



AFKA Annual Board Report

Reporting Period:
October 2023 - September 2024



**Alberta Foster and
Kinship Association**

Executive Reports

PRESIDENT - René Rajotte

VICE PRESIDENT - Carmen Legge

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Melissa Jones

Director Reports

TREATY 8 - Carly Morton

METIS - Bernadine Grant

CALGARY REGION - Monique McCardle

CENTRAL REGION - Danielle Gouchie

EDMONTON REGION - Shauna Sebry-Baxter

NORTH REGION – AFKA TREASURER - Bev Towe

NORTH REGION – ASSOCIATE: WEST STREAM - Terri Forseille

ADVOCACY - Chad Krahn

TREATY 6 – Vacant

TREATY 7 - Vacant



Executive Reports



**Alberta Foster and
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Executive Reports

President's Report

René Rajotte

Fall is in the air, as we have lost approximately four hours of daylight, and our temperatures are trending down. Hopefully, everyone had a chance to take a bit of a break and enjoy the summer.

Generally, it is at this time of the year that we are looking forward to going to Jasper for our training conference. With us moving our conference to Calgary and holding it last June we will not be having it in October. With the feedback we got from many of you at the conference, it looks like we will move the conference back to the fall as June has so many school activities finishing up the school year. Thank you to all of you that gave us feedback. We will miss Jasper, but our thoughts will be with the people of Jasper as they move forward in rebuilding their community devastated with the wildfire this summer.

I believe our conference in Calgary last June was a huge success; thanks to all who took the time out of their busy schedule to make it there and to those of you that couldn't make it, I hope to see you next year. Once again, I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for all their hard work in making it a success. THANK YOU!

The AFKA team has been very busy this last year putting a new data collection program (CRM) in place. We believe this will be an amazing tool to collect data for Foster and Kinship homes across Alberta and put numbers together for the ministry.

Our Caregiver Support Team (CST) is forever evolving, with full-time staff in the office and part-time staff spread across Alberta, if you need support or information, do give them a call. Their numbers can be found on our website: <https://afkaonline.ca>

Our AGM will be held in Edmonton on November 7, at 1:30 pm; a place yet to be determined. There will also be virtual access for those who would like to join and cannot attend in person. With everything that is going on, yes, the office is being moved to a new location, I can't imagine packing and sorting things that have accumulated over the years; what needs to be kept and needs throwing out.

I would like to thank you, our staff, for all their hard work and dedication, you guys are amazing; keep it up. Hopefully after the move, you will be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I would like to thank the Minister of Children and Family Services and his team for taking the time to meet with Foster and Kinship caregivers from across our province. I believe it shows their commitment to try and support families across Alberta.

- René

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Vice President's Report

Carmen Legge

Hello!

This past year has been marked by connection and collaboration. As Vice President of the AFKA Board, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated board members, staff, and regional council members, all of whom are passionately committed to strengthening the support network for caregivers across the province.

There have been some exciting developments this past year, including the formation of a Caregiver Recognition Committee, which will focus on providing advice and feedback to AFKA to support the development of programs that help caregivers to feel valued. The increase in foster parent rates this year was a win for the community, reflecting the hard work and advocacy of many. Roundtable discussions with the Ministry of Children and Family Services have provided a platform for caregivers to share their experiences, and I am eager to see the results of these conversations.

The annual AFKA Caregiver Conference in June was an unforgettable event, bringing together caregivers from across Alberta for training, networking, and essential support. The online silent auction was a tremendous success, thanks to the generous donations and enthusiasm of participants, with proceeds directly supporting programs for caregivers.

As we celebrate Caregiver Appreciation Month this October, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all foster and kinship caregivers for the incredible work you do. Your unwavering dedication, compassion, and resilience make a profound difference in the lives of the children and their families. You open your hearts and homes, providing not just care but a sense of belonging and hope. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for all that you do every day.

As we look ahead, I encourage all caregivers to remain engaged—whether through volunteering, connecting with regional representatives, or participating in upcoming events. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community.

- Carmen

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

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Melissa Jones

The AFKA team has been extremely busy this last quarter amidst a move of location. Without the commitment and dedication of the AFKA team, all that has happened amongst the many changes would not have happened as it did. I would like to thank everyone on our team for the hard work and focus during changing times in our office, work in addition to their regular roles so we can provide support opportunities for Alberta's foster and kinship caregivers the best way possible.

The following are areas of business we have been focused on this last reporting year:

Ministry Relations and Advocacy

- Provincial Flag Raising Ceremony in collaboration with Children and Family Services and Align Association of Community Services; Ministry recorded the event, interviewed other stakeholders from across the province, and produced a video of the event to share publicly
- Minister Turton announced 3 new initiatives for foster care, which happened at the AFKA office providing opportunity for further discussion with the Minister, as well as media coverage of the event; two of the initiatives are ones that are aimed to address some of the challenges and supports caregivers have been asking for; counselling sessions, extended special rates/maintenance from 18y to 22y
- Introduction and conversations with newly appointed Deputy Minister, Lisa Sedownick
- Introduction and conversations with newly appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, David Wheeler; AFKA now has quarterly meetings established with Mr. Wheeler, with the first meeting having in August 2024
- Continued conversations with Minister, Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Minister regarding basic maintenance, staff turnover, lack of communication, disregard of caregivers as part of a child's team, lack of intentional transitions, and the many challenging experiences caregivers are having as a result of these
- Caregivers saw an increase in expense rates for mileage, travel accommodations, and travel meals, effective December 1 2023
- A review of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act (CYFEA) was called by the Ministry; AFKA was asked to submit names of individuals who may represent caregivers on the panel; those individuals were interviewed by the Ministry and one was chosen to sit on the panel in this capacity (Danielle Gouchie)
- AFKA continues to support the evolution of work with the Provincial Caregiver Recognition Working Group; monthly meetings are held and ways to support the recognition of caregivers across the province are shared between regions; citation plaques were developed to be used for citation awards this year, with conversations continuing on how to offer other options of recognition for caregivers years of service

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Melissa Jones

- AFKA was invited to attend the Budget 2024 Announcement in Edmonton; caregivers in Alberta received an increase in basic maintenance, as well as special rates, percentage spread over a 3-year period
- AFKA attended the Central Region Round Table discussions, providing opportunities to hear concerns being shared and to also have time for AFKA discussions directly with the ADM and Minister
- AFKA is in collaboration with the Ministry to organize the provincial flag raising ceremony for October 2024; it is encouraging the Ministry is taking a very active role in supporting this event, knowing this is an important way we can highlight a month that has been dedicated to honouring the role and dedication of foster and kinship caregivers in Alberta

Operations

- AFKA's Operational Grant was extended for 3 more years (April 2024-March 2027) with no increase; additional reporting requirements have been added to the new grant
- AFKA received a one-time Grant to support AFKA's 50th Anniversary Training Conference held in Calgary, AB June 2024; this was to help offset the costs so caregivers could attend at a significantly reduced registration fee; reporting requirements were expected with the closure of this grant
- The CRM has been functional and provided opportunities for more consistent and accurate gathering of data; input of new caregivers is done monthly, with the goal to send out regular new member onboarding emails to introduce new caregivers to the AFKA team and support system in place for them; this database has been great to track the number of hours the AFKA team is supporting caregivers throughout the regions and in the various capacities of support
- The AFKA team has been working with contractors to get our member portal up and running in a way that is user friendly and meaningful; due to challenges within the work of our contractors, there is a delay in launching the member portal
- AFKA had a successful volunteer turnout to support the casino in Calgary March 30-April 1, 2024; thank you to all those who continue to support AFKA in volunteer capacities
- AFKA's lease expired the end of September 2024; the new location is official as of October 2024, with a great deal of work at the previous location in order to make the move efficient and the new space relevant for our work; AFKA is working with a signage company to have our brand applied to signage outside and inside the building; open house is scheduled for November 7, 2024 with invitations being sent; new location is located on the AFKA website and will soon be updated in Google
- Increased security measures have been put in place for technology use (i.e. microsoft applications on work devices) to ensure safety from any cyber attacks; regular testing and training for AFKA staff and board members has begun and will be continuous throughout the year

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Melissa Jones

Promotional and Recognition

- AFKA did a soft launch of our new brand at the AFKA Conference in October 2023
- AFKA's Heartbeat Video was developed and released publicly to share what the association's purpose is in the lives of Alberta's foster and kinship caregivers
- New website with AFKA's new brand and messaging was launched in February 2024; messaging used within the new brand is to help shift the narrative of foster and kinship care in Alberta, hoping to address a challenge those caregivers are facing with the current narrative
- Bursary; 2 bursaries were awarded this year in the amount of \$1,500.00 each
- Work is near completion for the AFKA online member portal, which will be available to all AFKA members
- Discussion and development work for new member onboarding experience with Anthem Creative; a great deal of time has been spent in these conversations and planning, with an anticipated launch in the second-third quarter (2024-2025) and is tied to the member portal
- Discussions regarding future promotional activities and campaigns to promote foster and kinship care with Anthem Creative; anticipated launch in the third quarter
- AFKA Caregiver Recognition Committee (Board Committee); launched with expectations to continue and support the work of AFKA's recognition activities
- New member onboarding experience being developed with Anthem Creative; videos are being developed that highlight some common themes for new caregivers to help raise awareness and considerations as new caregivers
- AFKA's Nomination Campaign is almost complete with the goal to launch October 1st in honour of Alberta's Foster and Kinship Caregiver Appreciation Month; this nomination campaign will help bring awareness and recognition to the public of the role foster and kinship caregivers have in the lives of children and youth in care; one nomination will be drawn in November 2024 for a getaway to a Fairmont Resort; with permission, the nominations received will be used to highlight stories of caregivers throughout the year to assist with recognition and appreciation of those people, again increasing awareness provincially

Training & Events

- AFKA attended Calgary's Citation Awards Banquet to help honour the dedication of caregivers and their years of service in that region
- AFKA held its 49th Annual Training Conference and Banquet in Jasper, AB with the Minister, Searle Turton, in attendance networking with caregivers throughout his 2 day stay

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Melissa Jones

- An Indigenous Cultural Teachings event was held at Fort Edmonton Park in Edmonton on April 20 2024
- AFKA held its 50th Annual Training Conference in Calgary, AB, June 6-8 2024 with a great deal of positive feedback for the venue, training, entertainment, speakers, and meals; Minister Searle Turton and ADM David Wheeler attended the Conference Banquet, spending time talking with caregivers when possible
- AFKA has begun to research and work with venues in Edmonton, AB for the next conference October 2-4 2025; feedback from past conferences will be taken into account, along with AFKA doing its best to find ways to minimize the potential for an increase in registration fees

AFKA Staff

- AFKA's staff has increased to include 3 new Level 1 Caregiver Support Team members to support our Caregiver Chats, and 1 part time contractor to support the work of events and promotion
- AFKA staff continue to receive a variety of opportunities for training, depending on their need i.e. Emotional Intelligence, Effective Communication, Conflict Resolution, SAFE Home Study, Change Management; retreats for Caregiver Support Team for team building and support, which helps the work being done to remain as cohesive as possible)
- AFKA's Caregiver Support Team (CST) has increased its level of support by starting a consistent Caregivers Matter Chat, including 4 sessions per month; a general chat, and a more focused chat for new caregivers; registration and information about these chats is shared regularly on social media platforms and email, and are also found on the events tab of our website
- AFKA's CST met with CFKPA's mentors in Calgary, AB on June 6th to network and learn from one another, to understand each other's roles so they can all better support caregivers together in the best way possible

The AFKA team is working daily to do our best for caregivers in Alberta. Although we have been experiencing many changes ourselves as a team, there is never a deviation away from doing what we do best in supporting foster and kinship caregivers the best we can. We continue to grow and learn, network and develop new relationships; all so we can support you, the caregiver, to do the most meaningful job of all for children and youth in care. Thank you to all caregivers for the enormous dedication, advocacy, and support you provide to those you care for every minute of every day. YOU are valuable – believe it!

Melissa



Director Reports



**Alberta Foster and
Kinship Association**

Director Reports

Director – Treaty 8

Carly Morton

Happy Fall, I hope you all had a great summer, with lots of memories made and time for your family to come together rest, recoup and recharge for the coming school year. Myself and my family were able to get to a number of events throughout the province. Starting in our home Nation of Fort Chipewyan for Treaty Days, this is our annual trip, and we look forward to it every year. Then we were able to partake in a family cultural camp in Anzac, we learned a lot about the connection to water that we share. There were also a number of cultural activities that were in Edmonton and the surrounding areas including the Enoch Pow Wow. What events did you and your family attend this past summer?

This quarter has been a busy one, I have been able to be part of a working committee for citations in the central regions. This is a collaboration between Alberta Foster and Kinship Association, Capital Region Caregivers Council and Child and Family Services. This has been an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication, hard work and support Kinship and Foster families provide for children in care. The compilation of stories is all inspiring!

I feel privileged to sit as the Director of Treaty 8. This has given me the opportunity to meet with many families throughout the region along with working with Nations and settlements within the traditional lands, along with meeting and learning from the urban agencies that support our families.

I look forward to the coming months, there is the Annual General Meeting for the AFKA along with the CRCC, the citations dinner celebrating caregivers, the flag raising, and a number of meetings I can attend and learn more about other regions in the province.

I would like to thank the many Kinship and Foster families who are the foundation to our children in care! You are a true blessing!

Marci Cho (Thank You)

- Carly

Director Reports

Director – Métis

Bernadine Grant

We are back in school for fall after a very hot summer in Alberta. There is not too much to report in terms of ongoings over summer as we were on break spending time with the kids during summer break.

In the Métis community, the Métis Nation of Alberta held their Annual General Assembly in August at the Expo Centre in Edmonton.

Rupertsland Institute held Buffy's Birthday Bash on July 26th at the Edmonton Inn & Conference. This annual event is child centric and focuses on the education of Métis history and language. The children took their event passports and moved through each workshop table completing each task. At the end, they were rewarded with a BBQ lunch and a chance to win a prize.

On June 22, the AFKA was present at the Lil Zaanfaan Gathering in Edmonton at the Delta South. This is a research study touching on topics of Métis-specific perspectives about children's well-being, Métis-specific practices and traditions, and availability of access to supports and services for Métis children.

June 21 & 22 Métis Crossing held the Annual Métis Fest. Families gathered for two days of connecting families with culture through jigging, fiddling shows, dance and Northern Lights viewing. If you could not attend this year, ensure to mark your calendars for next year. This is very has something for the entire family and tons of fun activities for children.

If you have Métis children in your care, ensure to visit the Métis Nation of Alberta website to find out what is coming up for Métis week in mid November. There is a week full of events for families to participate.

- Bernadine

Director Reports



Director - *Calgary Region 1/2*

Monique McCardle

This has been a transformative year for our association, marked by significant changes and developments. One of the most notable changes is our name, Calgary Region Foster and Kinship Association, which now better encompasses all the caregivers we serve. In addition to this, we have updated our bylaws to ensure they align with our evolving goals and values, and we have fine-tuned our mission statement to more accurately represent our commitment to supporting caregivers and the children they care for.

We are also excited to welcome several new staff members who bring fresh perspectives and skills to our team. With these new additions, we have made strategic shifts in roles and responsibilities to enhance our operational efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore, we have successfully increased our funding, allowing us to ensure accountability and expand our services for new caregivers. This financial boost is crucial for the continued success of our programs, which includes essential guidance and assistance to caregivers as they navigate their roles.

Our dedicated board and staff have been working hard to uphold our mission of supporting caregivers in the Calgary region. Through robust programs, we offer valuable connections and resources to caregivers. We also organize various events that foster community and provide opportunities for caregivers to connect, learn and grow. Additionally, our advocacy efforts are focused on raising awareness and championing the needs of caregivers within Family and Children's Services and the broader community.

In summary, this year has been a period of significant growth and improvement for our association, all aimed at better supporting caregivers through support, mentorship, connection, events, and advocacy.

Director Reports

Director - *Calgary Region 2/2*

Monique McCardle

Over the past year, we have made substantial progress and achieved several key objectives:

- **New Name and Mission Statement:** We successfully rebranded our organization with a new name that reflects our commitment to kinship care. Our revised mission statement now guides our strategic direction, emphasizing our dedication to supporting kinship caregivers and families in our community.
- **Bylaws Amendment (Pending approval):** We have proposed amendments to our bylaws to better serve our members and streamline our operations. This update will ensure that we remain responsive to the evolving needs of foster and kinship caregivers.
- **Funding and Executive Director Appointment:** Through negotiations with Children's Services, we secured funding to hire our first Executive Director, Monique McCardle. Her leadership has already proven invaluable in enhancing our organizational capacity and outreach efforts.
- **Inaugural Kinship Tea Event:** We successfully launched our first-ever Kinship Tea event, bringing together caregivers and families in a warm and supportive environment. This event was instrumental in fostering community among kinship caregivers.
- **Connect and Refresh Caregiver Support Sessions:** Thanks to Nikki Nieboer's dedication, we introduced the Connect and Refresh sessions, providing vital support and resources to caregivers. We have had over 58 caregivers attend since May 2023. These sessions have become a cornerstone of our support services.
- **Diverse Roster of Events:** Throughout the year, our organization has hosted a full calendar of events, thanks to the hard work and commitment of our amazing volunteers. These events have not only provided the opportunity to build a strong sense of community among our members.
- **Secured a substantial grant through the Calgary Foundation** to support our Kinship families with in-person and virtual support groups as well as family events help throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we are committed to building upon these achievements and continuing to enhance our support for both foster and kinship caregivers. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers, the support of our members, and the hard work of our staff and board. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our mission. Together, we will strive to make an even greater impact in the year ahead.

- Monique

Director Reports

Director - Central Region

Danielle Gouchie

Hello from Central region! It has been a beautiful summer, and kids are now back to school. I will miss not having to make lunches and fight with the kids to get them to the bus every morning but welcome the routine that comes with school and sports.

I think the highlight for Central region over this past year, as it is for most regions was the meeting with the minister, Searle Turton. Minister Turton held, or is scheduled to attend, town hall meetings in all the regions over the next few months, and approximately 20 foster parents and 20 kinship caregivers were invited to attend. Minister Searle was in attendance, and I found him to be an attentive listener, who was open and frank with the idea that changes need to happen, and the ministry and caregivers need to work in partnership. The minister has advised that follow up will happen once the town hall meetings are completed, and I am looking forward to hearing how the ministry intends to bring about much needed change and work towards building relationships with caregivers across the Province.

June also saw AFKA's 50th celebration of the caregiver conference! This year the conference was held in Calgary. While it was sad for many caregivers to have the change from Jasper, where the conference was held in past years, it was a great opportunity for caregivers in the Southern part of the province to attend without all the winter driving!

Over the past year Central Region has seen a significant decline in regional association attendance. Central Region once boasted a thriving Central Region Association, that was able to support and provide networking opportunities for caregivers. Recently they have struggled to maintain a board of directors. Regional Councils can provide caregivers with much needed support, mentorship and networking opportunities, who understands a caregiver better than another caregiver! The CACC is always looking for new board members and any caregiver is more than welcome (encouraged even!) to attend the monthly meetings.

Red Deer Foster and Kinship Association meets monthly (with a break for summer!) and will be starting up again this fall. It is an opportunity to network with other caregivers, get support, and find out what is happening within the Red Deer Region. This get together is open to all caregivers (foster and kinship!) that are within the Red Deer region. You can find the group on Facebook!

Alberta is also home to a Chapter of "Foster the Family." They are a "community of support, encouragement, and information for foster and adoptive moms." Foster moms, foster-adoptive moms and prospective foster moms are all welcome to attend. They meet the third Monday of each month.

I am looking forward to continued opportunities to meet regional caregivers, listen to concerns, successes and ideas to support caregivers going forward.

- Danielle

Director Reports

Acting Director – *Edmonton Region 1/3*

Shauna Sebry - Baxter

Hello Region 6 Caregivers,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer! Time seems to have flown by, and here we are in September already. I know many of you have been busy balancing your caregiving responsibilities, and I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication you continue to show for the children in your care.

Since the June 2024 update, there haven't been many significant changes to report. From what I understand, the Children's Services Minister is still in the process of gathering input from the Townhall meetings. It's encouraging to see that they're taking time to listen to the voices of caregivers and communities across the regions. I'm hopeful that this feedback will lead to meaningful improvements and support for both caregivers and children in the system.

Additionally, I would like to take a look at all of the happenings over the past year (October 2023 – September 2024):

September/October 2023-December 2023:

- I hit the ground running, and I wouldn't have it any other way. There was a CRCC meeting on September 21, where a hot topic was about CSD an long overdue money owed to caregivers. Joan Conibear took note and was going to be following up in regard to outstanding monies owed to MANY caregivers. We as caregivers also had the opportunity to have our voices heard at two Town-hall meetings. One was on November 15 via an online forum and there was also another Town-hall, in person on November 29. The general theme seems to be that relationships are poor between the ministry and caregivers. Caregivers feel unheard, devalued, disrespected and many stories were told with heartbreaking vulnerability.
- The AFKA held their AGM on Nov 20. Sylvia Thompson has stepped down as president and Rene Rajotte has stepped in as our new AFKA president.
- We met with several Associate Directors on December 11. It was noted in this meeting that the ministry needs to be building trusting relationships with caregivers as those relationships have eroded and trust has been lost.
- There was extensive dialogue about bands having their own IGB (indigenous governing bodies,). Some bands are currently in the process of gaining that status but both Driftpile and Louis Bull have their own governing bodies currently. We continued the conversation on issues with CSD paying in a timely manner and the concern of large sums of money that are currently owed. We are hoping to continue conversations and follow up with concerns in early 2024.
- The Capital Region Caregiver Council (CRCC) is having its annual general meeting on January 15 (930-1130 am) at the AFKA office, followed by a coffee time. I encourage all caregivers to attend the AGM and connect with fellow caregivers.

Director Reports

Acting Director – *Edmonton Region 2/3*

Shauna Sebry - Baxter

January 2024 – March 2024:

- There was increase in rates.
- Our Capital Region Caregiver Council (CRCC) had its AGM and coffee time on February 7, 2024. There was approximately eight persons in attendance. We continued conversations on struggles with CSD agencies reimbursing caregivers in a timely manner and have been encouraging those who have issues (in Region 6) to reach out to Ellen Herle (Foster Care Manager) for assistance.
- The AFKA held their annual casino event in Calgary on April 30 and May 1. Thanks to the amazing volunteers who participated.
- Some of the amazing events were held including:
 - January 12 - Soup & Bannock at Bent Arrow
 - February 5 - Traditional Indigenous Wellness Parenting Program commenced at Ben Calf Robe.
 - February 10 - Alexander Awasisak Headstart had a Round Dance.
 - March 2 - Pipe Ceremony/Round Dance at Bent arrow.
 - March 25-28 - Winter Cultural Camp at Enoch
 - March 30 - Family Memorial Round Dance at River Cree

April 2024 – June 2024:

- April 24 - Retirement party for Sylvia Thompson (former President AFKA BOARD) now (Past President). Sylvia served the AFKA for 30 + years. Congrats and thank you Sylvia.
- April 24-26 - AFKA Board & Regional Presidents Meetings (See afkaonline.ca for meeting minutes)
- June 4 - Coffee time with Caregivers that was put on by the ministry in a drop in format. It was well attended by caregivers. Managers and Associate Directors were in attendance and so many conversations were had.
- June 6 - AFKA Board Meeting (see AFKAonline.ca for meeting minutes)
- June 7-8 - AFKA Conference held at the Deerfoot Inn & Casino in Calgary. The raffle and online silent auction were successes and Minister Turton spoke to those in attendance after Friday evening supper.
- June 11 - Coffee time with Caregivers (same format as June 4 but different location). After speaking with Joan Conibear, this event was poorly attended. I myself thought that we only got to attend one of the coffee times and so didn't attend.
- June 13 - Round Table with the CFS Minister. This was an invite only event. I do not know how caregivers were chosen. I do know that both foster and kinship caregivers were represented.
- June 25 - Capital Region Caregiver Council (CRCC) Coffee Time. Held at the home of our Council President, Joanne Crowley. It was an opportunity to connect, share, navigate struggles and exchange strategies plus put faces to names of people we may have never met before.

Director Reports

Acting Director – *Edmonton Region 3/3*

Shauna Sebry - Baxter

Looking ahead, our Capital Region Caregiver Council will be meeting with the Ministry on September 16th. This meeting is an important opportunity for us to engage in collaborative discussions and share our experiences directly with decision-makers. I'm optimistic that through these conversations, we can foster a stronger, more supportive caregiving environment. Your feedback and concerns are critical to these discussions, and I'd love to hear from any of you who would like to share your thoughts.

Your input helps ensure that the voices of caregivers in our region are heard and valued. Thank you all for your continued dedication and hard work. I look forward to staying connected and working together to make a positive difference. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or simply want to have a conversation, please feel free to reach out to me at boardedmonton@afkaonline.ca.

- Shauna

Director Reports

Director - *North Region* AFKA Treasurer

Beverly Towe

Hello from Bev Towe, as I write this report, I will be going into the round table with Minister Searle Turton which is happening this morning on Sept. 16, 2024. The round table is about the challenges the caregivers are having as well as the good things that do happen.

The Caregiver Association continues to meet to network and support caregivers. There are only a few foster and kinship families who attend, and as always, they are looking for ways to increase attendance.

The north central and northeast Region Caregiver Council meets once a month via zoom. Attendance is typically just board members, and we are trying to figure out how to engage all caregivers to attend. Any ideas are greatly appreciated.

Now that summer is over, we are all back in school mode, and all the activities for the winter. I am hoping that we all have a successful year.

With that being said, my goal as Northeast Region's Board of Director is to continue making connections with area caregivers. I would like to find a way that allows foster parents the ability to feel safe in forwarding their concerns and successes and advocating for foster parents.

- Bev
780-207-1041
Bev.towe@hotmail.com

Director Reports

Associate Director - *North Region, West Stream*

Terri Forseille

Report not received.

Director - *Advocacy*

Chad Krahn

Report not received



**Thank
You!**



**Alberta Foster and
Kinship Association**