

# Inform' *Accueil*

| Volume 20 | Number 03 | December 2024

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



Fédération des familles d'accueil  
et ressources intermédiaires  
du Québec

50  
ans





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# A Word from our President

Hello dear foster families,

Since the September issue of the *Inform'accueil*, we've seen a lot of new developments.

Still Crazy About our Children After 50 Years - a Symposium to Remember!

We celebrated our 50th anniversary in style! We paid tribute to all those who make the FFARIQ such a valuable and relevant association: our builders, the members of our regional committees who support you on a daily basis, and our employees who skilfully navigate the administrative maze to defend your rights.

And you, foster families, families at heart, who take in children from the DYP, who provide them with the security they so desperately need. Your mission is NOBLE! Thanks to your benevolent care, they will be able to spread their wings towards a brighter horizon.

We also took advantage of the symposium to launch our pressure tactics, as Minister Carmant does not seem to understand the reality on the ground and our legitimate demands. After 36 meetings, negotiations have still not reached a conclusion.

The balloon release was a highlight for the foster families. The heart-shaped balloons took to the air to symbolize the children who take flight thanks to appropriate care and the affection, tenderness and peace of mind provided by foster families. With this gesture, we demand support and understanding from public authorities of the needs of these children, who are the future of our society.

To show our solidarity with this cause we all hold so dear, proudly wear the heart button symbolizing the small, frayed hearts that come into our lives and for whom we provide security, freedom and the guidance they need to regain their self-confidence.

I'd like to congratulate the entire team who took charge of organizing the symposium, under the leadership of Annie Blouin, interim provincial vice-president.

You'll find more details in the Events section of this *Inform'Accueil*.



## Petition: Don't Deprive DYP Children of Sports and Cultural Activities

We circulated a petition to make the payment of sport and cultural activity allowances for DYP children in foster families automatic. We collected 1,326 signatures. The petition was tabled at the National Assembly on November 5 by Brigitte B. Garceau, MNA for Robert-Bourassa. Garceau, MNA for Robert-Baldwin, and Enrico Ciccone, MNA for Marquette. I was there with former DYP member Karolane Chénier-Richard. Despite this mobilization, Minister Carmant and his officials turned down our request, clinging to criteria and ignoring your reality. These criteria restrict DYP children who, like all children, have the right to participate in sports and cultural activities. We're disappointed, but we'll keep fighting.

## Obligation to Merge Associations in Montréal

As of December 1st, the merger of Montreal institutions decreed by the Santé Québec reform means that the government wants to force a single association to defend the rights of foster families for all of Montreal. At present, there are two. We have therefore invited foster families in the greater Montreal area to join our association. We'll know the outcome of this raid by January 31, 2025.

## Thank You!

Thank you for welcoming me as President of FFARIQ for the next four years. Together, we'll work to defend your interests, support you on a daily basis, help you clarify your role and allow you to recharge your batteries.

Before we embark on the new year with enthusiasm and conviction, I wish you to take quality time with your children, who are our energy to defend their reality. I hope you'll recharge your batteries, play outside, laugh and show your kindness and tenderness.

Happy Holidays!

Mélanie Gagnon  
Provincial President

# Events!

## Crazy About our Children for 50 Years - Symposium

The 50<sup>th</sup> FFARIQ symposium will be remembered for many reasons. We'd like to share with you some unforgettable moments that evoked emotion, solidarity and pleasure.

### Half a Century Dedicated to the Children of the DYP

- For 50 years, the FFARIQ has mobilized to DEFEND the rights of families fostering children from the DYP.
- For 50 years, the FFARIQ has been the largest group of foster families in Quebec.
- Our managers have been foster families themselves for 50 years, which means they know the realities on the ground better than anyone.
- The FFARIQ has been lobbying the government for 50 years, helping to improve the working conditions of child foster families.

We've underlined FFARIQ's distinctive character!

### Inform'accueil - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Edition

- We delved into our archives to produce the special 50th anniversary edition of the *Inform'Accueil*. In it, we discovered our great builders and the advocacy actions that have been taken over the years to ensure that the FFARIQ takes its place.
- We also unearthed little treasures, such as a song composed by foster family Hénédine Dallaire to the tune of "Une boîte à chanson". Singing along during our symposium, the song created an emotional moment, with tears streaming down many faces.

We recognized ourselves in these words, which translate the journey of a child in search of love and a cozy nest!



### A Remarkable Honorary President



We were privileged to have Nancy Audet as Honorary President. This former child of the DYP, who is now a member of the Board of Directors of the DYP Foundation, makes it her duty to be the voice of children. She told us her moving story, which makes her a legitimate and inspiring ally in defending the children of the DYP.

### Tribute to a Great Lady

We couldn't pass over Ghislaine Pelletier Robitaille's retirement in silence. Her 18 years of involvement with her regional committee and as provincial vice-president showed the immensity of her heart. We took the opportunity to broadcast part of the interview she gave on the 24/60 TV show with Anne-Marie Dussault, in the company of her husband André Robitaille and Patricia Forget, a child who had been fostered by Ghislaine. Josélito Michaud was also on the show. The moment touched the hearts of Ghislaine and the foster families in the room.







## Emotional Conferences!



- Our speakers made us laugh and cry. We recognized ourselves in their testimonials and funny tricks. You could see the many smiles in the room and the shining eyes, sometimes of laughter, sometimes of tears, of our empathetic and compassionate foster families.
- Thank you to Nancy Audet, Bruno Landry and Marie-Claude Barette, generous and inspiring speakers!

## And Many Other Beautiful Moments

- The showroom was a popular place for foster families to get information from experts.
- The masquerade party, where men and women dressed in their finest finery. It was like another era! When high heels outlined legs, bare-shouldered dresses emphasized femininity and make-up highlighted looks. What a beautiful evening!
- We handed out gifts worth a total of \$24,136, thanks to our many generous partners who take your mission to heart. You'll find their names at the end of this newsletter.
- Sunday's plenary session gave us the opportunity to hear your views on how the organization can be improved to facilitate two-way communication and increase participation in information and networking events.

## Negotiations and Pressure Tactics

There have already been 38 negotiation meetings held with the government and things aren't moving fast enough. The symposium was the best time to start applying pressure.

- The balloons represent children, our children to whom we open our hearts and our home, who want to be able to fly on their own, but who need care to get there.
- The button with a large heart protecting a smaller one, which we now all wear proudly, as a reminder of our role with the children of the DYP.
- Children's drawings on the theme "What a foster family means to me".
- Signing the petition submitted to the National Assembly on November 5.
- Videos of "strong" messages that are broadcast on our social networks to make Minister Carmant understand that child foster families are unique and essential.

We mobilized with conviction!

Fous  
de nos  
enfants

depuis | 50  
ans

# Laws and regulations decoded

## Impacts of the Reform of the Health and Social Services System

The creation of Santé Québec is part of a major reform of Quebec's health and social services system, initiated by the government with the aim of improving its efficiency. On December 13, 2023, the Act to make the health and social services system more efficient was passed, introducing significant changes in the management of resources and the associations representing them in health institutions.

One of the key objectives of this reform is to reduce the number of collective agreements and associations per institution, by favoring a single representation per resource category, for both children and adults. In some health and social services regions, several associations previously represented resources in the same category.


As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, a major change has been introduced: the Tribunal administratif du travail (TAT) will be responsible for determining the representativeness of associations, by verifying whether an association represents the absolute majority of resources in a given health and social services region. If several associations are deemed representative, the TAT will recognize the association with the absolute majority on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. For the FFARIQ, these legislative changes only affect the Batshaw region, which is now part of the new Montreal health and social services region. The TAT has until January 30, 2025, to render its decision.

Another aspect of the reform concerns the link between resources and healthcare institutions. As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, resources are now linked to the healthcare institution according to their place of residence. For example, a resource under contract with an institution in the Montreal region, but residing in the Laurentides, will automatically be linked to the Laurentides institution.

In this context, the FFARIQ, representing family-type childcare resources, sees its role redefined by this reform, with potential impacts on its associative representativeness.



# Life Story

A close-up portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair pulled back, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a black blazer over a dark top, large hoop earrings, and a necklace with a small pendant. The background is softly blurred, showing green foliage and a building.

Christiane Houle  
foster family since 2006  
Currently 3 children, 21 in all  
Type: FTR - single-parent  
Region: Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec



# Solo Foster Mom

**"At 28, I didn't have any children, and I wanted them. I wasn't in a relationship. I said to myself, if I want a family, I'm going to make one. If I don't have children of my own, I'm going to find children who need love."**

It was 2006. Christiane's friends Jean-François and Sylvain were foster families. She could have chosen artificial insemination or international adoption to start a family on her own, but the example of her friends was a great inspiration.

"My choice was for children aged 0 to 11. I opened with a potential of 4 regular foster family places. I was one of the first single parent foster families," says Christiane.



## Tips for Single-Parent Foster Families

"To become a foster family, the extended family has to be concerted action. I knew that my parents could and would support me," says the single mother.

According to her, to welcome a child from the DYP as a single parent, you need:

- A good social safety net;
- A family and natural environment that embraces this new family dynamic;
- A great sense of organization and planning, because when you're on your own, you have to be able to see things through. For example, always have money at home to pay for a cab when you can't pick up your child. Or organizing a car-pooling schedule with the other parents of the activities our children are enrolled in;
- The ability and openness to connect with people, share our reality and seek help.
- A real willingness on the part of the employer to reconcile work and family. A child from the DYP requires more time, because there are medical appointments, appointments at the youth center, and so on.
- Never refuse an activity that is beneficial to a child on the grounds that being alone makes it harder to manage. There's always a way to work it out..

## The Arrival of Justin, Her First Little One

Justin arrived at the age of 4. He stayed there until he was 20. "For little Justin, I was his first foster family. And he was my first child. We learned together," she recalls.

Justin's dad was violent and drank. The boy had many asthma attacks, which stopped as soon as he arrived at Christiane's house. However, if his biological parents quarreled, the asthma attacks returned. "Once, we heard a squabble in the apartment next door and Justin had an asthma attack. That's when I realized that his attacks were his defense mechanism to get his parents to stop arguing and take care of him," says Christiane.

## Trust Your Instincts

"The first child I fostered was a way of assessing my instincts, my ability to be a foster family. I learned to listen to my little inner voice. I observe a lot, and I've developed skills I didn't even know I had! My grandmother always told me that I'd missed my calling as a psychologist. I use that strength and the strength given to me by my family, who have been very nurturing. I was loved!

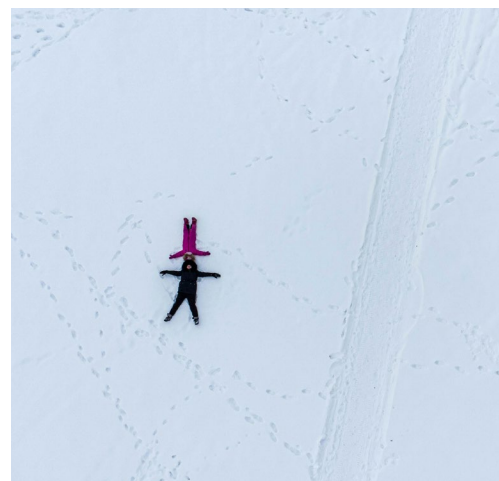
## Fighting in the System

Over the years, various issues have emerged for Justin:

- Asthma
- ADHD with impulsivity
- Dysorthography and dyslexia
- Diagnosis of bipolar disorder in high school

"That child taught me to fight with the limits of the system. Not to give up when things don't work out through the front door, but rather to try to get through the back alley. The healthcare system doesn't make things easy for us, and neither does the school environment. When a child has a problem, they all pass the buck. The health system says that, because the DYP is involved, it's not up to them to help. The DYP says it's up to the school system to provide the child with the services of a psychologist. Stop throwing the ball around!





### Adult Justin

At 18, Justin wasn't ready to leave home. Christiane kept him until he was 20, but she did impose some rules:

- No consumption in the house;
- Never come home drunk;
- Work or go to school. Justin had to do something with his days.

Today, he is the father of a daughter. His journey as an adult has been a difficult one. "He tells me that, now that he's a dad, there are a lot of things he resented me for when he was younger, and that now he understands. Living with a child with bipolar disorder is very difficult. You have to be a good listener."

### Making Other Children Aware of the Role of Foster Family

Christiane remembers the image foster families had when Justin was at school. "Parents would threaten to send their children to foster families if they misbehaved. That was 20 years ago. They thought foster families were reformatories. When a teacher asked me to go into the classroom and explain to the children what a foster family was, I immediately agreed. It's important to explain to all the children that foster parents are there to take care of a child while the biological parents tend to their personal problems."

### The Difficult Task of Managing Conflicting Loyalties

Before welcoming Justin, Christiane didn't know what loyalty conflict was. "The biological parents may have neglected their child, or even abused him, but he will always love them and be loyal to them despite his suffering. Even if we're told it's going to happen, even if we're warned, we're never ready for it. We have to accept that, despite all the love we give them, all the many gaps we fill, we'll never replace their biological parents."

### Being a Parent Without Ever Becoming THE Parent

Christiane readily admits that it was difficult for her to detach herself and accept the loyalty of the children in her care to their biological parents.

"We take good care of them. Often, they come to us badly dressed, with their shoes pierced. We dress them up, it makes them proud, and they're no longer teased at school. We take them to the dentist and the hairdresser. We attend their school performances. Thanks to their foster family, they become like other children, without the label of abused child. I'm happy to give them all this, I'm proud of it. At the same time, I'll never be their mother. I'll be a significant person for them."

### What Have You Gained From Being a Foster Family?

- Tolerance and benevolence.
- You can't choose where you're born.
- Be less selfish.
- You realize how lucky you are.
- It's been filling my life with little ones for almost 20 years.
- I can pass on the values my parents taught me: unconditional welcome, generosity, etc.
- No matter what you've been through, you can be lucky.
- There's good in every human being, and we need to help them bring it out.

### Make Every Gesture With Kindness

"Even if a young person I took in has a difficult life today, I tell myself that I gave my best. We have to learn to respect our limits. We can't save everyone. You have to let go and be able to say: 'I've given you all I can, and now it's up to you to take charge of your life and make the right choices'. You can't always see the benefits, but I tell myself that if he went to school until secondary 5 and is going to be able to find a job, I have to be satisfied. We give them lots of tools to use. Then it's up to them," concludes Christiane.

# Tips from the Pros

## An Almost Magical Phrase to Encourage Positive Behavior

There are words and phrases that have an incredible impact on the climate of our family life. One of the simplest and most powerful is "Next time".

### Why is it so Effective?

This phrase is almost magical! It helps redirect positively.

Change sentences that include "Don't do this" or "Stop doing that". Instead of focusing on what's disturbing, teach what you want. This gives the child a new opportunity to do better next time. For example:

- "Stop cutting him off" becomes "Next time, let him finish his sentence."
- "Don't talk with your mouth full" becomes "Next time, finish your bite before you speak."

What follows "Next time" is what you want to see and hear. This helps the child understand your expectations and gives him a chance to do better, without feeling judged.

### Teach it!

Practice this little phrase with your children. When you hear them say "stop" or a sentence with a "don't", invite them to rephrase their sentence by asking them what they'd like next time. For example:

- "Next time, I'd like you to ask me before you take my toy."
- "Next time, I'd like you to let me do the talking."

By using "Next time", you help your children think about their actions and the consequences of their words, while reinforcing their ability to collaborate.



### What Does your Child Learn With this Method?

When you use "Next time", you send several important messages:

- You show them that you have confidence in their ability to improve.
- You teach them that making mistakes is part of learning.
- You encourage them to think about what they can do better next time without criticizing them.

Gradually, they will feel more and more capable and confident. They gain in autonomy and responsibility, while maintaining a positive atmosphere. By learning to use kind and respectful phrases, children also improve their relationships with others.

### Benefits for You, the Parent

For you too, using "Next time" can make a big difference. It helps you stay calm in the face of behavior that might otherwise frustrate you. Rather than reacting with anger or impatience, you propose a solution for the future. This encourages calmer communication and reduces tension.

So, the next time you're faced with disturbing behavior or inappropriate words, think about using this little piece of magic and watch the difference. You'll be amazed at the impact it can have on your relationship with children!

### Valérie Courtemanche

Speaker / Trainer / Coach  
For Parents / Teachers /  
Educators and You!  
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# Did You know?



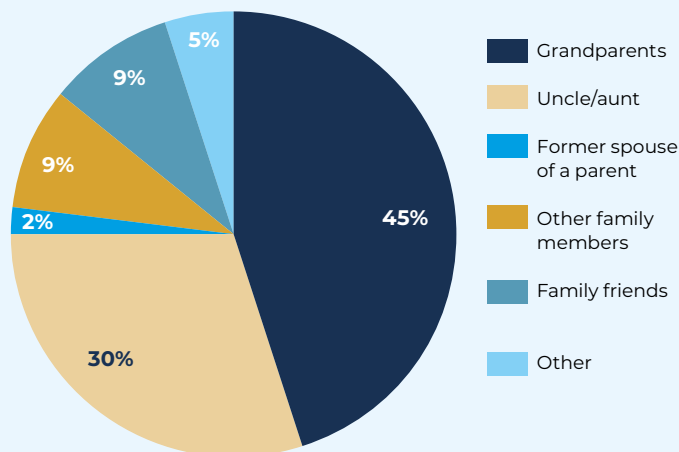
## A brief overview of proximity family placements

Placements with proximity foster families (PF) have risen sharply in recent years, in Quebec as in many other countries. A group of researchers recently conducted a study to document the stability of this type of placement. The placement trajectories of a cohort of 172 children, all placed with a PF, were documented. This project also describes the profile of the families and children involved in this type of placement, as well as the characteristics of the PFs. Also in this study, 20 PF managers were interviewed to gather their experiences. The next few lines will attempt to inform you of some of the salient results of this study.

### Portrait of PFs in the Study

The following graph shows the links between the PFs and the child in care.

The link between PF and the child



Almost half of all PFs are grandparents (or great-grandparents). PFs are mainly single, separated, divorced or widowed (42%), compared with 32% married or cohabiting (26%). The average age is 46. Around 55% of these PFs were employed at the time of their assessment. These results from the Quebec portrait are similar to those presented in several international studies.

### Motivations

The PFs we met revealed a number of reasons for taking in children. Firstly, most of them said they took in children with their well-being and the preservation of their family ties in mind, particularly in the case of extended families (grandparents, uncles, aunts, etc.). The love and attachment that PFs feel for their children are also sources of commitment. Many also want to avoid at all costs placing their children with "strangers". Other PFs testify to a commitment based on values of mutual aid and sharing, believing that helping children in need is consistent with their vision of the world. Some PFs said their motivation came from a desire to help parents overcome the difficulties they were experiencing. In a few cases, the motivation is linked to the desire to have a child, which the placement satisfies.

### To Find Out More...

This research project documented several other aspects of placements with PFs, including their experiences and the challenges they faced. Among the challenges addressed by the PFs were relations with the biological parents, lack of support and preparation, and the sometimes-difficult relationship with youth protection.

In conclusion, PFs' commitment to placement and their role with children and their families are invaluable. It seems necessary to better recognize and value these roles.

### Amilie Dorval

Professor of social work, UQTR. Regular researcher with the research team on placement and adoption in the context of youth protection (ERPAJ).

[amilie.dorval@uqtr.ca](mailto:amilie.dorval@uqtr.ca)

1) The research project was directed by Sonia Hélie. Project co-investigators were Marie-Andrée Poirier and Chantal Lavergne. Amilie Dorval acted as project coordinator.

# Inter-regional and training

## Training Needs, Then and Now

The children we care for today face very different issues than in the past. In addition to the need for love, stability and security, children also need to be supported in their development.

A few years ago, we mainly talked about:

- Attention deficit disorder;
- Affection disorders;
- Oppositional disorders.

These disorders are still present today, but the children arrive under our roof with bigger problems for which they need us to be really equipped as foster families:

- Complex trauma;
- Questioning gender identity;
- Eating disorders;
- Gambling addiction;
- Sexual trauma;
- Etc.

## The Profile of Foster Families, Then and Now

The nature of the foster families we train has also changed. In the past, we only spoke of FTRs. Today, different categories have been added, with different realities.

These include MBs who wish to start a family through adoption. They generally stay with the DYP for a maximum of 4 years. However, they are subject to the same ministerial training criteria. And the children they take in often present complex traumas and attachment disorders.

The FFARIQ, in collaboration with the institutions and various partners, offers training adapted to the different types of foster families it represents.

## Training Courses in 2025

Training courses organized at provincial level are offered online. If you would like face-to-face training, you can request it from your regional committees, which are allocated half of the annual training budget provided by the FFARIQ.



Here is an overview of the training program that awaits you in the first months of 2025:

**January: 8 online training courses**, including parenting.

**February: 8 online training courses**, including crisis and aggressive behavior management.

**March: 7 online training courses**, including one on healthy emotional management.

**April: 9 online training courses**, including the importance of your psychological well-being.

**May: 6 online training courses**, notably on supporting teenagers in their transition to adulthood.

For full details, visit your region's private Facebook page, where upcoming training courses are posted regularly.

## Foster Family Responsibilities

For their part, foster families must maintain an adequate level of competence, in particular by taking a certain number of hours of training each year to perfect their skills and acquire new knowledge.

Please note! When you take a course, you must send the certificate to your institution so that the course can be entered in your file and the training hours can be counted.

In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful time with your families and a very happy holiday season.

**Jean-François Rioux**

Provincial Regions Coordinator

Training Manager

[jfrioux@ffariq.ca](mailto:jfrioux@ffariq.ca)





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President/Administrator



Chantal Moreau  
Vice-President  
Marylène Laberge Giroux  
Director



Francine Boutin  
Treasurer  
Patricia Anctil  
Secretary



# Québec Region

Hello, dear foster parents,

## Welcome to Our New Director

Since last May, our team has been enriched by the arrival of a new director, Marylène Laberge Giroux. We welcome her and wish her every success in her new role! Her energy and dynamism are already much appreciated.

## Beautiful Moments Together!

This fall, we were fortunate to organize an apple event that drew close to 100 participants. It was a warm and friendly event, where young and old alike enjoyed fresh doughnuts and coffee, as well as picking fresh apples in a very pleasant atmosphere. During the event, we were fortunate to welcome Mélanie Gagnon, provincial president, and Annie Blouin, provincial vice-president. Their presence added a beautiful dimension to these very pleasant moments.

The end-of-year celebrations were also marked by memorable moments. On December 6, a Christmas lunch brought our members together in a festive spirit. And on December 15, a family activity brightened everyone's faces with a varied program including a visit from Santa Claus, gifts, slush, games, drawings and much more. A wonderful way to end the year!

## There Are More and More of Us!

We are also proud to announce that we have reached an important milestone: more than 500 active resources in our vast region of Quebec - Charlevoix - Portneuf. Thank you to each and every one of you for contributing to this collective success.

We'd also like to welcome all the new resources who have joined us recently. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. We also invite you to visit our website [ffariq.ca](http://ffariq.ca) to stay informed and discover all we have to offer.

We're here for you, and we hope that 2025 will be full of happiness, success and pleasant surprises for each and every one of you.

## Christiane Robitaille

Regional President and Administrator

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Mélanie Gagnon  
President



Roxanne Laforest-Bourgoin  
Secretary

Cynthia Gagnon  
Treasurer  
MISSING

# Côte-Nord Region

Dear foster families,

It's December already! It's been a long time since our last issue in September.

As you already know, I've been elected provincial president for a 4-year term. Your regional committee is therefore looking for two people, one as president and the other as vice-president. Your regional committee is active, and I'm proud to say that we've developed good links and communication with the institution and the head of department. You have a great mandate ahead of you! I invite you to contact me if you are interested, or if you have any questions about your role.

## New Foster Families

On another note, we were delighted to welcome 22 new foster families to the Côte-Nord region. We welcome them all to the FFARIQ family. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that this year we published a guide for new foster families. Don't hesitate to contact your regional committee to create

your *VotreEspace* account and obtain this guide as well as a wealth of other information. And, above all, remember that we're always just a phone call away to support and accompany you.

In closing, I'd like to wish you a wonderful holiday season, and May 2025 bring you health, love and peace.

## Mélanie Gagnon

Provincial President and Administrator

Côte-Nord

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Nancy Blais  
President/Administrator

Jolyane Tremblay  
Secretary  
MISSING

# Gaspésie / les Îles-de-la-Madeleine Region

Dear foster families,

## Quarterly Meetings

Our quarterly meetings have resulted in some wonderful exchanges. Thanks to our resources who, every quarter, come to share with us their point of view on all the information we pass on to them, always with the aim of growing and being well-informed.

## Welcome to New Resources

Our region now boasts 139 resources. We welcomed 14 new ones for the months of August, September and October 2024.

## Our Regional Committee Has Two New Members

Two new members have joined our regional committee. Alain Richard is Vice-President and Jonathan Lafleur is Treasurer. Our committee is well established to support you throughout 2025.

## Facebook Group: Your Best Information Source

If you haven't already done so, join the private Facebook group Gaspésie - Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine. It's the perfect place to network, ask questions, help each other out and get accurate information about your role and what's happening in our beautiful region. To become a member, send a friend request to Ms. Nancy Blais via your personal Facebook page.

With the holiday season fast approaching, I'd like to wish all our resources a wonderful festive season, filled with love, sharing and unforgettable moments in your cozy homes, filled with little hearts.

## Nancy Blais

Regional President and Administrator

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Jean-François Rioux  
Vice-President



Véronique Hayes  
Treasurer

Martin Legault  
Support Agent

Linda Labbé  
Support Agent

Kim Peterson-Bussière  
Secretary



# Mauricie/ Centre-du-Québec Region

Hello dear foster families,

## Another Year is Coming to an End!

Here's a summary of what's been happening in our beautiful region since the last issue of the *Inform'Accueil*.

## A Stable Team

Regional elections were held on May 24, 2024. The positions up for election were Regional President and Regional Treasurer. As I was the only one to submit my candidacy, and the same was true for Véronique Hayes for the position of Treasurer, there were no elections, and we were elected for a 4-year term. I have therefore begun my 9th year as your Regional President, and I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me.

## Activities That Bring People Together

There was no regional tour this fall, but we did organize an apple day at Barry Orchard. A huge thank you to Véronique Hayes and Kim Peterson for organizing this activity, which wouldn't have happened without them. And thank you for attending.

Finally, we invite you to register for our Christmas party, which will take place on December 21 from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Denim Swift room. 575, rue des Écoles, Drummondville (Québec) J2B 1J6 - Registration and details from Véronique Hayes (vhayes@ffariq.ca)

## DQEPE Tour

On the institution side, there was the DQEPE (Direction de la qualité, de l'évaluation, de la performance et de l'éthique) tour. All resources, whatever their clientele, were invited to this tour. The institution presented its new structure, as well as the department heads attached to the various sectors.

In conclusion, on behalf of my regional committee, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season with your cocos and a very happy and healthy 2025.

## Sylvain Bilodeau

Regional President and Administrator

Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec

Tel.: 819 696-8592

sbilodeau@ffariq.ca



Annie Blouin  
President



Fatiha Chilhah  
Vice-President/Administrator

Mélanie Larivière  
Treasurer

Nathacha Étienne  
Secretary



# Laval Region

Hello dear members,

We're already getting ready for Christmas, although the snow is slow to arrive.

## Great Opportunities to Get Together

We had an apple event with a great turnout. We were fortunate to have Mélanie Gagnon, provincial president, in attendance. We couldn't have asked for better weather.

We held our symposium to mark our 50th anniversary. It was held in our Laurentides region at the Manoir Saint-Sauveur.

Many members were present and we had a great weekend.

## Highly Relevant Training

Classification training was given over 2 days with the institution. It was a success, both for new families and for those who came for even more information to help them in their work.

## Arrivals and Departures

In the past year, 15 new foster families have joined our region.

There was:

1. change on our regional committee, with the appointment of our new treasurer, Mélanie Larivière.
2. unfortunately another member of our team, Natacha Etienne (secretary), has left. We will need someone to fill her position on January 1st. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact me.

And don't forget, we're always here for you!

My committee and I would like to wish you and your little ones a wonderful holiday season.

See you soon!

## Annie Blouin

Regional President and Administrator

Laval

Tel.: 514 292-3564

ablouin@ffariq.ca





Claudette Gauthier  
President/Administrator



Rosse Wilson  
Vice-President

Brenda Gothier  
Treasurer

Darlene Olivier  
Secretary  
MISSING



# Montréal/Batshaw Region

Hello dear foster families,

By the time this *Inform'Accueil* goes live, we will have completed the raiding period to determine which children's union association will represent the entire Montreal region for the next few years.

Please know that the FFARIQ worked hard to keep Batshaw with the FFARIQ by inviting all foster families in the Montreal area to join our union association, the only one dedicated exclusively to children and thus the best organized to support foster families to children.

We will know the outcome of this process by the end of January at the latest. Please refer to the Laws & regulations section for further details.

## Welcome to New Foster Families

The Batshaw area welcomed 15 new foster families in September and October. A warm welcome to all. Don't hesitate to contact your president, Claudette Gauthier, for more information and to answer any questions you may have.

The Batshaw region now has 317 foster families.

## Autumn Activities

On September 21, we went apple picking with several of our foster families. A great moment of pleasure and exchange.

At the time of writing, we were just about to host our annual Christmas dinner, which brings moments of happiness and lights up the stars in our little hearts.

The entire Batshaw FFARIQ regional committee joins me in wishing you an excellent holiday season and a year 2025 filled with happiness, health and joy with your young people and your family.

## Happy Holidays!

### Claudette Gauthier

Regional President and Administrator

Montréal-Batshaw

514 796-4491

cgauthier@ffariq.ca



Sophie Quenneville  
Interim President/Administrator



Caroline Laporte  
Interim Treasurer



Jean-Pierre Beaulieu  
Director



Chantal Crevier  
Support Agent

Marie-Claude Guay  
Interim Vice-Presidente  
MISSING

Vanessa Martineau  
Support Agent

Anabelle Leclair-Deserres  
Support Agent

Michelle Circé  
Secretary



# Laurentides Region

Dear foster families of our beautiful  
Laurentides region,

## Passing the Torch

This year has been one of transition. Our lovely Ghislaine has decided to take a well-deserved retirement after more than 20 years with the FFARIQ. Still active and dedicated to the cause of children, Ghislaine continues her mission as a foster family.

Following Ghislaine's departure, I was appointed interim president, and Marie-Claude Guay, who joined us in June as a support officer, accepted the challenge of becoming regional vice-president. Michelle Circé was elected Secretary in the May elections. Caroline Laporte, previously Support Officer, has taken over as interim Treasurer.

Jean-Pierre Beaulieu remains as director.

## New Team Members

Over the past few months, we have welcomed 3 support agents whose main task will be to meet new foster families.

Anabelle Leclair-Deserres and Vanessa Martineau will meet families in and around Mont-Laurier, while Chantal Crevier will meet local foster families in the Lower Laurentides.

A great team to support and meet the needs of the region's 650 families.

## Great Activities for Our Families

This fall, we added a family apple-picking event to our activities. Nearly 300 people joined us for a lovely morning at La magie de la pomme orchard.

In December, we organize our first Christmas party, where children are invited to come and see Santa Claus and have fun with their families.

## 2024 Symposium Host Region

We were also honoured to host the symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the FFARIQ. Over 70 people from the Laurentides took part. It was an opportunity for us all to celebrate families from across the province, and to share our realities.

Your committee joins me in wishing you a very happy holiday season. Take advantage of this little break from routine to experience magical moments and create memorable family moments. May the New Year bring you all the patience, love and resilience you need to continue your mission with our wounded little hearts.

We look forward to seeing you in January with an agenda of motivating and inspiring meetings.

## Sophie Quenneville

Interim Regional President  
Tel.: 514-734-1171  
squennewille@ffariq.ca



Carolle Desjardins  
President



Josée Dorion  
Vice-Presidente/Administrator



Éric Gosselin  
Treasurer

Coralie Dufresne  
Director

Lynn Waters  
Director

Stéphanie Lauzon  
Secretary



# Outaouais Region

Hello dear foster families,



New resources have joined the FFARIQ family. A total of 72 have opened their hearts to offer a stable, warm, safe, supportive and stimulating living environment. Your heartfelt commitment, your desire to help without expectations, show how much you have children at HEART.

## Our Autumn Meetings

In October, we had lunch with Pontiac families as part of our tour of the regions. It was a wonderful opportunity for sharing.

On December 1st, we held our Christmas party at Maison du citoyen, attended by 300 people, including children. As every year, your comments were positive: good food, cotton candy, face painters, balloon ladies... This event gives us the opportunity to meet other foster families. This year, many new foster families joined us. We also had a surprise visit from our provincial president, Mélanie Gagnon, to wish us all the best for Christmas. She also took a few minutes to introduce herself for those who didn't know her and said a few words about our current lobbying efforts.

## Dialogue: Personalized, measurable, quality care

Have you tried the application?

I'd recommend it.

It's quick and easy



## Our Regional Committee

Our daily job is to make sure you're well served by the youth center. Don't hesitate to contact your regional committee and tell yourself there are no stupid questions. The regional committee is there for you!

## Greetings From Your Regional Committee

December is a time that smells of cookies, cinnamon and hot chocolate. The lights are twinkling, it's Christmas, a charming time. Children's laughter warms our hearts,

In every home reigns sweetness. Here's wishing you all the best:

### **Christmas with families from the heart**

*Warmth reigns in your home, and you open your hearts with such gentleness.*

*In this season of joy and light, we send you our heartfelt wishes.*

*Thank you for your generous welcome, for the smiles and the happy moments.*

*May Christmas bring you peace and happiness, and may the New Year be filled with sweetness.*

*The children laugh, the stars shine, thanks to you, the magic sparkles.*

*Merry Christmas to you, beloved foster family, may your home be filled with life.*

*Signed: your committee!*

Happy Holidays!

## Carolle Desjardins

Regional President and Administrator

Outaouais

Tel.: 819 923-5081

cdesjardins@ffariq.ca



# Reference Partners

## Surveys: Better Understanding the Needs of Foster Families

Two surveys were sent out in December, one for MB foster families who have adopted, and the other for FTRs. We would like to reiterate our invitation to participate in these surveys, which will enable us to better understand your challenges and needs.

### Survey for MB Families Who Have Adopted

This 20-minute online survey is being conducted by the Université du Québec en Outaouais youth protection placement and adoption research team. It will provide, for the first time, a provincial portrait of adopted children in Quebec. The objectives of this study are to :

- Improve services;
- Better understand the reality of MB families who have adopted;
- Create tools.

The survey is available at [www.adoptionquebecois.ca](http://www.adoptionquebecois.ca).



### FTR Foster Family Survey

This 20-minute online survey is conducted by the Université de Montréal's research team on placement and adoption in youth protection. It is intended for parents who have been foster parents for at least one year and who have fostered at least one child placed under the YPA. The objectives of this survey are to

- Increase knowledge about the role of foster parents in Quebec;
- Better understand the experience and challenges faced by FTR foster families;
- Better identify the needs of FTR foster families in terms of support and services.

The survey is available at <http://ls.sondages.umontreal.ca/199996?lang=fr>.

**Thank you for your participation!**

## PARENTS D'ACCUEIL RECHERCHÉ.E.S

### *Participation à une étude*

Vous êtes invité.e.s à compléter un **sondage en ligne** portant sur votre expérience de parent d'accueil et les défis que vous rencontrez dans ce rôle. Par votre participation, vous contribuez à enrichir les connaissances sur le rôle de parent d'accueil au Québec.

Pour en savoir plus, consultez le [lien suivant](#) ou scannez le code QR.

Pour toutes questions, contactez-nous à [experiencefa@umontreal.ca](mailto:experiencefa@umontreal.ca)



### *Nous recherchons*

Des parents d'accueil ayant :

- accueilli au moins un enfant placé en vertu de la Loi sur la protection de la jeunesse (LPJ);
- au moins une année d'expérience;
- la capacité à comprendre le français




 Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada  
 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada




 Université de Montréal

Ce projet a reçu le soutien financier du Conseil d'adoption à la recherche de la Commission de la protection de l'enfance du Québec (CPEQ).

# Partnerships



## Thanks to our Partners

These generous partners are keen to highlight the important role and great dedication of our foster families. Thanks to them, we were able to spoil our families by raffling off numerous gifts at the 2024 symposium.

Dave Marcoux	\$7,000
Forméduc	\$1,820
Bleu Créateur	\$1,000
Metro	\$1,000
Prospecting	\$1,000
FFARIQ	\$800
Brin-de-Folie hair salon	\$678
IFSSS	\$625
Academy Dr. Nadia Gagné	\$500
Audet Photo	\$500
Chalets Conforts	\$500
Dialogue	\$500
Philion Leblanc Avocats	\$500
Leblanc lawyers	\$500
Aqua Terra Trip Lévis-Québec	\$500
Hôtel Universel Rivière-du-Loup	\$400
Delta Trois-Rivières Hotel	\$380
Delta Mont Sainte-Anne Hotel	\$375
Surroundings on the lake	\$350
H2O	\$350
ISM Group	\$300
Le Petit Manoir du Casino	\$300
Nancy Doyon	\$300
Sheraton - Saint-Hyacinthe Hotel	\$300

NRJ Spa	\$283
ARB translation and interpreting	\$250
FM Communication Marketing	\$250
Iris	\$250
Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton	\$250
Mach Group	\$200
Hôtel Le Dauphin - Québec / Drummondville	\$200
Kinipi Spa	\$200
SCFPI	\$200
Atlantis complex	\$190.80
L'Entre-Jeux	\$175
Maca	\$175
Éditions Midi Trente	\$150
With You	\$125
FDMT - Manimo	\$100
Fromagerie Victoria	\$100
Hill & Knowlton	\$100
Imprimerie Bergemont	\$100
Location en Fête	\$100
Chocolats Favoris	\$80
Museum of Biodiversity	\$80
Guerette Group	\$50
PG Advertising	\$50

Total value of prizes

\$24,136.80



# Need Help or Information?

Any question is a good one!

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

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

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

## Here are some ways you can join us

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

Fax: 418 529-0456

Toll-free fax: 1 866 388-8860

### 24-hour Service

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

### Quebec:

8500 Henri-Bourassa Blvd. Henri-Bourassa, Suite 265, Québec (Québec) G1G 5X1

Entrance door #3 - 2nd floor

### Trois-Rivières:

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

E-mail: [info@ffariq.ca](mailto:info@ffariq.ca)

Website: [www.ffariq.org](http://www.ffariq.org)

### FFARIQ Community

Your space is available ONLY to FFARIQ member foster families:

[www.votreespace.ffariq.ca](http://www.votreespace.ffariq.ca)

Corporate Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FFARIQ/](https://www.facebook.com/FFARIQ/)



Here  
for you  
and your  
children



Fédération des familles d'accueil  
et ressources intermédiaires  
du Québec

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