the whole family to sugar bush Au Toit Rouge in Mont-Saint-Grégoire. Details will be posted on our private Facebook page. We hope to see many of you at this great opportunity for foster families to share and have fun with our children.

Join our private Facebook page

I want to remind you how important it is to join our private Facebook page. It is the place where we share all our news and information with you. Ask Ross Wilson, our Vice President, to help you.

English courses

For some time now, the FFARIQ has been offering training courses in both English and French, so that you can follow them in the language with which you are most comfortable. Let us know which courses interest you. We look forward to welcoming you!

Positions up for election

The positions of President and Treasurer are up for election this year. For details, please read the Events section of this Inform'Accueil. You will see the opening dates for nominations for the May 24 election at the Annual Regional Meeting, which we look forward to seeing you at.

Need help with classification?

If you have any doubts about the levels of service you need to provide for your child, please call us when you're in the process of establishing the classification. We're here to help.

On that note, bless you.

Sincerely,

Claudette Gauthier
 Regional President
 Montréal-Batshaw
 Tel.: 514 796-4491
 cgauthier@ffariq.ca





Laurentides Region

Hello dear foster families,

↑ From left to right:
 Sophie Quenneville (vice-president)
 Isabelle Lachance (treasurer)
 Chantale Dérisse (secretary)
 Ghislaine Pelletier Robitaille (president)

Missing from photo:
 Jean-Pierre Beaulieu (director)

Increase in the number of foster families

Welcome to all our new foster families! There are more and more of us. That also means more and more placement requests. In fact, we organized a welcome event that was very well received. Your regional committee is on hand to support you in this new role, to inform you, listen to you and reassure you in moments of doubt. Don't hesitate to contact us. There's a whole network of foster families near you to support you!

Regional tours

Our first tour of the year took place a few weeks ago. We met with you in Saint-Eustache, Mont-Laurier, and Saint-Jérôme. These meetings enabled us to provide you with information on the following topics:

- Negotiations, including those on the lump sum;
- Bills;
- The challenges that the FFARIQ wishes to take up with its members.
- Daily allowance;
- Classification tool;
- Facebook group and VotreEspace platform;
- Your responsibilities as a foster family.
- Answers to your questions.

These meetings are important. They are not only opportunities to keep you informed, but also moments of sharing and exchange. Being part of a group makes us stronger! I hope to see you next time we're in your area!

Classification to be clarified

We've found that some foster families have been misclassified. These may seem like small details to you, but they're very important. If you have any doubts about the classifications of the children you foster, please give us a call.

Non-compliance with visiting regulations

Supervised visits with parents must be scheduled and you must be notified with reasonable notice, even if the visit is for an appointment with a health care professional. The same applies if the visit is cancelled. The provider has a duty to inform you. We've had a lot of complaints about this. We have asked the institution to remind its social workers of this procedure.

Activities

Stay tuned for the different activities we organize. Sometimes they are cafés or meals. Our next outing will be to the Cabane à sucre Bonaventure in Mirabel, on April 27 at 1:30 pm. You will receive the invitation shortly. Given the success of this activity in previous years, we have reserved 600 places. On this occasion, we'll also have the privilege of welcoming the interim provincial president, Mélanie Gagnon.

Thank you, dear families, for all you do for these young people in the Laurentides. You put your energy and your heart into them, and on their behalf, a thousand thanks!

Ghislaine Pelletier Robitaille

Regional President

Laurentides

Tel.: 450 858-3644

gpelletier@ffariq.ca





Outaouais Region

↑ From left to right:
Stéphanie Lauzon (secretary)
Line Waters (director)
Carolle Desjardins (president)
Josée Dorion (director)
Éric Gosselin (treasurer)
Lucie Renaud (vice-president)

Hello dear foster families,

Our large territory covers the regions of Pontiac, Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, Collines-de-l'Outaouais, Petite-Nation and Lièvre, as well as Gatineau. During our regional tours, we make sure to be close to you as much as possible by stopping in 4 locations: Maniwaki, Petite-Nation, Gatineau, and Pontiac. It's always a pleasure to meet you!

Don't doubt yourself, be confident!

Are we in the right place? Are we making the right choices? For whom or why are we making these choices? Are these questions you often ask yourself? We read situations shared by foster families on our regional Facebook page. Things like:

- "I have no choice but to accept this. The worker says I have to approve."
- "The social worker can't change the date of the visit."
- "The worker says I'm not in my place, because I don't know how to deal with the child. Yet I have 4 of them and I don't have any difficulties with the others."

There's no need for these comments or threats! I would like to remind you that the relationship between you and the social workers is not one of power. You are on equals. If this isn't your experience, give us a call. We'll help you figure out how to work with the institution in a respectful way that's good for both you and your child.

And I want to reassure you, there are no right or wrong choices. You make a large number of decisions every day. The ones you make in the moment, following your instincts, are often the best. Don't let yourself be put down by fear of reprisals.

Relations with the youth center

With the new team, the opposite members of quality-of-life advisors, collaboration is efficient, and things are settled quickly, which we greatly appreciate.

Stopping time to say THANK YOU

I would like to take this time to say thank you. Being a foster family is a life mission. It's important to recognize that. So, *thank you for your kindness, your patience, your help and thank you for being a family with a big heart!*

Pay attention to classifications for your children

In the next few months, I will be asking you to be careful when receiving your classification, as the Youth Center makes downward classifications. When you receive yours, please send me a copy by e-mail cdesjardins@ffariq.ca so that I can check whether it has been properly noted or filled in. **You have 15 days to contest a classification.**

On your agenda: regional elections

Regional elections will be held on May 24 at the Annual Regional Meeting (ARM), where we will be dining together. The positions of President, Treasurer and Director will be up for election. I invite you to consult the Events section of this Inform'Accueil for all the details.

Your regional committee is here for you. Don't hesitate to contact us. All questions are worth asking!

Carolle Desjardins
Regional President
Outaouais
Tel.: 819 923-5081
cdesjardins@ffariq.ca



Reference Partners

Discounts and privileges: one of the benefits of being part of the FFARIQ family
On presentation of the FFARIQ privilege card, these merchants have agreed to give discounts to FFARIQ members.

Many thanks!



\$150 on a complete pair of prescription eyeglasses or prescription sunglasses / **\$25** Unifocal lenses / **\$50** Progressive lenses / **\$50** Contact lenses / **\$50** Non-prescription sunglasses worth **\$100** or more / **\$25** for 3 or more bottles of Eye Omega product / **\$10** Blue light filtering glasses / **\$250** laser vision correction service at IRIS eye clinic in Laval. Offers cannot be combined, are not applicable on safety glasses and do not apply to contact lens service contracts or professional services. AIR MILES reward miles on all purchases / IRIS unconditional guarantee / Interest-free financing. To benefit from your advantages, you must register at www.iris.ca/avantages ** Offer valid for all members of your family. **

l'Assembleuse
— offrir la mémoire —

Get **10% off** your online purchases. To take advantage of the discount, please call the FFARIQ to obtain the promo code. Visit <https://lassembleuse.com>



10% discount on everything except furniture, equipment and LEGO brand. For promo code call the FFARIQ. Visit <https://grenierdespetits.ca/>



Get **10% off** all online orders. Call the FFARIQ to get the promo code. Visit <https://fdmt.ca/>



10% discount on regular admission for adults and children on all courses, on presentation of membership card. Visit www.valleesecrete.com for more information on activities.

Yellow
À VOS PIEDS DEPUIS 1916

Get **10% off** shoes, boots and accessories at all Yellow & Cité stores in Quebec on presentation of your membership card.



50% discount on online policy certificate applications. Call the FFARIQ for the discount code. Visit <https://promoidqc.ca/>

tanguay

\$50 rebate on any purchase of \$500 or more. Valid in all Tanguay and Entrepôt Tanguay stores until December 31, 2024. This offer is valid at all times in the following departments: Furniture, Mattresses, and Decorations. Does not apply to previous purchases and cannot be combined with tax-paid promotions. Discount applicable before taxes. Limit one rebate per customer. PTR: 0441869. Delivery throughout the province of Quebec. Visit www.Tanguay.ca



Need Help or Information?

Any question is a good one!

Doubts, difficulties, or disputes? The FFARIQ is here for you.

The role of the FFARIQ is to answer your questions and assist you when necessary. Whether it's responding to general information requests, advising you on difficulties encountered, or assisting you in situations of dispute or conflict, they are there for:

- General information;
- Questions relating to a difficulty;
- Administrative inquiry;
- Interventions in response to a report;
- Challenging the classification review;
- Disagreement.

Here are some ways you can join us

Telephone: 418 529-4734 or toll-free 1 866 529-5868

Fax: 418 529-0456

Toll-free fax: 1 866 388-8860

24-hour Service

Outside office hours, choose option 3. You'll be automatically redirected to the person in charge of the watch.

Quebec:

8400 Henri-Bourassa Blvd. Henri-Bourassa, Suite A-212, Québec (Québec) G1G 4E2

Trois-Rivières:

1350 Royale Street, Suite 300, Trois-Rivières, QC, G9A 4J4

E-mail: info@ffariq.ca

Website: www.ffariq.org

FFARIQ Community

Your space is available ONLY to FFARIQ member foster families:

www.votreespace.ffariq.ca

Corporate Facebook: www.facebook.com/FFARIQ/