

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*

SUMMARY

- 03 A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 04 EVENTS
- 05 LAWS AND NEGOTIATIONS
- 06 LIFE STORY
- 09 TIPS FROM THE PROS
- 11 INTER-REGIONAL
- 13 ECHOS FROM THE REGIONS
- 14 MAURICIE CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC REGION
- 15 CÔTE-NORD REGION
- 16 GASPÉSIE / LES ÎLES REGION
- 17 QUEBEC REGION
- 18 OUTAOUAIS REGION
- 19 MONTREAL- BATSHAW REGION
- 20 LAURENTIDES REGION
- 21 LAVAL REGION
- 22 REFERENCE PARTNERS
- 24 ADDRESS



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

A WORD FROM *the president*



Unwavering Support for Quebec Foster Families

In the last issue of the Inform'Accueil, we told you about the upcoming raid. This took place in January 2023, with the result that we retained the regions we represent, which means 50% of Quebec's regions. Thank you to all our members, employees and friends who worked so hard to communicate their assurance that FFARIQ is the association best equipped to represent foster families, since it is itself made up of foster families.

Now it's time to negotiate!

REVIEW OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

On May 10, we held an EGM to inform our members on various issues and to gather their opinions to guide our further actions. Three important topics were discussed.

1 Negotiation and priorities

We have presented our members with a negotiating brief. It was drawn up on the basis of the concerns you expressed to us during the plenary session held at our October 2022 convention, as well as the communications received for consultation, support and guidance on various subjects and delicate situations. The various disagreements tabled are also part of the elements we have integrated into these specifications.

It is therefore with your approval that we enter into negotiations with the Ministry. We will keep you rigorously informed of the progress of negotiations, so that we are always in a position to represent you properly.

2 Exceptional lump sum

We informed you that the Auxiliaire aux services de santé et services sociaux (ASSS) had won its case. Instead of the large gain that should have been offered to resources as provided for in the ARR and the collective agreement, the Ministry called the five unions together to inform them of a much lower offer. Following the information we sent you concerning the Ministry's decision, its impact on your reality, and the decision of certain unions to accept this discounted offer, you mandated us to continue the discussion. We will continue to defend your interests on this point and keep you informed of developments.

3 Bill 15

With this bill, the Ministry wants to reduce the diversity of unions by region. It also wants to standardize processes and applications across all regions to avoid dissonance. We're keeping a close eye on the situation and will keep you informed.

FFARIQ IS QUEBEC'S LARGEST CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

In this context, the Board of Directors has decided to continue to respond to all Quebec foster families who have become members, in addition to allowing them to benefit from the free training and conferences we offer our members. They also have access to child development tools, advice, and various discounts. However, certain services are reserved exclusively for member families in the regions represented by the FFARIQ, such as support and advocacy with institutions, participation in regional and provincial activities, and free telemedicine services.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR TELEMEDICINE REGISTRATION?

In the last Inform'Accueil, we informed you that FFARIQ had decided to offer telemedicine services free of charge to the members it represents. Many of you expressed your enthusiasm. To date, 343 members represented by the FFARIQ have used this telemedicine service. This service, offered exclusively to our members in the regions we represent, is a response to the difficulties you face when you need to see a doctor quickly for yourself or your children. It seemed only natural to set up this service to support you in your day-to-day work.

If you still haven't registered, go to YourSpace to download the application.

I wish you a wonderful summer with your little ones!

GENEVIÈVE RIOUX
PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

EVENTS

Symposium 2023

Fun, Discussion and Inspiration!

Our speakers

To give you a hint of what's in store, we're proud to introduce the two speakers you'll have the pleasure of hearing.

**Mathieu Gratton**

A beautiful detour: that's how Mathieu Gratton describes his son Benjamin's diagnosis of autism. A detour filled with insecurities, but also with happiness. Renowned for his boundless, unbridled imagination, Mathieu Gratton has

been active in the entertainment industry for over 25 years. In this speech, he presents himself without censorship and opens his heart to you.

**Josélito Michaud**

This man of great humanity will be sharing with us the life experiences and anecdotes that have marked his career. Throughout his career as an animator-interviewer, he has shown great openness to others. His interviews are

always filled with emotion and authenticity.

The conferences will be followed by an interactive activity you're sure to enjoy!

When? | October 21 and 22, 2023
Where? | Mont Sainte-Anne Convention Centre
How? | Hybrid mode (face-to-face and virtual)

Plenary October 22, 2023

Sunday morning, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., will be devoted entirely to round-table discussions on hot topics such as the collective agreement and Bill 15. This is your opportunity to make your position heard on a variety of subjects.

Full details of how to register and attend Symposium 2023 will be announced over the summer on the YourSpace portal, and by mail for those who have chosen this means of communication.

Mark your calendars now!

New!

A festive theme evening!

Saturday's dinner and party will be Country Chic!

We invite you to dress according to the theme.



Country Chic!

More details coming soon.

Stay tuned!

For the FFARIQ, representing foster families is more than just a word. It's a commitment deeply rooted in our DNA. This translates into a real process of getting to know your needs and issues in order to negotiate **on your behalf**, as well as regular follow-up to keep you informed of progress.

Message from your Negotiating Committee

The negotiating committee of the Fédération des familles d'accueil et des ressources intermédiaires du Québec (FFARIQ) has presented its work for the upcoming negotiations. The committee, made up of Geneviève Rioux, FFARIQ provincial president, Chantal St-Pierre, coordinator of negotiations and application of the collective agreement, and Éric Martineau, lawyer, believes that it is essential to inform and consult FFARIQ members

and officers, so that they all support this negotiation project. For the committee, we must all address our demands to the Ministry of Health and Social Services together.

So, on May 6, 2023, the committee first addressed the members of the Board of Directors gathered in the new Trois-Rivières offices. **Two extraordinary general meetings were held by videoconference on May 10, reaching a large number of foster families.** Finally, on May 17, a final presentation was made, in English, at an extraordinary meeting for our English-speaking resources.

The committee hopes to have demonstrated the rigorous process that was used to establish, first and foremost, the major issues at stake in these negotiations. Once the backdrop had been established, the

committee set about identifying the priority demands that would be presented to the MSSS and that truly corresponded to our members' reality.

Over the past two years, the committee has paid close attention to the application of the agreement and the interpretation issues that have arisen. The committee has asked itself a number of questions: **What adjustments need to be made to ensure that the collective agreement is applied more consistently? What difficulties are regularly encountered? What are the recurring issues raised with the institutions? And finally, what issues have been the subject of disagreement?** This helped determine priorities for negotiations.

HERE IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE AND SOME PRIORITY REQUESTS :

1 Ensure compliance with specific agreements

- Major overhaul of the specific agreement, in terms of duration, number of regular places, respect for resource competencies, rights of regular and local foster families, etc.

2 Ensure a common understanding of the concepts used in the agreement

- Improved notions of recognized place, occupied place, permanent departure, temporary absence of the child for regular foster families and proximity families, etc.

3 Ensure the correct and respectful use of administrative and clinical-administrative processes

- Access to more precise reasons during administrative meetings, non-abusive use of blame, more general access to support during investigations or administrative meetings, recourse when terminating agreements, etc.

4 Ensuring optimal and safe service conditions

- Improving the time it takes to move a child, improving support measures, identifying transportation that puts the resource at risk, consulting the resource during the development and revision of the intervention plan.

5 Adjust remuneration and improve payment and reimbursement procedures

- Increase in reasonable expenses, reimbursement of transportation per trip instead of per day, time limit for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the resource, addition of reasons for transportation entitling to reimbursement of expenses incurred.
- Review of various salary aspects

Following these meetings, the negotiating committee sent the notice to negotiate to the Minister. As a result, the negotiation phase has begun. We will keep you informed of developments in this priority issue for the FFARIQ.

LIFE Story!

Jean-Pierre and Patrick, foster family since 2009
Mixed Bank | Laurentides

Jean-Pierre and Patrick wanted to have children. After considering various options, they decided to become a mixed bank foster family. They are currently fostering two children, including 6-year-old Tristan.

«I didn't want to be a
part-time foster parent.»

A leap in the dark

Tristan was already carrying a lot of baggage when Jean-Pierre and Patrick met him. Domestic violence had run in his biological family. Tristan had been injured himself. At the age of six months, he was placed in foster care for the first time, then returned to his biological family. Tristan lived through another placement with a return to his biological family. Tristan's grandmother offered to take him in. However, out of kindness and to ensure stability for the little one, she asked that he be taken in by another family. This is how Tristan came to be with Jean-Pierre and Patrick, his 4th foster family. It was November 2019. He was then 2 and a half years old.

«We are told that the children arrive in a bad state.»

When Jean-Pierre recounts Tristan's arrival in his family, he says he took a leap of faith. "We're told that the children are sometimes in a bad state. We don't understand what that means exactly," confides Jean-Pierre.

An initial one-hour meeting between Tristan, Jean-Pierre and Patrick and the proximity foster family, Tristan's grandmother, took place at the youth center, in the company of the social worker. "It was very intimidating. You had to establish contact, make a connection. I was sitting on the floor and it was cold," recalls Jean-Pierre. Fortunately, Patrick and Tristan made a great connection.

A second meeting took place at the couple's home. Tristan spends three hours there. The next day, November 4, 2019, Tristan officially arrives home with only the clothes on his back and a coat. On November 5, Jean-Pierre drives Tristan back to his daycare center, then goes shopping

with a drawing of the boy's foot on a piece of paper in his pocket, to make sure he buys shoes and boots in his size, as well as clothes. When Tristan returned from daycare with Patrick, he asked, "Is all this mine?"

TAMING EVERYDAY LIFE

Everyday life slowly settles in, revealing Tristan's needs and shortcomings. The little fellow is fearful and has difficulty making connections. You have to set limits and explain why. Taking a bath every day, sitting down to eat, not throwing food on the floor, being toilet-trained: these are all part of the necessary learning process. "We wanted to give him a solid foundation, because we knew that during the first year, there are evaluations after 30 days, 6 months and 1 year, and that the judge could have decided to return him to his biological family," Jean-Pierre explains. During the first week

of the placement, an anonymous report was made. Tristan had injured himself playing at home. The couple took him to the emergency room. "We met with the youth center. We were interviewed individually. Then Tristan stayed with us," adds Jean-Pierre.

LIMITS AND SAFETY THAT PUT THE SMILE BACK ON YOUR FACE

The first two years of troubled life for this helpless little fellow have left their mark. He has developed separation anxiety, which the social worker also calls an attachment disorder, and teachers at school call attention deficit disorder (ADD).

Tristan had difficulty with rules and opposition. Jean-Pierre plays the role of authority, while Patrick fills another educational gap. "We had to set limits, because he didn't know where to stop. I told him that on the third intervention, I'd ask him to sit down. And I had to respect that rule. At first, he would disconnect from his body without being aware of it, as if he were in a trance."

The couple also had to figure out how to create a secure bond with little Tristan. When he arrived, he had no pacifiers or blankets to comfort him. Bedtime was difficult. It sometimes took up to an hour and a half to get him to sleep. "We finally realized that his mother locked him up in his room. We had to make him feel safe, tell him again that we'd be there the next day, that we'd be having breakfast and that if we ran out of cereal, we'd go and buy some more."

Things are going well at the daycare. Jean-Pierre communicates well with the educators, which helps maintain the same rules as at home and ensures a consistency that greatly helps Tristan. After 6

months, the educators noticed that the young boy was laughing. This is something new. They have also noticed that he can now settle down and is calmer.

STARTING SCHOOL

Starting kindergarten meant a period of adjustment. This brand-new environment led to some more difficult episodes, but today things are going well. "Tristan understands better because he's growing up. He's made friends. He's learning well, he's very curious about everything. He's starting to read. He's very bright and intelligent, and he's gaining self-confidence," says Jean-Pierre.

But there are still some challenges. Tristan has Peter Pan syndrome. He doesn't want to grow up, because he thinks his mommy will come back for him. Despite the repercussions and loss of bearings caused by the succession of temporary placements and returns to his biological family, his adaptation to school is going well. He is learning to forge new bonds with the educator and teacher, and to find a new balance. The stability he experiences at home must also be established at school. "There are challenges to his values. He's afraid of losing his security. We have to reassure him, remind him that no matter what happens, we'll be there. He's learning more and more to name his needs, such as seeing his aunt, a very significant person for Tristan, whose maternal side is a plus for him," Jean-Pierre recounts.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY

"When you decide to become a foster family, it's the whole extended family that will give the child a place. They are the pillars because it's not always easy. You have to know that you're not alone, that your family and friends will always be there," confides Jean-Pierre.

The couple can count on precious close friends and family. A friend of Jean-Pierre's, who is like his sister, is very present in their lives. Patrick's two sisters and his parents, affectionately known as Grandma and Grandpa, are very much there for them.





Sadly, Grandpa passed away two years ago. "Tristan often asked to visit Grandma and Grandpa. He had a great relationship. Even today, he often asks where Grandpa is."

"MY MOST BEAUTIFUL CHAOTIC EXPERIENCE"

Becoming a foster family changes daily life in a major way and brings with it a whole new set of emotions. "I had to take a year's parental leave. My bosses are very accommodating. It's been the most chaotic experience of my life. When you throw yourself into a void, you don't know that you'll have so much support. The FFARIQ is there. So is the youth center. The visions are different, but we want to grow our flowerbed. We learn as our vision changes. The vision is that a child is entrusted to us, and we take him as far as possible. All in all, what we want is the best for Tristan," says Jean-Pierre.

Since 2019, a number of children have entered Jean-Pierre and Patrick's lives. It's not always easy to live through these arrivals, but especially these departures. "We had our first child when he was born, and we went to the hospital to pick him up. His mother was a drug addict. He stayed 30 days. His mother went into rehab and we lost the child. My heart closed up after that. I was so sad to see him leave our nest forever. I went through a major mourning process. I asked for support to help me live through this separation and better understand our role," confides Jean-Pierre.

THE STRENGTH OF A NETWORK

The first year with a first child is quite an adventure! You have to get to know the world of caregivers and adapt each time things change, which is a difficult aspect, because you have to stay connected, maintain communication and establish everyone's role. You have to maintain consistency, stability, and balance for the child, while at the same time getting to grips with visits from caregivers and recognizing the rights of foster families. "FFARIQ and other foster families are there to help us. Social workers aren't always aware of this. They make us do things we shouldn't have to do. The FFARIQ helps us assert our rights," says Jean-Pierre.

Having become foster families shortly before the pandemic, Jean-Pierre and Patrick sought to break this imposed isolation by finding out where they could make contact with

other foster families. "The meetings helped us. By talking to people who are also foster families, we can vent. It's liberating and rejuvenating."

In addition to his full-time job, Jean-Pierre is director of the Laurentides regional committee, where he uses his experience to help new foster families get to learn their new role.

And what about little Tristan?

"We'll be in Tristan's life forever."

TIPS FROM *the pros*

How to better deal with a child being moved?

Today, I'd like to talk to you about a subject we're often asked about at the Federation: when a child leaves.

As foster families, we are fortunate to welcome children of all ages, who have experienced different situations that bring different challenges and needs. Despite our experience, our willingness, and our benevolence, we are sometimes faced with the possibility of requesting a move. The reasons are varied: **a change in personal circumstances, illness, challenges that are too great, or a risk to the safety of other family members** are just a few examples that may arise.

The foster families who contact us about this are often tired and exhausted and feel a great sense of failure and guilt. It's normal to question yourself, to wonder what you've done wrong, and what impact this will have on the child you're putting through another trauma, another separation, another departure.

CREATING THE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS FOR REFLECTION

We're all human beings with our own limitations, and it's important to recognize and accept them. Here's what I suggest you do when you find yourself in a situation where you're considering requesting a move.

First of all, it's important to stop and think for a moment as soon as the thought enters your head. The longer you put



it off, the more urgent the need will become, and it's best to take this kind of decision calmly.

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS :

Are the child's challenges and needs too great? Why or why not? How has the situation changed? The point here is not to find someone to blame, but rather the source of this feeling of helplessness. It could be illness, personal preoccupations, the child's family situation, a new baby that's demanding a lot of attention, and so on.

Can this situation be corrected, improved, and worked on to avoid moving a child? If so, what can be done?

At this stage, it's important not only to tell your social worker what you're thinking, but also to ask for support and





help. The means you have found must be part of the discussion. And yes, it's up to the institution to support you and help you find ways to stabilize the situation.

THE AIM: TO AVOID THE NEED FOR EMERGENCY MOVE

I'm not promoting move requests in this text - on the contrary. I believe that if we listen to our thoughts, look for solutions to remedy the situation, ask for support and help, and put resources in place, there will be fewer move requests.

Resources often call us to make emergency requests. They've reached a point of no return, a state of exhaustion that calls for support which, unfortunately, is difficult for our institutions to provide. If we listen to our thoughts, clearly express where we are and ask for support, we may be able to avoid the need to move a child.

SOMETIMES A MOVE IS UNAVOIDABLE

In this text, I also want to tell you that it is sometimes necessary for us, for other family members and even for the child.

You need to be aware of your own needs and limits. Don't forget that you're the conductor of the train, you're the significant other for your children, you're responsible for them all. They have great needs, but above all they need you. By downplaying your needs and pushing your limits, you create an imbalance in your environment.

We have to recognize that sometimes we're not the right environment to meet a child's needs. That we're not equipped to help them. That we are limited to protecting them or other children. In these circumstances, relocation is the only solution.

Will there be any impact on the child? **The answer is yes.** Will you feel a sense of failure and guilt? The answer is probably yes. Will you feel unsupported and even judged by the institution? Again, the answer is, unfortunately, yes. Despite

all these statements, I can only advise you to listen to yourself. It's your responsibility to make the best choices for the children in your care, for your family and for yourself.

In short, face up to your thoughts, talk to the people around you, discuss with the caregiver, exchange ideas between foster families. Be proactive: don't wait, look for ways and tools to change the situation. Above all, don't put off thinking about it. If you ask before exhaustion sets in, the move will be smooth, planned, and respectful of everyone's needs.

If you need to discuss and exchange ideas during your reflection, I invite you to contact FFARIQ. We're here to accompany and support you in your reflection. I also invite you to watch the touching discussion Jean-Marie Lapointe had with a foster family on this subject. You'll find the video Le soutien FFARIQ at <https://ffariq.org/fr/la-ffariq/la-serie-de-videos>.

GENEVIÈVE RIOUX
PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



INTER-regional

Who does what? Do you know the respective roles of resources, institutions and of the ffariq?

Of course, being a foster family means offering a lot of love to these children, who need a secure environment where they can feel good and develop.

Being a foster family also means signing a contract with an institution.

Being a foster family also means being able to count on an association like the FFARIQ.

What are everyone's responsibilities in ensuring children's well-being? What limits must be respected? Beyond the emotional relationship you develop with the children you care for, you also have to respect a legal contract with the institution, a bit like marriage!

We've designed exclusive online training courses to demystify all this. In an interactive mode, these training sessions are dy-

namic and clear. To access them, make sure you're a registered FFARIQ member, then log on to the YourSpace portal.

Take a little time, at a time that suits you, to be well informed so you can create the best possible conditions for the well-being of the children you welcome into your family.

Roles and responsibilities of the resource

LEGAL ASPECTS

- Are there different roles or responsibilities depending on the model of foster family (family-type resource - proximity family - mixed bank)?
- Can the facility dictate how the foster family achieves its clinical goals?
- What does ARHSSS, ARR and YPA mean?

Geneviève Rioux, provincial president of FFARIQ and a foster parent, and Éric Martineau, union representative, answer all these questions and more, in an interactive format where you'll be invited to test your knowledge and watch explanatory videos.

FFARIQ's roles and responsibilities

LEGAL ASPECTS

- How is FFARIQ different from other unions?
- What kind of situation can FFARIQ help its members with?

FFARIQ is an association created by and for Quebec foster families. Guided by the values of trust, respect, helpfulness, and leadership, it represents and looks after the interests of 2,600 Quebec foster families. In this interactive and dynamic training session, Geneviève Rioux, FFARIQ's provincial president and a foster family, and Éric Martineau, union representative, explain what FFARIQ does and can do.

Plant roles and responsibilities

LEGAL ASPECTS

- Is the institution the employer of the foster families?
- Can a representative of an institution drop in on a foster family without giving notice of their visit?
- Can a specific agreement signed by mutual consent between the resource and the facility be modified?

The law stipulates that the institution and the foster family must be in a collaborative relationship, making it clear that orientations and means must contribute to the child's well-being. The law also defines the framework within which the institution must carry out its work.

Through interactive questions and videos, Geneviève Rioux, provincial president of the FFARIQ and a foster family, and Éric Martineau, union representative, clarify the legal aspects that bind you to the institution.

Come and test your knowledge to help you understand everyone's role!



JEAN-FRANÇOIS RIOUX

Provincial Coordinator for Regions and Training Manager
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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	Mélanie Gagnon
Laval	Annie Blouin	ffariq13@outlook.com	Annie Blouin
Outaouais	Carolle Desjardins	cdesjardins@ffariq.ca	Carole Desjardins
Laurentides	Sophie Quenneville	squenneville@ffariq.ca	Sophie Quenneville
Batshaw	Ross Wilson	patriotic01@hotmail.com	Ross B Wilson



MAURICIE CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC REGION

From left to right : Jean-François Rioux (vice-president) – Véronique Hayes (treasurer) – Sylvain Bilodeau (president) – Kim Peterson-Bussières (secretary) - José Dionne (director)

Hello dear foster families,

Christmas party

Since the Inform'Accueil was last published in December, I'd like to start by thanking all those who attended our Christmas party on December 18 at Complexe Laviolette. We were delighted to see so many of you. I'd also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank the members of the regional committee: José Dionne, Kim Peterson, and Véronique Hayes for preparing and organizing this event.

A meeting requires a lot of organization. Be on the lookout for volunteers to help organize a future event of this scale.

April regional tour

We tried the "coffee break" formula at the last regional tour in April. It wasn't a great success, as the turnout was very low. The last-minute invitation is certainly partly to blame, but your committee is there for you and remains open to ideas to encourage you to participate in greater numbers. These meetings are there to inform you, but also to enable you to share your experiences with other foster families. At the time of writing, we are in the process of organizing the May meeting. I'll report back in the next issue.

Training

I invite you to consult the YourSpace platform to access the training calendar. Once again this year, we're offering a variety of training courses designed to equip you for your role. Not to mention interactive capsules to answer a wide range of questions. If you haven't yet created your account, now's the time. Just a few minutes will save you many more!

A final word

I'd like to end by wishing you all a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you again in September for another regional tour. Spend some quality time with your little and big friends, and thank you for trusting us!



SYLVAIN BILODEAU

Regional President
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Sylvain Bilodeau

CÔTE-NORD REGION

From left to right : Cinthia Gagnon (Treasurer) - Roxanne Laforest-Bourgoin (secretary) - Mélanie Gagnon (president)

Dear families,

We're already into the sweet months of summer and the vacations for our little ones. The past few months have been busy, with the January raiding season being one of the highlights. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued confidence in FFARIQ.

Regional tour

In March, we held our "Meet the Family" tour, attended by 23 foster families. It's always a pleasure to see you again. I hope the next tour will bring new families to our meetings, which are always rich in information and sharing.

Family activity

The Côte-Nord regional committee is currently preparing a family activity for all three sectors. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Friday, July 28 in Forestville
- Saturday, July 29, Baie-Comeau
- Sunday, July 30 in Sept-Îles

In response to your requests, the committee is pleased to offer you a simple hot dog dinner. Your little ones are welcome. In the coming weeks, you'll receive instructions on how to register. We look forward to seeing you again.

Yourspace.ffariq.ca

I'd like to remind you of the existence of the YourSpace platform, a place designed by FFARIQ for you. You'll find a wealth of information: interactive capsules, short training sessions, conferences and much more. If you have any difficulties or need help accessing it, please contact me.

I also invite you to contact us with any questions or requests for support. We're here to help and inform you.

We look forward to seeing you this summer and wish you warmth and happiness,



MÉLANIE GAGNON

Regional President
Côte-Nord
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Mélanie Gagnon

GASPÉSIE / LES ÎLES REGION

From left to right : Nancy Blais (vice-president) - Mélanie Gagnon (interim president)
Missing from the photo : Jolyane Tremblay (secretary) - Sylvie Anglehart (treasurer) - Sandra Bourdages (director)

© Photo credit : Audet photo

Dear foster families,

June already! Another school year has flown by. That beautiful summer is just around the corner and, yes, vacation time with our little and big kids! Over the past year, we've held a number of meetings, and I'm delighted to see that you take the importance of being well informed to heart. I remain convinced that this is what enables us to better meet our children's needs. Our role comes with its share of challenges, responsibilities, and rights. We're here to help you sort it all out.

Yourspace.ffariq.ca

A quick reminder: if you haven't already done so, it's important to create an account on the YourSpace platform. It's a space built by FFARIQ for its resources. You'll find a calendar of training courses and activities, and an easy way to register. There are many training courses to come, as well as conferences, capsules, and videos that you can already view at your convenience, in the comfort of your own home. It's the foster family's responsibility to maintain a level of knowledge that meets the needs of our children.

A family activity to put on your agenda

In closing, I'd like to inform you that your regional committee is working on organizing a family activity

with your little ones. It's an opportunity for you to meet other families living the same reality. I invite you to take note of the following dates:

- August 9 in Sainte-Anne-des-Monts
- August 10 in Gaspé
- August 11 in New Richmond

We look forward to seeing many of you again!



MÉLANIE GAGNON

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Mélanie Gagnon

QUEBEC REGION

From left to right : Chantale Moreau (vice-president) – Francine Boutin (treasurer) – Christiane Robitaille (president) – Patricia Ancil (secretary)
Missing from the photo: Andrée Bouchard (regional director)

Dear foster families,

We're delighted to be able to pass on some information about your committee!

Since the last issue of the Inform'Accueil, we've continued our visits and tours with you. We've increased the number of one-to-one meetings with new foster families to inform them about our association, and we're always available to answer your questions. If you feel the need to see us again, whether in person or by Teams, it will be a pleasure for us to take the time with you to give you all the additional information you need to have a good understanding of your role, the services expected and, above all, your rights.

Activities organized just for you!

Many of you attended our December luncheon meetings, and some of you had the chance to enter a draw for FFARIQ blankets and bottles. Thank you for coming to meet us! It's always a pleasure to be able to pass on important information on various topics from the provincial level and, above all, to discuss the not-always-easy situations your family may be experiencing. We're here for you at all times. Stay tuned for upcoming dates!

Spring got off to a good start with a sugar shack activity organized for you and enjoyed by all. Just over 350 people came to enjoy a sweet treat with us, and we're delighted to have been able to meet you in a family setting. It was a great success!

Facebook: a must!

The Facebook group is as popular as ever, and all the more so as we can respond to your requests quickly. If you haven't signed up yet, please let us know as soon as possible.

Yourspace.ffariq.ca

Take advantage of a few minutes' lull to also register for the platform, YourSpace, a place where you'll find lectures, interactive videos, and plenty of tools to answer some of your questions.

New director for the regional committee

There's a new addition to our regional committee: an interim director has joined us for the remaining one-year term of this position. She is Ms Andrée Bouchard, a 12-year resource in Quebec City, who has had a great deal of experience with

resources for some time. She is an essential addition to our committee. She will be able to help us accompany you in your reality. We wish her a warm welcome.

Symposium 2023 - On your calendar

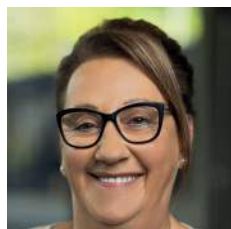
This year's 2023 symposium will be held close to home, at the Centre des congrès Mont-Sainte-Anne. Take the opportunity to come and recharge your batteries with us on October 21 and 22. We'll be sending you all the information you need about this wonderful convention very soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Negotiation

Negotiations at the provincial level are officially underway and have been since the special annual meeting held last May. Your opinion matters! Keep an eye on your communications, FFARIQ is there for you and with you. There may be more meetings soon!

Enjoy the summer vacations with your loved ones and, above all, get some rest - time flies!

We look forward to hearing from you,



CHRISTIANE ROBITAILLE

Regional President
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Christiane Robitaille

OUTAOUAIS REGION

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

Dear foster families,

A new chapter begins with the start of negotiations. The FFARIQ is everywhere in the media, in every possible means of communication... What is the FFARIQ? We hear or read DEFENSE, KINDNESS, and SUPPORT! What do these words represent? They're not just pretty words, they're big words that say it all.

Defense : we defend your rights and your recognition as an individual and as a family in your roles and responsibilities.

Kindness : we watch over you to ensure that roles are defined and respected between you and the institution.

Support : we offer support when you believe your rights have been infringed. And we're here, I'm here, to support you when you have questions.

My own word that defines it all! OHANA... which means "family". Family means that **no one should be abandoned or forgotten. Whether you're a regular family, a mixed bank, or a proximity family, we all have the same job: to defend, look after and support the children entrusted to our care.**

Christmas party

Great party once again! Nearly 200 people attended. Santa Claus once again made everyone happy, not forgetting our very own Josée Dorion, who had a ball singing with the children. To see their sparkling eyes, to hear them sing with Josée, to see them dance... That's what makes this party so special every year.

LCCA: Local Committee for Concerted Action

For nearly two years, especially in the last year, we've had the privilege of working with Sophie Gauthier, replacing Ms Pageau. It's been a pleasure to work with her. Collaboration and support like we haven't seen in ages. Our job is to ensure that your collective agreement is respected by the institution, to understand the grey areas and to find an agreement between the two parties. It's also with your help that everything will change. When you're going through a situation, there's got to be something we can do to change or alleviate it, but to do that, I need your agreement to discuss the situation with you.

Your committee

Our job is to be available to answer your questions. We will continue to work to maintain and respect family-type resources (RTF - MB - PF)

and to respect the application of the collective agreement in order to defend your point of view before the institution and to support you in this wonderful, but not always easy, daily life that is ours, that of foster families! In closing, one word cannot do justice to all the actions and achievements accomplished by this seasoned and committed team.

We have a beautiful region, a great region. Together we'll be strong and we'll travel far and wide.

We are your voice, your committee!

In the coming months, you will be contacted by telephone for a meeting of your choice. This will be an opportunity to discuss your rights and obligations as a foster family, as well as all the services we offer you as a member of the FFARIQ. A wide range of regularly changing training courses, Dialogue a telemedicine service for everyone living under the same roof, a lawyer service, a member service, an emergency line and much more. We look forward to meeting you.



FACEBOOK Group
FFARIQ-Outaouais

Your committee :

Carolle Desjardins President and Director	819 923-5081
Eric Gosselin Treasurer	819 775-2132
Stéphanie Lauzon Secretary	819 329-6004
Josée Dorion Support Assistant	819 923-5981
Line Waters Support Manager	819 790-3890



CAROLLE DESJARDINS

Regional President
Outaouais
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MONTREAL/BATSHAW REGION

From left to right : Ross Wilson (vice-president) - Claudette Gauthier (president) - Brenda Gothier (treasurer) - Darlene Oliver (secretary)

© Credit photo : Audet photo

Hello dear foster families,

We have come to the end of the year. I'd like to thank our executive for a very productive year and for all their hard work. We've had a busy time with raiding and welcoming new members.

Christmas party

I was delighted that our annual Christmas party attracted nearly a hundred members, and I'd like to thank our special guest, Mrs. Geneviève Rioux, our provincial president, accompanied by the charming Marie-Joëlle, one of our volunteer receptionists, who were on hand to share our Christmas dinner. A much-appreciated surprise.

English courses available

I'm pleased to mention that English-language training courses have been added to our agenda. I invite you to register.

Negotiations

Secondly, as you know, negotiations have begun following the last EGMs held in May, including one specifically for English-speaking members. Other EGMs will be held in the coming months to keep you informed and in touch with your needs.

Different needs of aboriginal children

A large part of our work also involves gathering more information about children from aboriginal communities, including a broader spectrum of their adoption needs. Some of you have received this promise, and we want a clear answer for you on this subject across the province.

Upcoming events

I look forward to seeing you all soon at our upcoming events, such as the summer picnic and our annual recognition of foster families for their years of service in the fall. Stay tuned for more information.

Once again, I invite you to make use of our FFARIQ Facebook page, where you can chat with other foster families in our beautiful region, as well as YourSpace, where most of our news, developments and events are posted. You can also access training courses, conferences, and online capsules in English or French, as you wish.

We take this opportunity to wish you all an excellent summer. Stay safe, and above all, enjoy it!



CLAUDETTE GAUTHIER

Batshaw Regional President
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cgauthier@ffariq.ca

Claudette Gauthier



LAURENTIDES REGION

From left to right : Sophie Quenneville (vice-présidente) - Chantale Dérissé (secrétaire) – Ghislaine Pelletier Robitaille (présidente)
Missing from the photo : Jean-Pierre Beaulieu (director)

Dear foster families,

We're already very close to the vacations. Before you go anywhere else, I'd like to take a look back at the past year with you.

We've worked hard to keep you better informed, to provide you with the support you need, and to listen to your feedback so that we can keep improving.

Thank you to the resources that remain loyal to the meetings we organize specifically for you.

Your regional committee would like to see an increase in the number of participants invited to our various activities. We have over 600 resources in the Laurentides region to date, and we hope to meet you all at one or other of our activities.

New recruits to the committee

To meet demand, we are pleased to welcome two new members to our team. Ms. Caroline Laporte and Ms. Michelle Circé will be in charge of calls to new resources. You'll have the chance to meet them at our meetings. They're already doing an excellent job.

Welcoming new foster families

Sophie Quenneville has introduced a new approach to welcoming new resources. Rather than contacting new FTR and PF resources by phone to make an appointment, and meeting them door-to-door, we've decided to be more proactive. Special meetings are organized for new resources accredited in recent months.

We welcomed 38 new resources to this new format of face-to-face meetings. The families were very diverse: young families, grannies as PF. We talked about different topics such as the different forms and the payment slip. We received a fantastic response and had some incredible questions that we were able to answer for the benefit of all the new foster families present. We also took the opportunity to have them sign their membership cards. Two support staff are also on hand to make individual calls.

We're very proud of this new formula. Things have changed a lot since 2019, and we felt it was necessary to offer new foster families a first meeting to provide them with the right support.

In fact, if any foster families who were accredited during the pandemic would like to take part in one of these meetings, they can contact us at the regional committee.

Activity organized just for you! A great success!

WOW! La cabane à Loulou was a great success. We had a great turnout, with 582 people in attendance.

Happiness and bright eyes for the children... Special thanks to Sophie Quenneville, vice-president of your regional committee, who took charge of this wonderful event.

We were honoured by the presence of provincial vice-president Mélanie Gagnon. She had lots of hands to shake and was very active in handing out "Je suis FFARIQ" bracelets.

Numerous prizes were offered

Many of you had the chance to win one of the many door prizes: gift cards, conference weekends, not to mention the 4 \$500 day camp registration prizes. Thanks to the Fondation des Centres Jeunesse des Laurentides for this privilege.

Register on YourSpace.ffariq.ca

If you haven't already registered for the YourSpace platform, hurry up. It's a platform designed by FFARIQ for foster families. It's a place where you'll find numerous interactive capsules, videos of tips and tricks, conferences and more. You'll have the chance to receive the calendar of activities and training courses in real time, with a simple method for registering.

**Thank you for coming! We're here for you.
"I am FFARIQ".**



GHISLAINE PELLETIER ROBITAILLE

Regional President & Administrator
Laurentian Region
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Ghislaine Pelletier Robitaille

LAVAL REGION

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

© Photo credit : Audet photo

Hello dear foster families,

Our region was the target of several other persistent unions during the raid. Despite their intensity, our members remained strong and demonstrated their allegiance to FFARIQ, which offers better support and service to every member. Thank you all for your vote of confidence.

Welcome to our new Foster families!

Our big family is growing! More than 10 new families have joined us since January. We'd like to welcome you and look forward to meeting you. We'd also like to remind you that your committee is always on hand to answer any questions or comments you may have about your work as a foster family and the kids you take in.

Family activities

On April 15, the Laval region went for a sweet treat. Young and old alike joined in this sugar shack activity to share, exchange, and catch up on the latest news from their regional committee. Over 35 families attended. It was a pleasure to be together at last, and to bond together!

In your diary

Another activity is in store for our families this autumn. Autumn means changing leaf colors, and that means apple picking. We invite you in large numbers to our

annual apple-picking event on September 30, with details to follow on time and place.

YourSpace.ffariq.ca

Don't forget to register on the YourSpace platform if you haven't already done so. It's a place created just for you, the foster families. Training sessions, interactive information capsules, tips and tricks videos, advice and calendars of activities and training sessions are all available there.

In the meantime, we wish you a wonderful summer season. Enjoy the fine weather and the wonderful moments with your family.



ANNIE BLOUIN

Regional President
Laval
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Annie Blouin

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!



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Promo code: FFARIQ10

For more information: www.lassembleuse.com

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



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— offrir la mémoire —

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