

Inform' Accueil

DEFENSE,
CARING
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human way!

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Fédération des familles d'accueil
et ressources intermédiaires
du Québec



Inform' *Accueil*

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**Fédération des familles d'accueil
et ressources intermédiaires
du Québec**

A WORD FROM *the president*



A Satisfying Report that Needs to be Implemented

As you can imagine, we have followed the tabling of the Laurent Commission's report with great attention. I am very pleased with the observations and recommendations it contains. It shows that when we all work together, we can reconcile our points of view for the best interest of our children. I now hope that the implementation of these recommendations will also be a team effort and that we will leave behind the compartmentalized approach that has characterized the process for so many years. One thing is certain, at the FFARIQ, we are ready to get involved at all stages and we will be watching closely as these recommendations are implemented.



The FFARIQ: *A voice that speaks volumes!*

I am glad to see that the report's conclusions and recommendations reflect many of the concerns we expressed in our brief and during my appearance before the Laurent Commission. There are also other interesting elements regarding the improvement of conditions for children and FFs. Here is a summary of the key highlights of this voluminous report:

- Promote better collaboration for the good of children, namely by facilitating the exchange of information between practitioners and FFs through the amendment of the YPA and the development of guidelines regarding the rules of confidentiality to guide DYP practitioners on what they can communicate to FFs in the interest of the child.
- Improving youth protection intervention in the treatment of reports by, among other things, using complementary field verification and by requiring that the workers who receive and treat reports have appropriate university training and experience.
- Create a child bill of rights and appoint a commissioner of children's well-being and rights who will ensure that children have a voice; monitor child well-being and oversee the implementation of programs and services. This commissioner will need to provide ways to be accessible to children, regardless of their living conditions.
- Involve the child in decisions that are made about him or her, including ensuring that the child has access to a lawyer who acts primarily as an advisor. Promote this access by ensuring that all children who are the subject of a youth protection intervention are entitled to legal aid.
- The commission recognizes that FFs are an essential part of ensuring the well-being of children and providing them with a family. In order to ensure stability for the child by guaranteeing a family for life, the commission recommends better planning for the child's life project that would incorporate concurrent planning for an alternative life project such as adoption, guardianship, or majority placement as soon as the child is removed from the family environment. This also includes amending the YPA so that when there is a permanent placement, the court rules on contact with the parents and the transfer of parental authority to the FFs.
- Support youth in their transition to adulthood by allowing them to remain in foster care after they reach the age of majority, if they so desire.



- The Laurent Commission recognizes that the ARR has degraded the relationship between FFs and institutions and recommends that an independent committee evaluate its impacts. Among other things, the ARR has caused workers to monitor the quality of the work of the FFs when their role should be to support the FFs. As a result, they know very little about the strengths and limitations of the FFs, which has an impact on the best match between a child and his/her FF.
- Facilitate the recruitment of new foster families by developing an evaluation process adapted to each type of FFs and standardized recruitment criteria among the CISSS-CIUSSS.
- In order to support FFs, it is recommended that mandatory official training be developed and adapted to each type of FF and that support and appropriate ongoing training be put in place. Children and adolescents in youth protection often have a heavy background and it is essential for the FFs to be well equipped to accompany these children.

Now We Wait for the Actions

Observing the facts, analyzing them and making recommendations is already a step in the right direction. Now we need to move from words to action. We know that an interdepartmental action group has been set up by the government and that a commission will be looking at the revision of the YPA. You can read about this in the Laws and Regulations section of this issue of the Inform'Accueil.

However, we are keeping our eyes open to seize all opportunities that will be given to us to collaborate in the implementation of these recommendations. You will find on our website a section named Laurent Commission: the continuation. You will be able to follow all the developments which, we hope, will live up to a report that has taken our reality into account. As Ms. Régine Laurent mentioned when she submitted her report: as a society, we must be worthy of our children.

The next few months will also be busy pursuing the negotiations of the collective agreement. I understand that it is a long process, but things are moving forward, and I hope to be able to give you good news soon about the recognition that you all deserve.

Sunshine and warmth are just around the corner. The past year has been difficult with the pandemic. We all need to relax and spend some quality time with our families. I wish you a safe and healthy summer.

Take care of yourselves,



GENEVIÈVE RIOUX
FFARIQ PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

FF : SAME / *not the same*

OUR DESIRE VERSUS OUR PURPOSE

As we all know, there are 3 types of resources for children - this type does not define our path, but defines our reality, our history, our desire for a foster family.

FAMILY-TYPE RESOURCE (FTR)

Often starting from a desire to help, support, give and love, they want to welcome a child to make a difference in their life. FTR are welcoming children for a short time or for a lifetime... the future will tell us.

MIXED BANK (BM)

It starts from a desire to welcome for life, to give one's name, to enlarge one's family with a child who is in need.

PROXIMITY FAMILY (PF)

Surprise, a child in your family, in your circle of friends needs you. You fell into the world of foster care by accident, but your desire to support and care is just as strong.



DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES, *We all made the same commitment:*

- To devote time and energy to children who have so many specific needs for love, attention, and care.
- To provide a secure, stable, warm, and stimulating environment, home, and family.
- To be available and willing to collaborate with the child's natural parents, caregivers and many professionals or specialists.
- To be able to accept that the child's journey with us will not always be easy, which will be reflected in behaviours, obstacles, and delays.
- To be prepared to facilitate the return to the natural family if necessary, or to any other environment appropriate to the needs.

DECODED LAWS AND *regulations*

REVIEWING THE YOUTH PROTECTION ACT (YPA): THE STEPS

One of the conclusions of the Laurent Commission is that the YPA must be revised. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Lionel Carmant, has said that a thorough reform is needed. He mentioned, for example, the contradiction between article 3 - which says that everything must be done for the well-being of the child - and article 4 - which says that everything must be done to keep the child in the family environment. Without saying that the principle of keeping the child with the natural parents first was going to be removed from the Act, he notes that the focus must be on the well-being of the child.

How soon will we see a new version of the YPA? That is hard to say. The process of amending legislation involves several steps, which can take weeks or even months.

STEPS LEADING TO THE ADOPTION OF A NEW LAW

- 1 Registration on the National Assembly Order Paper**
The Minister advises that there is a bill to present to fellow deputies and ministers.
- 2 Introduction**
Minister Carmant will introduce a bill for consideration. The full text of the bill is available to the public.
- 3 Public Consultations in Committee**
This step is not mandatory, but it is very often used. It is here that FFARIQ can submit a brief giving its opinion, positive or negative, on the bill and suggest amendments. If invited, the FFARIQ will be able to present its comments to the commission. The commission is composed of Minister Carmant and members of the opposition parties.
- 4 Adoption of the principle**
The deputies debate and adopt the spirit of the law, i.e., the purpose and objectives of the law.
- 5 Detailed study in parliamentary committee**
The committee studies each section of the law, considering the comments and recommendations made during the public consultations. A report is then tabled.
- 6 Consideration of the Committee's report**
The members of the provincial legislature vote on the results of the committee and vote on any amendments, and then adopt the report.
- 7 Adoption of the Bill**
The bill must receive a majority of votes to be passed.
- 8 Assent of the bill**
The Lieutenant Governor approves the bill which then becomes an Act.
- 9 Coming into force**
This Act comes into force on assent or on the date specified in the bill.

LIFE story

Francine, 44, federal employee, and Gilles, interior designer
Family-type resource (FTR)

You have
the choice.
You can choose any
attitude you want

Reconciling our Differences to Grow Stronger

Francine and Gilles had chosen to take in children between the ages of 6 and 12 because the environment where they live is more suited to this age group. When the DYP asked them to take in their first child, it was Imane, a 15-year-old girl. They hesitated. In the end, the girl lived with them for three years and they also created links with the natural family.

THE FIRST SYRIAN FAMILY WELCOMED IN CANADA

Imane is Syrian. She arrived in Quebec with her parents and six siblings in January 2016. The family was leaving a war-torn land for a safer life. Imane is in school, but she is not familiar with Quebec culture. She barely spoke French and it was difficult for her. She is introverted, aggressive, and has a lot of prejudices and makes violent and unfiltered comments towards others.

Fall 2018. Imane has a strong desire to fit in, to avoid attention. Thus, she leaves the family home in the morning with her hijab. Before arriving at school, she takes it off and changes to be dressed like the others. Her mother knows this, but not her father. One day, Imane has a serious argument with a boy in her

school. The boy tells this secret to his father, who attends the same mosque as Imane's father. The father, upon learning that his daughter disobeys him by removing her hijab on the way to school, becomes very angry. He does not accept that Imane refuses to wear the hijab. Imane and her father argue, the tone rises, and the atmosphere becomes tense and even unbearable within the family.

Imane, who is afraid of her father's angry reactions, tells the school's social worker. The young girl, unaware of the consequences, tells what is happening at home. In addition, she mutilates herself, is aggressive and goes through psychoses. The police and the DYP are called and Imane is sent to a foster home for 60 days. Imane confided that she would have run away from home anyway.

DIFFICULT TO CREATE BONDS

Things are not going well for Imane in her foster home. There are other teenagers with whom she does not get along. Imane has a few friends, but they are not Quebecers. She does not appreciate Quebec values. Imane is unhappy.

At the end of the 60 days, the DYP asked Francine and her husband to take Imane in. Francine hesitates. Imane is a little older than the children the couple wanted to foster. In addition, where they live, there is no transportation to take Imane to school. Francine and Gilles met Imane on December 23. They are honest with her, explaining that they live far away, on the edge of a lake, with no bus. Francine tells Imane she can come to celebrate Christmas with their children and grandchildren to see if she feels comfortable with them. On December 27, Imane decides to move in with Francine and Gilles until she turns 18.

The beginnings are difficult. Imane communicates very little even though the whole family tries to make her feel welcome. It took almost a year before she opened up to Francine and Gilles's children and grandchildren.

"YOU CAN CHOOSE"

At first, Imane is aggressive. She fights at school, forcing Francine to go and get her several times. She continues to mutilate herself and to have psychoses. After a year, Francine has had enough of the girl's violence, arrogance, aggressiveness and judgments. She confronts Imane and gives her the social worker's business card and tells her to call the social worker to find another place for her.

The young girl goes to her room to think. The next day, she says she doesn't want to leave. Francine asks her what she will change in order to stay. Imane tells her that this aggressiveness is her father's temperament, that she is like that. Francine's answer is a turning point in Imane's life: "You have a choice. You are in Canada here. You can choose the attitude you want to have." Francine reminded her that this type of behaviour had no place in her home and that people don't like to be around arrogant, aggressive people. After many months of waiting, Imane begins psychotherapy.

Imane stopped fighting at school and being aggressive and started greeting people at school which she did not do before. Bright, intelligent (she speaks three languages), she has become a real sunshine for the people around her.

RETURN TO THE BIOLOGICAL FAMILY AT AGE 18

Imane has always remained close to her mother. Although no charges were filed at the beginning of the placement, visits with her father were supervised, but when she was no longer afraid, she was able to see him alone.

As for Imane's family, they experienced a lot of rejection from the people around them who, according to their values, did not understand strangers interfering in their family affairs. They were left by themselves. Francine and Gilles even took them in for a while to help them.

Now the family lives in a large eight-bedroom apartment so that everyone can find their place. Imane is hardworking and independent. She left Francine and Gilles's home when she turned 18. She has a job. She lives with her parents in a space of her own with her very own bedroom, small living room and bathroom. This allows her to have her privacy, as she knew it in foster care. Imane and her family go to Francine and Gilles's house in the summer and have barbecues. They share and learn a lot about each other's cultures.

Francine and Gilles describe their experience as extraordinary. "There have been ups and downs, but more fun than bickering. I would do it all over again," says Francine.



Today, Imane masters French well and has learned to know and appreciate Quebec culture. She helps her parents to better understand the values of their new homeland and to find their place here. Imane's sisters have also left the hijab behind, a choice that their father and mother respect. Imane fought for her freedom and her choices. Her time in FFs allowed her to grow, eliminate her anger, and make her own choices by talking with her parents to ease the gap between their views on certain aspects of their culture. She has a boyfriend. She loves her new home, and her dad has adopted a different way of life. He shares chores with his wife and takes good care of his children.

TIPS FROM *the pros*

5 TIPS FOR MAINTAINING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILDREN

Have you ever thought to yourself that you could not understand what was going on in your child's mind? That the relationship was difficult to establish or maintain? That you were not enough this or that? Ah, the guilt and powerlessness, what it can do to us!

Do not worry! These feelings are part of the parenting experience, but that does not mean you have to stop there and simply tell yourself that it is a forced experience. Here are five tips to do on a daily basis with the children who live with you to create and maintain a meaningful and positive bond.

1 TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD

Children and teenagers love to hear us talk about our youth, the challenges we faced and the funny things that happened to us. It shows them that we were kids once too, that we had our differences with our parents or friends, that the challenges and feelings they go through are not unknown to us. And on your side, it brings back your childish heart and reminds you to be indulgent with others' journey, because you too have struggled to get where you are now!

2 SHARE INTERESTS AND PASSIONS

Are you a resourceful handyman in your spare time? A passionate cook? A fan of running or yoga? Make room for the occasional child to share your passion with them. Tell them what it makes you feel, or what you like about the hobby to which you devote your free time. Children and teens are in the midst of their identity quest and there is nothing better than exploring interests with someone who is passionate about it to find out if it might inspire them too! In

addition, the fact that this activity is enjoyable and rich in your eyes will set up winning conditions for a moment of sharing. Be careful not to set expectations too high if the child does not like the activity in the end, simply congratulate him/her for having tried it and for having asserted his/her taste.

3 ROLE-PLAYING

Children go through a wide range of emotions in a day and often have difficulty identifying and naming them. It is also quite uncomfortable to put ourselves back into a situation that has made us feel disorganized or uncomfortable in order to give answers to the adult who wants to understand. Rather than questioning the child, trying to question the child, why don't you put your adult brain aside for a bit and approach things in a more playful way? Get out the puppets, stuffed animals and figurines and make up stories together. Let the child guide the characters' adventures and ask the child about his/her emotions. Often, children will give you access to their emotions and reasoning and you may be able to better understand what is going on in their little hearts.



4 MOMENTS OF COMPLICITY

Do you remember that teacher or family friend who you thought was "cool", who knew how to create a special bond with you so that you felt special? What did they do to make you feel that special connection? Maybe you had a secret sign that you would give each other to say hello. Maybe he would wink at you to show you that he understood your position when you argued with your parents about an injustice. Maybe he let you take something precious from him when you went to visit. There is symbolism behind these gestures that made you feel privileged. Try to see if you can find a gesture or routine that would allow you to create this with the child. For example, when one of us pinches our ear while looking at the other, we go into the basement to tell a secret or give each other a comforting hug.

5 TAKE TIME TO STOP AND ENJOY

As we often say, it is easy to get stuck in a routine and forget to stop for a minute to share a simple moment. Routine, homework, meal planning, behaviour management... it takes up a lot of our time and energy. But you know what? It brings a lot to stop and play a board

game, a privilege activity, or simply a trip to the park where we play with the kids instead of watching them! It builds on the affection and pleasure shared, and it has an impact on the feeling of belonging.

" In the end, these rich moments will engrave the children's memories and will help you forget the heaviness of certain tasks and difficult behaviours. "

In conclusion, I would like to tell you to allow yourself to put your adult brain aside to make room for your child's heart for your own good, and especially for the good of the little ones you are accompanying!

Marie-Pier Gagnon, psychoeducator & trainer
For your team of trainers at





Hello everyone,

This is the time of the year when there is a lot of activity in training planning. With each of the institutions, the regional committees and I are working on the 2021-2022 annual calendar.

As you certainly know, we have to take into account the ministerial orientations established by the National Committee for Concerted Action, a committee made up of Ms. Rioux, the FFARIQ team and ministerial representatives. Through this planning, we try to bring a variety of subjects, time periods, duration and even more at this point in time a variety of ways to offer you training, either in person and/or remotely. The FFARIQ has offered you in the last months' new training, we are proud of it and this test has allowed us to improve and offer you more.

FFs are required to take continuing education courses recommended by the National Committee for Concerted Action. In the last few years, new training on attachment disorder, oppositional disorder and other difficulties experienced by children in care have been added. It has been found that there is an increasing amount of complex trauma. Therefore, FFs need to be empowered to find tools and skills to support and accompany the children in their needs. My role as coordinator is, among other things, to standardize certain practices so that all resources can receive the same quality of training offer while being adapted to the more specific needs of each of your regions.

The Challenges of the Lockdown

The lockdown due to the pandemic accentuated the isolation of the FFs. Normally, the training sessions were given in person, which allowed the FFs to meet in another place, to exchange and share on these delicate subjects. With the pandemic, virtual contacts allow training to be given, but this privileged moment of exchange is more complicated, which can accentuate the feeling of isolation. The pandemic brings us additional challenges, but we have heard your need for training, and we are working on it.

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-PRE-
SIDENT MAURICIE AND CENTRE-DU-
QUÉBEC

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Personal Expense Allowance: I Need You on That

Today, I am asking for your cooperation. We are working with several institutions on the Personal Expense Allowance (P.E.A.: the \$5 a day) process. Each institution handles the PEA differently. For example, a FFs will get a child's hair cut and the cost is taken out of the budget for the child. Some regions tell the FFs that they must pay this fee. This is contrary to the collective agreement. Another example is that some youth centres will require FFs to have the institution approve any expense over \$100 when the classification tool says that it is the FF's responsibility to manage and notify the worker. Here is what the classification tool says:

Manage users' personal expense allowance and take inventory of assets;

When required by the user, the resource ensures the management of his/her personal expenses allowance or other amounts in lieu thereof. Whenever possible, the resource involves the user in the management of these amounts. The resource respects the principles of sound financial management. The sums are spent in accordance with their allocation and for the good of the user. The resource must report on its management to the institution, upon request. The resource respects the institution's policy regarding the management of personal expense allowance. The resource, in collaboration with the institution's worker, completes the inventory of the user's clothing, personal effects and other significant objects, when requested by the institution.

Institutions have a duty to collaborate with FFs, not a relationship of authority. At the FFARIQ, we advocate for your rights, your responsibilities, the rights of children and more. To do so, we must remind the institutions of their duties and responsibilities, taking into account the ministerial orientations, the collective agreement, the circulars, the regulations and the laws.

To help us assert and respect your rights, you must help us by communicating situations, refusals and procedures that

you feel do not correspond to our messages. On this subject regarding PEA, but also for all subjects: insurance, forms to be signed, new procedures, etc.

Every six weeks or so, a Local Committee for Concerted Action is held with a representative of the regional committee, your union advisor, myself and representatives from the institution. During this meeting we discuss all the difficulties experienced in your region and try to find solutions. I would like to remind you that we are there for you, whether it is for a personal resource situation or difficulties in interpreting the agreement between us and the institution. We also have partnership projects to improve your reality as a foster family.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me and the FFARIQ.

I wish you an excellent summer,



JEAN-FRANÇOIS RIOUX

LCCA COORDINATOR FOR THE
FFARIQ AND REGIONAL VICE-PRE-
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ECHO OF *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/Centre du 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	Mélanie Gagnon	mgagnon@ffariq.ca	Melanie Gagnon
Laval	Annie Blouin	ffariq13@outlook.com	Annie Blouin
Outaouais	Lucie Renaud	lucierenaud63@gmail.com	Lucie Renaud
Laurentides	Louise Fleurent	laurentidesffariq@gmail.com	Laurentides
Batshaw	Ross Wilson	patricio1@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), 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). Absent : José Dionne (director)

Dear foster families,

Summer will soon be upon us, let us hope that we will have a bit of a break from the health constraints and that we will be able to fully enjoy the vacations with our children. We had our last regional tour last March. As explained during the tour, I delayed the dates to be able to do it in person instead of by videoconference.

The number of registrations was 126 people, but 96 people showed up. We are in a COVID context so many people cancelled because they or their youth were in isolation.



We also offered a videoconference meeting via TEAMS, which was good for the number of people registered for the first time (16). We will be repeating this format for future tours as we have the technology to do so.

Let us change the subject now. Two issues are coming to our attention these days. The management of the PEA and the specific agreement changes. We are in discussions with the institution for its procedure on the management of the PEA, so until we make an official publication, NOTHING CHANGES, even if some workers tell you otherwise. Always validate with us if you are in doubt. (Sylvain, Jean-François or Maude).

The PEA is used for spending money, haircuts and clothing. Everything must be recorded in a bookkeeping system with a purchase invoice (clothing and hairstyle). The management of the PEA is up to you.

For the specific agreement, **ALWAYS CONSULT US BEFORE SIGNING YOUR SPECIFIC AGREEMENT.** Remember that if you sign, you agree to the terms indicated so it is quite complicated to correct later. All the agents at the resource accreditation office know me and have my email address so ask them to send me a copy and I will validate the modifications with you afterwards to see if it is what you want. Same thing for the endorsements. Here is my email just in case sbilodeau@ffariq.ca.

We will be available during the summer, so do not hesitate to call if you have any problems. Texting, Messenger and email are also a good way to reach us. If there is an emergency, you can also call the FFARIQ office.

On behalf of myself and my committee, I wish you a very nice summer.



SYLVAIN BILODEAU
MAURICIE CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC
REGIONAL PRESIDENT
Phone: 819-696-8592
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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)

To you dear families of heart,

A few more months have passed in this period that has shaken us all up a bit. We have been lucky in the North Shore all year long. The last few weeks have been a bit harder. Many people have told us their fears about all this. But you should know that we should have less left to do than we have done.



At the last TEAMS meeting, about 13 families were present. I gave you a summary of our board of directors. We discussed negotiations, COVID rules and I was also there to answer your questions. Two pleasant hours of exchange between foster families, that always makes us feel good! Let us hope that soon we will be able to meet in person.

I also want to thank you for your trust. We will always be there to help you, to listen to you, to accompany you and to represent you when needed. So even with the nice weather coming, I will be there. Do not hesitate to go on Facebook to ask your questions, it makes us realize that often we are not alone in this situation.

I wish you a great summer. Rest and take care of yourself!

Facebook Question

Who should take the steps to obtain the SIN for our youth?

I would advise you to talk to the worker. They often do the paperwork with the kid.



MÉLANIE GAGNON

CÔTE-NORD
REGIONAL PRESIDENT

Phone: 418-587-0209

mgagnon@ffariq.ca

Mélanie Gagnon

GASPÉSIE / LES ÎLES REGION

From left to right: Martine Boudreau (Secretary) and Sylvie Anglehart (Treasurer)
Absents: Mélanie Gagnon (Interim regional president) and Sandra Bourdages (Director)

Hello dear families,

Here we are already a few weeks away from summer and the mild weather that will make us all feel good after this winter full of ups and downs due to dear COVID, but I hope that everything is coming to an end soon.



With all the health measures, we had to innovate, and we had a nice TEAMS meeting where eight families were present to get feedback on our board of directors. This way we can be closer to you and keep you informed. This is even more important during this period of negotiation.

I would like to thank Mr. Jean-Marie Lavoie, vice-president of the committee who left recently. Thank you for your trust and your help with the foster families. Following the departure of Mr. Lavoie, **we are looking for a person who likes challenges, who wants to get involved and who is a foster family.** You can contact me for more details.

For some time now I have been receiving more calls and messages from all of you. Please know that we are here to accompany you and make sure your rights are respected. Sometimes talking with

someone who, like you and me, has been through what we are going through helps us. I will always be happy to be there for you and to support you. As soon as a hesitation arises, consult us. Whether it is before signing your agreement, for classification, all the rights in the agreement, etc., do not hesitate to consult us.

I would like to remind you that the Facebook is there for you to ask your questions and to share them with other families who have the same questions as you.

For the summer period, I will always be on duty and always ready to answer your messages or your calls. I wish you all a great summer and unforgettable moments with your children.



MÉLANIE GAGNON

GASPÉSIE/LES ÎLES
INTERIM REGIONAL PRESIDENT
Phone: 418-587-0209
mgagnon@ffariq.ca

Mélanie Gagnon

QUEBEC REGION

From left to right: Francine Boutin (Treasurer), Christiane Robitaille (President) and Patricia Ancil (Secretary) Absent: Johanne Bouffard (Vice-President) and Ginette Girard (director)

Hello dear families,

Despite the pandemic situation, the regional committee is proud to be close to its members! The Facebook is very popular, the calls are more and more numerous, and we are doing our best to hold our meetings in person, as well as in TEAMS! The summer period is at our doorstep, the vaccine seems to have a positive impact, the FFARIQ is behind you and perseveres in order to have the collaboration of institutions and partners. Follow-ups and support are always available to all members.

A breakfast meeting was held last March and despite the distance, the participation was very good. Many topics were discussed, and the Quebec City members appreciated it.

The committee would like to remind you that kindness is essential in all spheres of your family and, even more so, towards yourself! We are there if you need us, the FFARIQ is also available, don't hesitate to call us!

Have a great summer!

Facebook Question

I would like to know if there is a dental insurance in connection with our foster care job ?

Yes, Blue Cross. It is important to check with the insurance companies and tell them that you are a self-employed foster family, to make sure that you get a quote that meets your needs.



CHRISTIANE ROBITAILLE

QUEBEC
REGIONAL PRESIDENT
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crobitaille@ffariq.ca

Christiane Robitaille

BATSHAW REGION

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

Hello dear foster families and welcome to the new ones!

Please know that we are here to support you. Do not hesitate to contact us for any recurring problems, and always be vigilant about situations that may arise with the institution. We are here to represent you, so please do not hesitate to call on us before situations escalate.

I am happy to see our members using our Facebook group to express their concerns, and to see how we can help them by offering answers to their questions. If you haven't already done so, please join our group, express your concerns or ask us questions about your rights.

Continue to sign up for our newsletter and on-line courses! Courses are also offered in English. Please participate in large numbers! The CPR course, which is mandatory, is offered online. Sessions were held in May. More are to come; we will keep you posted. Just a reminder to make sure your CPR training is up to date.



Finally, I know it is crazy these days with COVID-19, but please be safe and get vaccinated!

Facebook Question

Can we claim the children in our care on our taxes ?

No, we can't even if we have the children until they reach the age of majority, because they are children of the DYP, and the institutions are responsible for them...



CLAUDETTE GAUTHIER

BATSHAW REGIONAL
PRESIDENT

Phone: 514-796-4491
cgauthier2014@gmail.com

Claudette Gauthier

OUTAOUAIS REGION

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

My dear foster families, my dear friends,

Still in the wave of the pandemic!

Nothing has affected everyone's morale more than this and has made us live through situations that we surely would not have experienced if it wasn't for COVID. But hey, with our knowledge and strength we have overcome the unknown so far. Congratulations to all of you! We will get through this and as Master Yoda would say: May the force be with you!

Report of the Laurent Commission

This document will be decisive for us, the foster families and the youth centre. The recognition and appreciation of our work as well as the many changes will make a difference in the lives of our users. Will the implementation of this manual make a difference? The future will tell us in the hopefully near future.

The Negotiation

For us resources, the renewal of the collective agreement will be a new beginning. Since it is the moment to take concrete action, it is now time to offer you the recognition you deserve. Ms. Geneviève Rioux, provincial president, is carrying out this negotiation with skill. The main priorities to be achieved in the renewal of the collective agreement must allow resources to accomplish themselves and to practise their profession with pride and recognition. I often hear: "Well, it takes a long time!" Yes, but basically, negotiations are long, and proposals are often blocked. If we want our work to be recognized, we need a strong figure. Ms. Geneviève Rioux is that person. She is also tenacious. So, when everything is ready for an agreement in principle, it will be to your advantage.

Facebook Question

For OPTOMETRY CARE, the resource ensures that the user attends the annual examination supported by the public plan (RAMQ) and that the resulting prescription is transmitted to the institution.

The institution reimburses the corrective lenses prescribed by the professional at their actual cost.

Every two years (unless required before), the institution authorizes a maximum expense for one frame: children 0 to 11 years old, \$125 and youths 12 to 18 years old, \$150.

The institution will only authorize an extra expense (anti-reflective, anti-scratch, thinning) if it is clinically required.

The institution generally reimburses broken eyeglasses, but ensures that the youth, the resource and the parents are vigilant to avoid repetitive breakage.

Face-to-face Meetings

When the committee has a chance to do this again, you will be notified as soon as possible; however, in the meantime, by June we will have our annual regional meeting. A letter will be sent by mail and/or email and the regional Facebook private when the date is reserved.

Thank you from the entire regional committee team. Do not hesitate to contact the regional office at **819 923-5081** or the central office in Quebec City at **1 866 529-5868** for any questions.

Happy spring!



CAROLLE DESJARDINS

OUTAOUAIS
REGIONAL PRESIDENT
Phone: 819-923-5081
cdesjardins@ffariq.ca

LAVAL REGION

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

Hello dear foster families,



Despite the pandemic, we had the chance to meet virtually last March through TEAMS. During this meeting, we had the opportunity to discuss the latest developments in our region in a friendly manner or simply ask questions and share some concerns. We also had the privilege of listening to Ms. Rioux present the various points related to the current negotiations.

From one meeting to the next, the number of participants continues to grow and we are very happy to see this. We strongly encourage you to come to future meetings to take part in this information sharing.

Facebook Questions

Vaccinations:

When can you make an appointment for a vaccination as a foster family?

Foster families are in the category of workers who offer a direct service to users. So you can already make an appointment to be vaccinated in our region.

Buying glasses.

How works the procedure for buying glasses. ?

You must go to the optometrist designated by the youth centre, pay for the glasses and be reimbursed when the bill is sent with the monthly payment sheet.

A recurring problem is the maintenance of the Personal Expense Allowance (PEA) at the end of the tax year. In order to remedy this situation, the FFARIQ team proposes to spend time with families to explain, demonstrate and demystify how to properly organize these documents.

The next general assembly will be held next June. We will notify you of the exact date. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact the team by phone, email or Facebook. We are always available, even during the summer.



ANNIE BLOUIN

LAVAL
REGIONAL PRESIDENT
Phone: 514-292-3564
ablouin@ffariq.ca

LAURENTIDES REGION

From left to right: Céline Nadeau (Interim regional president) Louise Fleurent (Treasurer)
Absent: Chantal Derisse (Director)

Hello dear foster families,

This is the last word I will write to you. Personal reasons force me to leave the presidency of the regional committee. I leave you in good hands. I know that the team at the FFARIQ and the interim president Mélanie Gagnon will take good care of you until someone is appointed as president. You can reach Mélanie by email or by phone. And the private Facebook group is always a good place to ask general questions.

If you would like to get involved in the regional committee, you can contact Melanie. She will give you more information.

Facebook Question

Are neuropsychological evaluations paid for by the DYP? For the children who live with us.

Make sure you have the pediatrician's request, have evidence that the child has real needs. Take notes of the facts related to this youth and date them. It is up to the worker to file the request with their supervisor. Follow up on your request if you do not get a response. You must have the institution's permission before engaging in this process. It is essential to have this type of evaluation to better accompany this young person and to have the right leads to better medicate if necessary. To have the best tools to enable him or her to take on new challenges. We must believe in this.

I would like to conclude by wishing you a great summer. For the past year, everything has been more complicated with the pandemic. Take this opportunity to spend quality time with your family, it is essential. And above all, continue your efforts. We see the light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines. Don't give up!



CÉLINE NADEAU

LAURENTIDES
INTERIM REGIONAL PRESIDENT
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PARTNERS

benefits

Discounts and privileges: one of the benefits of being part of the big FFA-RIQ 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
* 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 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 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 for all addresses.



LA VALLÉE
SECRÈTE

10% off the regular admission price for adults and children on all courses. Visit www.valleesecrete.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



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



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 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/



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



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.fdm.ca/>



Get 10% off the price of clothing in store. This discount is valid on regular-priced merchandise only and is not valid in combination with any other promotion. It excludes merchandise on sale, promotion and decoration. Bedding, towels and facecloths are allowed. The discount is valid for children in foster families only and the parent must present his or her FFARIQ privilege card at the time of purchase. Visit <https://www.modechoc.ca/> to find our addresses.

REFERENCE partner



The Institut de formation en santé et services sociaux (IFSSS) is collaborating with the FFARIQ to develop and offer training adapted to the reality and needs of foster families. IFSSS is pleased to announce that Stéphanie Deslauriers, a well-known psychoeducator, has joined its team of trainers. She will offer training and clinical supervision in partnership with the FFARIQ.

Stéphanie has a lot to offer. She has been working with families since 2006. She believes in their ability to adapt. The relationship of trust is easily created thanks, among other things, to Stéphanie's humanistic and empathetic approach. She is an enthusiast of imperfect parenting and of relieving guilt. She knows how to listen without judgment in order to propose realistic avenues of reflection and intervention adapted to the needs, strengths and limitations of family members. She is also a clinical supervisor recognized by her professional order, the OPPQ.

She wants to make them think about the world and themselves through validated information as well as funny and touching examples. She encourages discussion, confidences and laughter with her natural empathy and undeniable sense of humour.

Stephanie is also the author of several books, writes for various media outlets and is a contributor to the television show *Format familial*. Stéphanie approaches topics with openness, respect and humour while proposing avenues for reflection as well as practical and realistic solutions. You will have the chance to meet her during the next training sessions and to hear her on various subjects in the video capsules.



When there is no pandemic, she travels throughout Quebec to meet with children, teenagers, parents and caregivers to raise awareness of various realities.

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
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

FFARIQ HEAD OFFICE - QUEBEC

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Maryse Breton, Accountant, mbreton@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.