



## Board of Directors' Meeting

### MINUTES

Wednesday, October 21, 2020  
'Go To Meeting' Virtual Platform

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**Present:** Christine John (Chair), Linda Van Sligtenhorst, Andrew Marttinen, Christena Dawson, Donald Porterfield, George Mackowski, Julie Lawrence, Marie Tudor, Renee Schlonies, Selwyn (Buck) Hicks, Susanne Snowdon, Tim Nicol, Alison Fernandes and Dave Wyles

**Staff:** Phyllis Lovell, Kelly Ferris, Anne Bester, Deb Pope, Julie Lipsett and Karah Wall (Union)

**Guests:** Nancy Craig, Foster Parent Association

**Regrets:**

**Scribe:** Kim Fleming

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#### 1. Welcome / Opening Remarks

Christine John welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territory.

The Board recognized and celebrated Phyllis Lovell and her 40 years of service.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda / Conflict of Interest Declaration

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the agenda as presented.*

*MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Donald Porterfield* *CARRIED*

**No conflict of interest declared.**

#### 3. Approval of the Minutes from September 16, 2020 & Business Arising

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the minutes from September 16, 2020 meeting as presented.*

*MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by George Mackowski* *CARRIED*

#### 4. Presentation – Ryan Thompson, Farm Safety

Ryan Thompson presented on Farm Safety.

Farming fatalities are on the decline. From 1998 to 2008, there were on average 20 farming deaths per year. In 2017, there were 10 farm fatalities reported in all of Ontario. In Bruce and Grey, there have been three farm related child deaths in the past two years and one serious injury involving broken bones.

Children and Elderly farmers are consistently reported as the predominant victims of farm fatalities.

BGCFS has protocols to provide culturally respectful service to Old Order and New Order Amish and Mennonite communities.

Signs of Safety (SOS) methods allow BGCFS to develop networks and safety plans with families that can go beyond the immediate concerns to a lifelong support system that can address future potential harm.

We also use the SOS tool 'safety scale' with families and this tool gives us the opportunity to engage with the family to help put the necessary resources in place that would help and support them.

The Provincial data shows that boys are more apt to be injured than girls. Our reporting indicates that farming accidents are equal between boys and girls.

5. **Reports**

• **Chair**

Christine John and Alison Fernandes attended the All Staff Meeting on behalf of the Board at the Shallow Lake Community Church on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Orange Shirt Day was recognized and all staff were encouraged to wear orange shirts to raise awareness for the residential schools.

Ms. John attended the Foster Parent Association meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> and felt it was a wonderful opportunity to engage with foster parents and hear their challenges during this difficult time. Ms. John looks forward to attending future meetings.

Ms. John shared with the Board, the bios from the recent Saugeen First Nation elections that took place on August 28, 2020. The information from the Chippewas of Nawash election will also be shared with the Board.

A letter was sent out to both Nations from the Board and the CEO acknowledging our past visits to the Nations for board meetings and how we look forward to returning when the Pandemic is over. The letter also offers our support during these difficult times.

As the Christmas holiday session is fast approaching, plans will be discussed around how best to support youth over the holidays. In the past, the Board participated in providing a holiday dinner for the youth and more recent years, inviting youth to dinner out at a local restaurant for a holiday dinner. Ms. John will connect with Kim Fleming around plans for this year and an update will be provided to the board at the November meeting.

• **OACAS**

Ms. Lovell provided an update on OACAS. Due to COVID, the December leadership meeting was cancelled; however, there has been an attempt to pull the senior leaders and board chairs together for a meeting in November to talk about the issues that the sector has been facing.

• **FPA**

Nancy Craig provided her update from the Foster Parent Association.

Ms. Craig thanked Christine John for attending the FPA meeting this week. There were 18 families who participated in the meeting via ZOOM. The discussions were around access and the access tool and the plans to meet every two weeks.

The FPA is interested in launching a mentoring committee especially during these difficult times with COVID. To date, there has been interest from 9 foster parents who wish to be mentors.

The FPA have discussed plans for the upcoming holiday season and will share more at the next meeting.

- **Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Lovell asked Deb Pope, Director of Service to provide an update on the 'Dress Purple Day Campaign that is currently underway through the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. The Dress Purple campaign raises awareness on child safety and in the past, the focus was more on child abuse prevention and duty to report. The campaign now focuses on how it takes a community to help kids thrive and Ms. Pope shared with the Board that last year, BGCFS has been in the front row with this initiative partnering with education and police and also focusing on human trafficking. This year the focus has been on social media platforms where the committee has reached out to all staff and community partners asking people to wear purple and provide a reason why they are wearing purple post to social media platforms using the hashtags #DressPurpleDay2020 or #IDressPurpleBecause. Phyllis Lovell will be interviewed on the radio on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8 a.m. on CFOS 560 AM Radio with Fred Wallace and Paul Hill and then again at 9:15 a.m. on 106.5 FM Radio with TC and Sarah.

Ms. John also provided an update on a youth event that will take place on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. where the 'Here to Help-Dress Purple' Committee have invited motivational speaker, Ian Tyson to present via ZOOM to speak to youth in care and their resource families as well as the growing adults that we support and youth who live with kin and their caregivers.

Ian Tyson has devoted his career in speaking out on how to find the positives even in the face of chaos, crisis and what we may think as hopeless. Ian has been inspiring youth for over 31 years and has visited schools, businesses, conferences and organizations across the world. Ian's presentation will include sharing personal stories, life lessons, observations and practical tools for students to be their best selves.

We will also have our Owen Sound meeting space set up for youth who are not able to connect via ZOOM to attend in person with of course honoring the social distancing rules and/or mask rules. To date we have 2 youth signed up for attending in the office.

We would like to extend an invitation out to our Board members to attend in person for this event on October 27<sup>th</sup> to help welcome youth to the building and to also hand out pizza boxes and a soft drink prior to the start of the presentation. We anticipate that the numbers for in

person will be fairly low as most have signed up to participate via ZOOM. We already have 27 young people that are signed up to participate via the ZOOM virtual platform.

The presentation will be approximately 60 minutes in length.

- **FRMA**

Linda Van Sligtenhorst presented her report from the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting.

A presentation on Post Pandemic/Wave 2 was presented to the Committee and the slide deck has been included in the Board package.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the FRMA report as presented.*

*MOVED by Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Julie Lawrence*

*CARRIED*

- **Service & Quality**

Julie Lawrence presented her report from October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting.

The Service & Quality Committee recommended that a letter be prepared and sent to both Nations offering our support during this difficult time and to also indicate that the Board is looking forward to visiting the Nations when the Pandemic is over.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board accepts the Service & Quality report as presented.*

*MOVED by Julie Lawrence; SECONDED by Christena Dawson*

*CARRIED*

6. **New Business**

Ms. Lovell shared with the Board that we will be sending out a message to foster families and resource families encouraging them to not take their children out this year for Halloween. Staff in partnership with the internal social committee has made up over 500 treat bags to be distributed to our service users and resource families. Ms. Lovell shared that it will be every parent's judgement call on whether or not they will take their child out for Halloween. Tip sheets from public health and a message to parents will go out to foster parents this week.

7. **In-Camera (required)**

The Board moves in-camera to approve the minutes from September 16, 2020.

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board of Directors meeting move in-camera at 5:56 p.m. to approve the minutes of September 16, 2020.*

*MOVED BY Linda Van Sligtenhorst; SECONDED by Dave Wyles*

*CARRIED*

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board of Directors meeting comes out of camera at 6:16 p.m.*

*MOVED by Dave Wyles; SECONDED by Christena Dawson*

*CARRIED*

8. **Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

9. **Adjournment**

*BE IT RESOLVED*

*THAT the Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 6:16 p.m.*

*MOVED by Selwyn Hicks*