

Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association

Call for Board Director (Indigenous Community)

The Board of Directors of the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association is currently seeking an individual to fill one of the community representative positions on the Board. This is a newly created position to represent the Indigenous community.

Indigenous children and youth are vastly over represented in the In Care program in our province and throughout Canada. In June 2018, 35% of the 955 children and youth in care in NL were Indigenous (CSSD Program Statistics). The shortage of foster families in Indigenous communities is also a significant challenge and there is a need for ongoing recruitment initiatives. We believe the unique perspective of a Director from the Indigenous community would be very beneficial to the Board as we strive to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous foster families who care for Indigenous children.

This is an exciting opportunity to add your voice and experience to the work of the Association and to learn more about the role of foster families and the foster care program in our province. If you are interested in being considered for this position, please forward your resume and a brief letter outlining your interest and what you feel you can contribute to dianemolloy@nfld.net by February 15, 2019.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association has a mandate to advance and promote the professional role of foster parents and to be a collective voice for foster families throughout the province. The Association works in partnership with all stakeholders in the foster care program to meet the needs of foster families and to enhance the care and support provided to children and youth in care and their families. The Association has shared responsibilities in the areas of Education, Recruitment, Retention/Support and Advocacy and is committed to the values of collaboration, partnership, relationship building, open communication and consensus decision making.

The Association is a not for profit organization lead by a volunteer Board of Directors. The responsibility for operations rests with the Executive Director. The Board approaches its governance responsibility with a style that emphasizes mission and vision, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, strategic leadership and collective decision making. The Board has 18 directors consisting of: twelve foster parents, two youth representatives, two community representatives, and two representatives from the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development.

All Directors are accountable to the foster parents of Newfoundland and Labrador, funders and other stakeholders. Directors are responsible for the relentless pursuit of the organization's mission and to ensure financial and legal affairs are in order.

General Duties of Directors

- Attend and actively participate in Board meetings;
- Adhere to the agreed upon Board agenda;
- Abide by and support all Board decisions;
- Review Board minutes, reports and other documents prior to Board meetings;
- Share in work equitably (officer to committee member);
- Reflect the decisions of the Board outside the Association;
- Maintain the confidentiality of all Board discussions;
- Keep up-to-date on community fostering issues and trends;
- Positively represent the Association in the community; and
- Ensure that the mission of the Association is clear, relevant and drives Board decisions.

Qualifications

- General knowledge about Indigenous culture;
- Connection to an Indigenous community;
- Commitment to mission of the Association;
- Decision making/group process skills;
- Other expertise that could be beneficial to the Association; and
- Subscribe to the objectives of the Association.

Time Requirement

The Board of Directors meets on the last Tuesday of each month by teleconference for approximately two hours. There are a minimum of three in person board meetings each year located in different regions of the province, one of which is the Annual Symposium and AGM held in St. John's each June.

A term on the Board is three years in duration and a Director can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Expenses

Participation on the Board is a volunteer activity and Directors will not be reimbursed for their time. However, Board members will be reimbursed for any reasonable expenses incurred while conducting pre-approved Board business. Pre-approval is at the Executive Director level.

For further information, e-mail dianemolloy@nfld.net or call Diane at 754-0213. You can also visit our website at www.nlffa.ca or our Facebook page.