



Statement

Oct. 7, 2016

Representative Recognizes Contribution of B.C. Foster Parents

October is Foster Family Appreciation Month and I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to the estimated 2,700 of you in British Columbia who continue to step up to serve in such a vital role.

When children and youth must be removed from their birth homes in order to ensure that they are properly protected and nurtured, you as foster parents are there to offer a safe haven and priceless support. You do your best to provide stability – exactly what vulnerable children need – and your efforts often do wonders in creating stronger and more resilient children and youth as they move forward in life.

Our staff at the Representative for Children and Youth's Office do considerable work with foster families as part of our Advocacy function. Every day, we assist children, youth and families who are having challenges with the systems that provide service to them. Our role is to help ensure that the voices of children and youth are listened to and respected, and that their rights are considered when decisions are being made that involve them.

All of us at RCY deeply appreciate the work of foster parents, including those providing support through kinship and out-of-care placements. The stability and safety you provide children, many whom have experienced difficult times in their young lives, is essential in helping them heal and be successful at school and in their daily lives.

Thank you again for your caring and dedication and for opening your homes and hearts to the children and youth who need it most.

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond
B.C. Representative for Children and Youth