

# Inform' Accueil

**DEFENSE,  
CARING  
AND SUPPORT**

*in a  
**100%**  
human way!*

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Fédération des familles d'accueil  
et ressources intermédiaires  
du Québec



# Inform'Accueil

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# A WORD FROM *the president*

## **A BUSY FALL!**

Dear foster families,

I hope you have been able to enjoy the wonderful summer that has just ended. In this particular pandemic context, it is even more important to take some time to be with our family and the abundance of sunshine this summer was a well-deserved comfort!

At the FFARIQ, we have been working on several files, some of which will be completed by the end of the year. One thing is certain, the fall will be very busy: negotiations, elections, negotiations on the conditions of the FFs during the COVID period, and, of course, our symposium!

### **Negotiations: Satisfying Encounters**

Negotiations are going well. To date we have had more than 11 meetings. The 5 issues on which our many demands are based were tabled on June 3rd. In particular, we have discussed the clarification of the responsibilities of institutions and FFs. The FFARIQ strongly believes in the importance of our role in the lives of children in care; collaboration and partnership must no longer be a project in the making, but an obligation, a way of acting. For the well-being of the children, but also for us the resources, the conditions must be better defined, the procedures more harmonious with our reality of FFs for children.

The respect for our privacy, our home, our schedule, all the people living under our roof, our expertise regarding children, among others, are at the heart of our discussions. I can assure you that we have heard your needs and I put the energy, passion and perseverance into these negotiations.

We continue to represent your interests on all the issues we have committed to negotiate and we are pleased to say that the discussions are moving forward, not always at the speed I would like, but we are making progress. In fact, we are very eager to talk to you about some of the progress on training and many other issues.

The time will come to conclude the negotiations. Rest assured, we will present you with the draft agreement so that you can exercise your right to vote. We will give you more details in the Legal and Administrative News Section.

### **Regional and Provincial Elections**

Almost all the administrators of the regional committees have been reappointed. I invite you to join me in thanking them warmly. Their involvement is important to ensure adequate representation of the realities of each region. At the FFARIQ, everyone's voice really matters.

There will, however, be a change of guard in the Gaspésie region. Mr. Gaétan Lussier has retired, unfortunately for us! We are therefore looking for a new administrator.



As for the provincial elections, I am pleased to announce that my position and that of the secretary have been renewed for another 4-year term, by acclamation as provided for in the general by-laws when only one nomination was submitted. The Elections Committee will report to the Symposium, which we invite you to attend in large numbers. You will find more details in the Events section.

### **Laurent Commission**

The special commission on children's rights and youth protection chaired by Régine Laurent is finalizing its report, which should be made public by November 30. The FFARIQ, during its appearance before the commission and in its brief made public, called for changes to the Act to validate the accountability of institutions and for interventions to focus on children. We look forward to the commission's conclusions and hope to see changes soon.

### **COVID-19: Let's Be Vigilant**

The pandemic is still very much a part of our lives. At the FFARIQ, we will continue to keep you informed via our website at [www.ffariqcovid19.com](http://www.ffariqcovid19.com). Check it

regularly for developments specific to FFs.

We are also making sure that your health, safety and living conditions, as well as those of your children, are not forgotten by public health authorities and the government. Moreover, we make representations to the Ministry regarding the end of the temporary 20% bonus covering the hygiene measures that must be put in place. We believe that this is a poor assessment of the extent of the adjustments and we are working to have this decision reviewed.

Despite the particular context of physical distancing, the FFARIQ is committed to being there for you. By working together, we can create the best conditions to ensure the well-being of the children we care about.

Thank you for trusting me,



**GENEVIÈVE RIOUX**  
FFARIQ PRESIDENT

# EVENT



## 2020 SYMPOSIUM – CLOSE TO YOU EVERYWHERE!

It is under the theme *«Close to you everywhere! Altogether, we stick together»*. This year's annual symposium and AGM will be held on October 24th and 25th.

For us, it was essential that we get together, even virtually. We are very proud of the schedule we have put together. In addition, this **online conference** will allow FFs who were unable to travel to take part in such a resourcing and inspi-

ring event. And we are pleased to announce that the online format will now always be available, even when we can return to face-to-face activities.

Less comfortable with technology? Don't worry about it! We'll walk you through the process so that you can enjoy this moment for yourself.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2nd	Registration Deadline
October 13th	Sending of the symposium kit in paper version as well at the steps to follow.
October 21th	Sending by email the link to access the symposium as well as the steps to follow.
October 24th and 25th	Symposium and AGM

## The Program of Our Online Symposium

### OCTOBER 24, 2020

- 2 enriching conferences: Sophie Desgagné and Danie Beaulieu
- 1 inspiring testimony: Nancy Audet, from her childhood in FF to the sets of TVA Sports
- Drawing of several participation prizes

### OCTOBER 25, 2020

- Provincial Annual General Meeting
- Drawing of several prizes

# FF: SAME / *not the same*



## BEDROOMS IN FTR AND PF

The rules regarding the layout of bedrooms, ideally private, are similar for FTRs and PFs.

The following is a summary table of the requirements.

FTR + MB	PF
<p>☐ Room on the ground floor or on the first floor. If in the basement, it must meet the same criteria in addition to having a nearby exit to the outside in case of fire. The child must voluntarily agree to stay in the room.</p>	<p>☐ Room on the ground floor or on the first floor. If in the basement, it must meet the same criteria in addition to having a nearby exit to the outside in case of fire. The child must voluntarily agree to stay in the room.</p>
<p>☐ Window overlooking the outside.</p>	<p>☐ Window overlooking the outside.</p>
<p>☒ Minimum area of 80 square feet for a private room and 120 square feet for a shared room or a private room for a child in a wheelchair.</p>	<p>☒ Same size recommended, but not mandatory.</p>
<p>☐ Furniture: at least one bed adapted to the child's condition and storage space for clothes.</p>	<p>☐ Furniture: at least one bed adapted to the child's condition and storage space for clothes.</p>

# DECODED LAWS AND *regulations*

We demystify, in plain language, your rights and obligations as a foster family and the powers and limits of your union.



## NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

You have given us your confidence during the raid at the end of 2019 and we thank you for it. As you know, it is now our duty to negotiate an agreement for you with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. Negotiations are on the right track and we are confident that we will reach an agreement by the end of the year.

You will therefore be called upon to vote on this proposed agreement as soon as the FFARIQ and the Ministère have found common ground on all subjects. Here is how this step will unfold in the context of the pandemic:

- 1 Our president Geneviève will present the agreement in person in a central location as well as online. You will receive all the details to connect to the presentation in the days leading up to it.
- 2 Your attendance will be taken at the beginning of the presentation.
- 3 You will be able to exercise your right to vote, in person or online, depending on the method of participation you choose.

This special year has forced us to innovate. We are making every effort to ensure that your voice is heard and that the importance of your role with children is recognized.

# LIFE Story!

*Line, foster family in the Outaouais region*

## Looking Ahead

### **Looking ahead rather than dwelling on the past**

*Line has adored children since the age of 11 when she had her first babysitting experiences. At age 13, she told her then boyfriend that she wanted a family of 12 children! In the end, well over a dozen children became part of Line's life. Her family has five children, one of her own and four of her husband's, and nearly thirty young children have been welcomed into her home over the past 18 years. «The children are there to help us grow. We learn our trials and tribulations from them. For example, patience is not innate for me. I learned it with them,» she says.*

### **STEVEN : 8 YEARS OLD AND ALREADY A HEAVY BACKGROUND TO CARRY AROUND**

Steven's arrival at Line was rather unusual! His brother Jason had been with Line for two weeks when the two boys decided to run away from school. When DYP workers found them, the boys said that if they could stay together, they would go to a foster family. The DYP agreed for a period of time to help the children integrate. In the end, Steven and Jason will have lived together in Line's home for 10 years.

So, Steven was 8 years old when he arrived at Line's home. At first, Line knew very little about him: he was

one of five siblings and had a problem with non-medicated ADHD. He needed to be safe. He needed to build trust and acceptance of medication so that he could succeed in school, take control of his life and connect with others.

Over time, Steven confided in Line about his past that was so heavy for such a young child. He told her about his mother's use of cocaine and prostitution. Sometimes, to pay for her doses, she would give blowjobs to her dealers. Some of them would sometimes go after the children. The children quickly had to learn how to survive in these conditions and how to defend themselves by brandishing golf clubs. While still living with his biological parents, Steven attempted suicide.

Help  
focus on the  
future



## DO ALL THAT CAN BE DONE

Steven was found to have ADHD with Oppositional Defiant Disorder as well as an Attachment Disorder. He was impulsive, aggressive and profoundly disordered and had an emotional delay of four years. Needless to say, with this background, he was experiencing failure after failure in school. By the time he entered Grade 4, he had a 25% average. In five days, Line had to go to school eight times for Steven. He couldn't sit down to study. «I told myself that if Steven had been one of my biological children, I would have done everything I could. That's what I did for him and for all the other kids who came to our house,» says Line.

Steven did not want to take medication to help with his concentration. He was afraid he would become addicted like his mother. He was followed by a psychiatrist and a social worker and it took seven months before he accepted the medication. Line explained to him that people with ADHD are often quicker than average at understanding, but it takes practice to use this skill. Medication has helped Steven get the upper hand. He made friends and his school performance improved.

The transition from primary to secondary school was a difficult step for Steven, particularly because of his attachment disorder. Line had made arrangements with the teachers to call her when things were not going well to avoid being expelled from school. On several occasions, Line had to go to school because Steven was acting up and refusing to go to class. She would tell him that she could go into his class with him if he wanted, but he had to go. Steven's pride made him enter his class.

To help Steven and his brother Jason, Line signed them up to play hockey. Playing a team sport was very beneficial, but at age 15, just as Steven seemed to be getting the upper hand, a major loss left him vulnerable. His biological father, to whom he was very attached, died of widespread cancer. It was a real descent into hell for Steven: grief, sorrow, depression and then a suicide attempt. A second one in his short life. Line then questioned herself, not understanding why she couldn't figure out what to do to help Steven. She met with an educator who told her, «You can never teach a child to wipe his ass if he hasn't already shit his pants». She realized that the best way to empower Steven was to let go and let him learn from his experiences.

## THE RIGHT MOVE: THROWING STEVEN DOWN THE NEST

After 11 years with Line, Steven had been in his last year of high school for three months when he decided to drop out. He found it too difficult. Line gave him an ultimatum: either he went to school or he got a job. If not, she had to kick him out and apologize for not being able to help him. Steven didn't want to leave and Line felt guilty and worried. However, her husband supported her in her decision, reminding her that it was time for Steven to learn to stand on his own two feet.

It was a difficult fall from the nest. It took a few months for Steven to digest it all. Then he called Line to thank her. They saw each other and Steven took her in his arms and told her that he loves her.

Steven has finally finished his 5th year of high school and is currently doing a DEP in mechanics. He has a girlfriend. Line believes in Steven and his great potential. She now hopes that he, too, will be able to see everything he can achieve.

## FF FOR LIFE

Almost all of the 30 or so children that Line has taken in her FF give her news on a regular basis. At Christmas, they are all invited and they come with their spouses when they are available. Imagine the family party!

After welcoming all these children, Line has learned a big lesson: «I tell them I don't want to know their baggage if they don't want to. I tell them that I want to know where they want to go. They don't have to tell me all their suffering, but we can work together to focus on the future.»



# INTER- *regions*

To ensure that all foster families are treated fairly from one region to another, we are working to harmonize practices and procedures and implement solutions to some regional inconsistencies. Discover the latest advances.



## JEAN-FRANÇOIS RIOUX

LCCA COORDINATOR FOR THE FFARIQ  
AND REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT MAURICIE AND CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC  
jfrioux@ffariq.ca

**Hello everyone,**

You won't be surprised if I tell you that since March, most of my time has been devoted to the challenges raised by COVID! My priority is to make sure that you, the FFs, understand the instructions and information that is being passed on

### **COVID Committee: Supporting You During the Crisis**

I am therefore in constant contact with the institutions. During the height of the pandemic, we created a COVID committee with the mandate to meet virtually every week or two, depending on the region and the institution, to provide assistance and support to the FFs. This great team of people from the Ministry, the institutions and the FFARIQ ensured that things ran smoothly. This committee is still active.

### **Simplifying Information From the Ministry**

During this period of confinement, the ministry's communications were numerous, often complex and too long to read, especially since they were aimed at all clientele. I therefore asked for the collaboration of the institutions in order to have a summary specifically for FFs, which allowed me to ensure that we all had the

same understanding of the instructions before communicating them to you.

### **COVID Emergency: For Quick Help**

Je me suis aussi rendu disponible pour vous répondre direct I have also made myself available to answer you directly in the evenings and on weekends rather than asking you to go through your regional committee. The objective was to give you quick help with issues such as child travel when a case of COVID was confirmed in a FF. On Mondays, I would meet with the representatives to deal with the issues.

### **CPR and Other Trainings**

Despite the pandemic, it is necessary that you have access to training such as CPR. Institutions required face-to-face training, which was possible in larger centres but more complicated in the regions because partners were not available.

I negotiated with the institutions so that FFs that have been accredited for several years could renew their CPR training online. In the context of the pandemic, the institutions agreed. I will ensure that all regions are following this same guideline so that you can access this course format.

We recognize that your training needs go far beyond mandatory training. Since the beginning of March, training schedules have been suspended. We are aware that institutions are accrediting new FFs, but training is not available.

I am currently working to find a way to get training services back on track. Working with the institutions, we are looking at putting together a training program to meet your needs for knowledge about addictions, cyber addictions, cyber bullying, attachment disorder and more. I hope for a quick resolution.

### **Information for Our English-speaking Families**

Among recent accomplishments, we have translated for regions with English-speaking FFs the Frame of Reference and the Form for the determination and rating of support and assistance services, which are official government documents. The government did not want to translate these documents since we live in a French-speaking province. We took the initiative to help our FFs.

### **Let's Have Lunch!**

Good news! Lunch meetings are gradually resuming in the regions, in full respect of health rules, in order to meet your need to see each other, exchange and discuss.

### **LCCA Are Back**

Since March, LCCA meetings had been suspended. I am pleased to report that they have just resumed. I began the week of September 21st to meet with the institutions in the 8 regions.

See you soon!

# ECHO OF THE *regions*

Find out what's happening in each region: training, regional tour, issues of concern to foster families and, of course, answers.



## *In case ...*

**you have not yet subscribed to the private Facebook group in your different regions and would like to become a member now, here is the procedure to follow:**

- 1 Sign up by sending an email to the local Facebook account manager;
- 2 Search Facebook by entering the administrator's ID and then make a friendship request. When it is accepted, you can be included in the group and you can ask your questions.

## THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR ACCESSING THE FACEBOOK OF THE REGIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

REGION	ADMINISTRATOR	EMAIL	IDENTIFICATION
Mauricie/Centredu Québec	Sylvain Bilodeau	sbilodeau@ffariq.ca	Sylvain Bilodeau
Côte Nord	Mélanie Gagnon	mgagnon@ffariq.ca	Melanie Gagnon
Québec	Francine Boutin	fboutin@ffariq.ca	Francine Boutin
Gaspésie	Sylvain Bilodeau	sbilodeau@ffariq.ca	Sylvain Bilodeau
Laval	Annie Blouin	ffariq13@outlook.com	Annie Blouin
Outaouais	Lucie Renaud	lucierenaud63@gmail.com	Lucie Renaud
Laurentides	Louise Fleurent	laurentides.ffariq@gmail.com	Laurentides
Batshaw	Ross Wilson	patriotic101@hotmail.com	Ross B Wilson

# MAURICIE CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC REGION

From left to right: Martin Legault (South Shore reception director), Johanne Blais (treasurer), Linda Labbé (North Shore reception director), Sylvain Rivard (director), Jean-François Rioux (vice-president), Sylvain Bilodeau (president), Nadia Perron (social committee), Vélany Lafrenière (BM reception director), Christiane Houle (secretary), Sylvain Cadoret (com. and social committee director).

## Dear foster families,

The return to meetings with resources went very well. In some cases, they never stopped, especially for my three people in charge of welcoming the new resources.

Ms. Vélany Lafrenière, who meets with the new accredited mixed banks, never stopped. She would bring the documentation to the resource's door and then meet with them by videoconference. After the end of confinement, she resumed her face-to-face meetings and the resources were happy to see her.

As for Ms. Linda Labbé, who takes care of the FTRs and PFs on the North Shore and Mr. Martin Legault, who takes care of those on the South Shore, even at the time of COVID, there was at least one telephone contact and the appointment in person was made later. The resources were happy with the face-to-face meeting and surprised by the amount of information received.

The return of the regional tours was also very well received, as the registration rate was excellent.

In general, the foster families managed the summer vacations very well by adapting to the situation. Many are camping either seasonally or traveling. For travellers, the destinations were in Quebec.

The back-to-school period went very well, as the majority of our children were happy to be back at school and to find their friends and landmarks despite the new health measures introduced. For my part, none of my kids cried about the mask. The only downside we had to deal with was for the students in Secondary 4 and 5 who have to do 40% of their school time at home. Therefore, a babysitter must be provided for the working resources.

## Facebook

« Good evening, a dentist question! My three new children who arrived during COVID just went to their annual appointment. In total, I have six more appointments to make the necessary repairs... One of the kids is going to school out of town and she needs three appointments. Can we ask to be paid for the ride to school, back to the appointment and back to school? »

« **YES**, it is reimbursed. On the pre-authorization form, in the «precision» space, don't forget to write that this is a follow-up for a tooth repair. You calculate the kilometres from your home to school and from school to the dentist and vice versa for the return trip.



**SYLVAIN BILODEAU**  
REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
MAURICIE CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC  
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sbilodeau@ffariq.ca

*Sylvain Bilodeau*

## CÔTE-NORD REGION

From left to right: Mélanie Gagnon (President) and Valérie Tremblay (Director and Vice-President)  
Absent: Annie Bernatchez (Secretary) Mélanie Bézeau (Treasurer)

### Dear families,

It is already fall season. Time passes at the speed of lightning and the last few months have not been easy, but you have managed to get through this unusual time. You still have a lot of work to do and your presence with these little ones is essential.

During this period, we have continued to be present with our new foster families, but in a different way, either through the most interactive means such as meetings with the video platforms Messenger or Facetime. This is what made the work even easier due to the size of our territory.

This year we all had a very different summer vacation. For my part, going on vacation with 8 beautiful children had its share of unexpected things: a lot of things to think about without neglecting restrictions and sanitary measures (like not being able to stop anywhere) and a thousand and one precautions to take to make sure that everyone was safe. In spite of all this, it was a trip where together the well-being of nature did us good.

That COVID-19 virus gave us a lot of work, but the positive and certain thing is that it allowed us to get back to the basics: spending time with our families and being able to count on each other.

### Facebook

« Who makes the decision to send children to school or not when there are immunosuppressed people in the family and there is a doctor's note? »

This question was asked in the spring. It's a responsibility that belongs to the parents and it's up to the worker to look at the whole thing with the parents and try to find common ground.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Maxime Savard for his work during his mandate with us as treasurer and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mélanie Bezeau who has taken over.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



**MÉLANIE GAGNON**  
REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
CÔTE-NORD

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*Mélanie Gagnon*



## GASPÉSIE / LES ÎLES REGION

From left to right: Jean-Marie Lavoie (Vice-President), Martine Boudreau (Secretary) and Sylvie Anglehart (Treasurer)  
Absents: Mélanie Gagnon (Acting president) and Sandra Bourdages (Director)

### Dear families,

In the last few months, a lot has happened in your region. To begin with, the regional president, Mr. Gaétan Lussier, has left after more than 25 years of good service to you. Once again, I would like to thank him for all he has brought to the FFARIQ and to the members of the Gaspésie. In the meantime, I am the interim president for the region.

The region has recently welcomed a few new foster families, but due to the great distance, the meetings will be done by different technological means (Messenger or Facetime) and the necessary documents will be sent to you by mail.

The regional Facebook group now has more than 100 members and I am very happy to be able to announce it and to continue to answer your questions.

I remain available to answer any questions you may have.

### Facebook

« Can we claim the powdered milk we bought for a newborn baby? »

Purchased powdered milk is at the expense of the resource, unless it is a prescribed milk due to a special need for the baby. To make this claim, you must present the prescription and the difference in cost between the two milks will be reimbursed by the institution.



**MÉLANIE GAGNON**  
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*Mélanie Gagnon*

## QUEBEC REGION

From left to right: Francine Boutin (Treasurer), Christiane Robitaille (President), Patricia Anctil (Secretary) and Manon Dufour (Director) Absent: Johanne Bouffard (Vice-President)

### Dear foster families,

In this time of pandemic, many things are changing! Despite having to follow Health Canada's guidelines, many of you have managed to make COVID a pleasant summer for your users. Some of you took the time to visit Quebec in greater depth and some of you had the chance to go to your specialized camp or even camping! Having spent a long time without their friends and school routine, many children enjoyed the reopening of schools and wish to stay!

On our side, the downtime of the planned visits of our new families did not last very long. The president, Mrs. Christiane Robitaille, made sure to meet the families while keeping the required social distance. As soon as the weather allowed it, she went to knock on the doors and made sure that our new families were well informed.

### Facebook

#### Eyeglasses - «Who makes the claim to the RAMQ?»

Discussions are continuing to establish the course of action regarding this situation. We are the only region out of the 7 regions supported by the FFARIQ that requires resources to claim \$250 directly from the RAMQ. The institution's refusal to pay and forcing families to do so makes no sense. These refusals must be accompanied by a written pre-authorization from the worker concerning the need to change or purchase glasses for your child.

A reminder will be sent in the coming weeks to the Youth Centre regarding the FFARIQ's position on this procedure.

1- As a foster family, we do not have any rights with the RAMQ (ask for a card or information); it is the natural parent or the institution that holds these rights.

2- In my service relationship with the institution, employer-employee, it is up to the employer to reimburse for the services we provide to our kids.

3- In the Ministry's policy on accommodation fees for our kids, it is the natural parents who are the first payers or the institution. Therefore, the institution has the obligation

to reimburse the cost of eyeglasses. It is not mentioned anywhere in this document to make a request to the RAMQ for the \$250, that a maximum of \$125 will be reimbursed by the institution and the rest of the amount will be taken from the youth's allocation for personal expenses.

It is up to the institution to claim from the paying agencies, if applicable, the amounts that can be claimed.

We are pursuing our claims, but we need your help.

Have a great fall!



**CHRISTIANE ROBITAILLE**  
REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
QUÉBEC

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*Christiane Robitaille*



## BATSHAW REGION

From left to right: Ross Wilson (Vice-President), Brenda Gortler (Treasurer), Claudette Gauthier (President) and Darlene Oliver (Secretary).

### Hello everyone!

I hope you are all doing well because it is a difficult time for all of us. We certainly won't forget about COVID-19 this year of 2020.

First of all, I would like to welcome all the new foster families from our region. We will be contacting the new members by phone shortly as contacts have been suspended due to the pandemic.

For the summer vacations, most of us spent them in the backyard or on the campgrounds when the opening took place. We still spent quality time together while following ministry guidelines, but it was especially difficult not to be able to visit our families and grandchildren.

Home schooling has been great in helping our children study and follow their work through to the end of the school year. Now that the new year has begun, all schools are reopened. So far, things are going well. Some are having a hard time being in their assigned classes all the time, but generally they are happy to be back in school and see their friends. I hope things will get better so that we can end the 2020 school year on a healthy note while remaining cautious, which is the key.

I would like to remind you that we have a private Facebook Batshaw page and I would like everyone to use it for questions and answers. Please contact our vice-president, Mr. Ross Wilson, to be added to the group.

We will continue to keep you informed of the latest developments regarding COVID-19 through our provincial president Ms. Rioux who is working very hard in collaboration with the Ministry. As soon as we have news, we will post it on our Facebook page and on the website <https://ffariqcovid19.com/en/> So, stay tuned for more information.

### Facebook

«Can we get the tax credit and the disability supplement for children in our care until the age of majority?»

A child who is under the Youth Protection Act is not eligible for tax credits or a disability supplement, but you can ask your social worker for a review of the grid.

I leave you on this note, be careful!



### CLAUDETTE GAUTHIER

REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
BATSHAW

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*Claudette Gauthier*

## OUTAOUAIS REGION

From left to right: Josée Dorion (Director), Lucie Renaud (Treasurer)  
Absent: Carole Desjardins (Director and Acting President)

### Hello everyone!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to your committee formed during the 2020 elections: Carolle Desjardins, director and interim president, Lucie Renaud, vice-president and Josée Dorion, secretary. We will be there for you over the next four years. Having worked with many of you, I am blessed and happy to be here to help, support and advise you. We all work towards the same goal, the well-being of children. Congratulations to all of you!

This pandemic puts us in a situation where we must adapt to measures that can change quickly.

At first, we were forced to temporarily interrupt face-to-face meetings with the new families, but in recent weeks, meetings have resumed with renewed vigour.

The meetings with the Youth Centre have started again. As for the trainings, they are suspended for the moment.

Our vacations were turned upside down, we stayed at home or not too far away. We all found ways to amuse our children with what we had.

Visits have continued between parent and child, but these continue with rules of distancing and/or the wearing of masks at the request of Health Canada.

We must wear a mask, we don't wear a mask, we put the mask back on. We keep 2 metres apart, we are now 1.5 metres away... Oh no! It's 2 metres again!

We were all looking forward to going back to class! At school there are bubbles, but after 4:30 p.m. no more bubbles... the children mix in the evenings and on weekends... what do we do?

Feeling a bit overwhelmed by all this? We are here, with the support of the national office, to find and communicate the most up-to-date information.

### Facebook

«What are the conditions when you take a child into guardianship? You keep the same amounts. You will be given a surplus of more or less \$3.00 per day.»

You will not have access to a specialist from the youth centre. This will be your responsibility unless the child already has follow-ups with specialists before the guardianship. If this is the case, these services remain in place.

All future court fees, if any, will be your responsibility. The child will no longer have an intervention worker on file. You will be responsible for managing the schedule of visits and/or phone calls if these are part of the court order.



**CAROLLE DESJARDINS**  
ACTING REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
OUTAOUAIS

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## LAVAL REGION

From left to right: Fatiha Chihai (Vice-President) Annie Blouin (President) and Natacha Étienne (Secretary) Absent: Pierre Thibodeau (Treasurer)

### Dear foster families,

The return of meetings with the new families is taking place quietly since the evaluations at the Youth Centre have only just started again.

The foster families had a good summer vacation as several activity sectors were once again open. Several families took the opportunity to go camping while respecting social distancing, some cycled the streets of their neighbourhood and of more distant cities and others simply enjoyed the pleasures in their backyard at home.

The back-to-school season began with many concerns among the families. Concerns were expressed about the health measures that would be implemented in the schools, how the schools would manage a suspected case, and especially about how the pedagogy would be offered to the students (remotely or on-site).

On our region's Facebook page, a new theme has been put in place: Did you know? These columns provide relevant information and recommendations to foster families. The following themes have been shared on our page: CNESST, identity search and personal expense allowance.

The CNESST theme explained to families that they can register with CNESST since their residence is a place of work. A registration form has been placed on our Facebook page.

We also discussed the search for identity. This search is mandatory for all qualified caregivers and all persons over 18 years of age residing with the families. This identity search is valid for 3 years.

In addition to these themes, some questions have been asked by our members on our page.

### Facebook

«Do we have to send our kids to school?»

Yes, we have to send them to school because we don't have the decision-making power.

«Why was 20% taken off the payment slips for July?»

At this time, the FFARIQ is in discussions with the Ministry to see if it is possible to keep this amount unchanged.



**ANNIE BLOUIN**  
REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
LAVAL  
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*Annie Blouin*

## LAURENTIDES REGION

*From left to right: Céline Nadeau (President) Louise Fleurent (Treasurer)  
Absent: Patricia Cieslik (Vice-President) and Suzanne Picard (Director)*

### Hello dear foster families,

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our lives upside down and we have had to adjust to new and constantly changing guidelines. I hope that you are all doing well despite the situation and that the special back-to-school season we have just experienced allows you to unwind a little. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not over and we must remain vigilant in following public health guidelines.

In March 2020, as soon as the government announced the confinement, all meetings with new foster families were interrupted. By midsummer, we have resumed the meetings, but for how much longer, we do not know. A second wave is waiting for us and our beautiful and large Laurentian region includes some of the cities more affected by the spread of the virus.

### True story (Céline Nadeau):

Well, on March 13, 2020, I was staring at the television screen. It was surreal. The children were very happy to be on an early vacation. The days went by and we listened to the press briefings religiously every day. In the beginning, it was very good until the remote classes resumed. We then had to organize a schedule of school work around the children's teleconferences. We played board games, made crafts and meals, which often ended up being too intense to be always pleasant. If only summer could come with heat and make this nasty virus disappear like magic. Luckily, home schooling finally came to an end. Summer finally arrived with warmth and with permission to see our loved ones (adult children and grandchildren) again. The summer season was marked by a return to outdoor activities: bike rides, swimming and camping.

Very quickly, the school year had to start again, but how do you explain to young children that the schools were closed because of a big virus and that now you have to go back to school despite this same virus that is still present? Not easy at all! Nightmares accompanied the start of classes. After only three weeks of school, my youngest child wakes up with a runny nose and a headache. What should I do? I don't want to be the one to let her child contaminate the classroom and become responsible for an outbreak in the school. So, I take my little one to take the COVID-19 test and I decide to take it too. By the time I was answering the two nurse's questions, a third one was taking care of my little one and without my noticing, she had taken the test like a big girl. She then approached me and gave me her champion tights



that the nurse had just given her. I was worried about taking the test, so she gave it to me and told me that I could do it like a grown-up too. The little noses start to run in September and stop running when the maple trees stop running in the spring, so I might have to take this test every two weeks, every month... This might make a lot of tests!

## Questions facebook

### Assurances

«How does it work with our insurance to have help at home if we are hospitalized or convalescing for a month or more?»

If it's related to COVID-19, then the childcare costs are reimbursed by the Youth Center. The CNESST covers you if you get sick/accidentally injured solely because of your work.

### IDC

«Is it possible to have someone from the FFARIQ at the classification meeting?»

During the meeting for the rating of support and assistance services, no, there can't be someone with you... If you dispute (to be done 10 days after the reception) then there, you can be accompanied by the FFARIQ during the meeting for dispute.

### Ordonnance

«Is it possible to have access to the judgment pronounced at the last placement decision and can we know what was pronounced as conditions of access with the biological parents?»

No, we cannot see what is written in the court order.



**CÉLINE NADEAU**  
 REGIONAL PRESIDENT  
 LAURENTIDES  
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# PARTNERS *benefits*

Discounts and privileges : one of the benefits of being part of the big FFARIQ family.

Upon presentation of the FFARIQ privilege card, these merchants have agreed to give discounts to members of the Fédération des familles d'accueil et ressources intermédiaires du Québec. A big thank you!



\$150 on a full pair of prescription glasses or prescription sunglasses - \$25 unifocal lenses - \$50 progressive lenses - \$50 contact lenses - \$50 non-prescription sunglasses of \$100 or more - \$25 for 3 or more bottles of Eye Omega product - \$10 glasses for blue light filtration - \$250 laser vision correction service at the IRIS ophthalmology clinic in Laval. Offers cannot be combined, are not applicable to safety glasses and do not apply to contact lens service contracts or professional services.

Unconditional Guarantee  
IRIS - Interest-free financing - To benefit from your advantages, you must register at [www.iris.ca/avantages](http://www.iris.ca/avantages)  
\* Offer valid for all members of your family.

## TANGUAY

\$50 discount on any purchase of \$500 or more. Also valid in branches of Maurice Tanguay and Liquida-meubles until December 31, 2019. This offer is valid at all times in all departments.

Does not apply to previous purchases and cannot be combined with promotions offering the taxes paid. Discount applicable before taxes. Limit one discount per customer. PTR: 441869. Delivery throughout the province of Quebec.



30% discount on all refurbished Ordi vert computers or on in-store service. This discount is valid on regular price merchandise only and is not available in conjunction with any other promotion or sale merchandise.

The discount is valid for foster families only. The person in charge of the foster family making the purchases must present his FFARIQ privilege card. This discount is valid only in ORDI VERT DÉPÔT stores.

Visit [www.ordivert.ca](http://www.ordivert.ca) to find our addresses.

## Yellow

10% off the regular price of all merchandise at regular price. This discount does not apply during a promotion. Visit [www.yellow.ca](http://www.yellow.ca) for addresses. Offer valid for all members of your family. Ref. no.: 5033

## HANGAR-29

Payment of both taxes for you on all merchandise at regular price. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotion. Please visit : [www.hangar-29.ca](http://www.hangar-29.ca) for all addresses.



## LA VALLÉE SECRÈTE

10% off the regular admission price for adults and children on all courses. Visit [www.valleescrete.com](http://www.valleescrete.com) for more information on activities.



\$80 discount on the annual subscription (\$33.32 per month) in all centres across Quebec. Upon presentation of the registration letter and the FFARIQ privilege card. This rate is also applicable to spouses and persons 16 years of age and over residing at the same address. [www.energiecardio.com](http://www.energiecardio.com)



Take advantage of exceptional discounts on subscriptions to major newspapers and magazines. You can get up to 90% off the newsstand price. These discounts are guaranteed to be the lowest on the market. Please refer to your brochure or visit [www.rabaiscampus.com](http://www.rabaiscampus.com)



Take advantage of an annual Boomerang network access subscription at \$22.11 + taxes every two weeks. A savings of \$75 plus a \$1.20 discount on each visit! Upon presentation of the registration certificate and the FFARIQ privilege card. Contact us to obtain the registration certificate.



15% off the regular price of an individual or family ticket. Visit [www.biodiversite.net](http://www.biodiversite.net) for more information on activities.



AU PAYS DES MERVEILLES  
ATTRACTION PARK

2 discount on the regular admission price (adult or child 2 years old and over). Please note that the amusement park is open from June to September. Visit [www.paysmerveilles.com/fr/](http://www.paysmerveilles.com/fr/)



50% discount on your online police certificate requests. Visit <https://promo.idqc.ca/>. Call the FFARIQ to get the promo code.



15% off the admission price for adults and children. Visit [www.bioparc.ca](http://www.bioparc.ca)



A 10% discount for any online purchase on the regular price on in-stock items. To take advantage of this discount please call the FFARIQ to get the promo code. Visit <https://www.fdmt.ca/>

# REFERENCE partner



# fdmt

*For the past 18 years, children have been at the heart of our concerns and our mission is to help them develop to their full potential. We are passionate about childhood and education!*

**fdmt is proud to support the FFARIQ!**

**At fdmt, you will find:**

- ✓ Quality resources;
- ✓ Games;
- ✓ Educational materials
- ✓ Sensory tools for all stages of learning.

**Nous sommes là pour vous offrir nos conseils et notre expertise, autant pour relever les défis du quotidien que pour vous amuser en famille.**

**Favoriser le développement maximal de tous tel est notre mandat !**

# NEED HELP or information ?



Any question is good to ask!

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

## UNION REPRESENTATIVES - YOUR ADVISERS

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL	REGIONS
Olivier Auchu	418 561-9311	oauchu@ffariq.ca	Quebec and Côte-Nord
Maude Delagrave	581 998-1804	mdelagrave@ffariq.ca	Mauricie/Centre-du-Québec, et Gaspésie / Îles de la Madeleine
Raida Baklouti	418 554-6493	rbaklouti@ffariq.ca	Outaouais, Laval, Batshaw and Laurentides

### SO DON'T HESITATE TO CALL UPON THEM!

The role of union representatives is to answer your questions and assist you if necessary. Whether it is to answer general requests for information, to advise you in the event of difficulties encountered or to assist you in situations of litigation or conflict, they are there for you:

- General information;
- Questions about a difficulty;
- Administrative inquiry;
- Interventions during a report;

- Contestation of the classification review;
- Disagreement.

## COMMITTEE EXECUTIF - FFARIQ

NAME	PHONE	NAME	PHONE
Geneviève Rioux, President	819 691-6958	Johanne Blais, Treasurer	819 448-3542
Mélanie Gagnon, Vice-president	418 587-0209	Francine Boutin, Secretary	581 998-5238

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Maryse Breton, Accountant, mbreton@ffariq.ca  
 Nathanielle Lacmale, Executive assistant, nlacmale@ffariq.ca  
 Anne Cecile Zagouta, Advisors assistant  
 Isabelle Lamontagne, receptionist-secretary, ilamontagne@ffariq.ca

**NEED TO BE  
supported ?**

If you have a difficulty or disagreement, you not only have the right to be accompanied by a representative, but it is even preferable. Feel free to exercise your right, and call us.