

# FSC NATIONAL NEWS

Newsletter for members of Family Service Canada



## Message from the Board

We want to thank everyone that participated in the survey last month. We received feedback that will inform our direction and increase our focus over the next year. As a result we have identified three priorities for the 2018/19 year.

- Website. We will be setting up a separate space for members to share high quality resources, expertise and funding opportunities. Our hope is that we can develop a library that assists members in their local communities by sharing our national expertise, innovative practices and programming knowledge.
- Newsletter. We will be sending out quarterly newsletters that will include trends in family services, research, highlights from other agencies and upcoming events.
- Executive Leadership Summit. The Board reviewed the feedback we received from the Summit in 2017, and the environmental scan completed by Heard Communications, and overwhelmingly the feedback we received spoke to the desire/appetite for an in-depth learning experience where our members could really “dig-in” to the subject matter and learn from one another. We heard that the time spent together should focus on networking, sharing expertise, innovative programming and potential opportunities for family serving agencies. This feedback lead us to reconsider the name of our annual leadership development meeting. We researched some existing models and think we have found a concept that truly captures what we are looking for – we are suggesting moving from an annual Executive Leaders Summit to building a Community of Learning for leaders.

A Community of Learners is a group of people who share values and beliefs and who actively engage in learning from one another—learners from teachers, teachers from learners, and learners from learners. They thus create a learning-centered environment in which all are actively and intentionally constructing knowledge together. Learning communities are connected, cooperative, and supportive. Peers are interdependent in that they have joint responsibility for learning and share resources and points of view, while sustaining a mutually respectful and cohesive environment.

Additionally we heard that cost can be a barrier to attending; the primary expenditure for the summit has been the expensive hotel fees for meeting rooms/food/tech/breaks, etc. Our intent is to reduce costs, and increase learning, by hosting these events at FSC member agencies or other Community venues.

## Save the date:

This year we are thrilled to announce will meet **in Edmonton, on October 2nd and 3rd at The Family Centre.** Stay tuned for more details as we build our Community of Learning.

# Program highlight: Survivor 101

Over the past three months, groups of students at five different Saskatoon high schools have gathered to discuss and create a vision for a handbook for teens. What has come out of those discussions and the student's hard work is plans for a book which will be an incredible celebration of the talent, creativity and commitment of the young people involved and a hope filled, relevant resource for youth, professionals and community members.

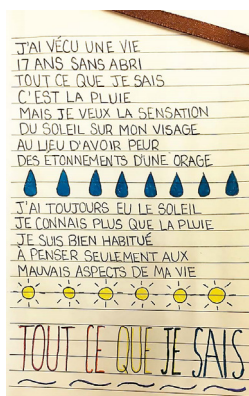
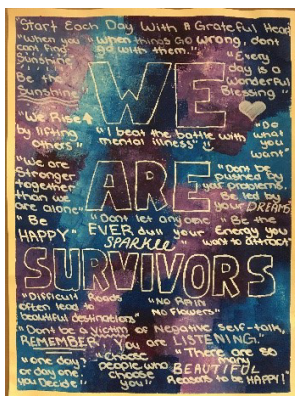
Students involved in this project are all part of Survivor 101. The Survivor 101 program is a program offered by CFS Saskatoon for high school students who need a safe space to learn and share about mental health challenges, addictions, difficult relationships and other issues. Survivor 101 groups meet weekly at various Saskatoon high schools and the topics discussed are vast and unique to each school community.

Five years ago, the Survivor 101 program coordinator along with a group of Survivor 101 students decided to create a handbook for teens that was full of poems, stories and art in the first section, and information and resources in the second section. This handbook continues to be used within the Survivor 101 program as well as by school counselors, youth in the community and other community organizations. The need for such a resource is still great and now there's a new group of young people who are ready to rise to the task and create the second edition of the Survivor 101 Handbook for Teens!

The new handbook is set to be released in early Summer and will include visual and written art created by youth that draw on their experiences and insight. Like it's predecessor, the handbook will also include age appropriate information from professionals on topics such as depression, anxiety, mindfulness and communication as well as a section of resources available within the community. New to this edition will be a section of resources offered online and through social media. Everything about the book- from the topics included to the design- has been driven by the ideas of the students involved and the final product will truly be a resource for youth created by youth.

Survivor 101 Program Coordinator Dawn Kellington has been coordinating the handbook project. She shared a bit on her experience of the project so far: *"It hasn't always been easy coordinating and balancing input and opinions from youth who all have different ideas at all of the different schools. There have been times I've left a meeting with students at one school thinking the details have been nailed down only to drive across the city and have another group of students want to take things in a completely different direction. However, the whole process of this project unfolding has been so exciting for me because of the passion and creativity I've seen from the students. I love that they all have ideas and they all care about this book and the people who will be reading it! At each stage, I've seen the students get more and more excited and invested. First it was when the title was chosen, then it was when the cover design was finalized and then when the layout was confirmed and it keeps continuing! This is truly their project. They know what it's like to be in high school. They know the pressures of social media. They know what's relevant to young people. There have been topics and ideas that they've come up with that I never would have thought of and I think it's awesome! I have seen students become leaders and feel empowered by being given a voice through this project and I can't wait for others to use this resource- to learn from it and to be inspired by it."*

Stay tuned for the release of "Day by Day: A Handbook for Teens" in the coming months!



A sneak peak of some of the art that's been created by students and will be included in the handbook.

## CEO Spotlight: Chuck MacLean

My first venture into the world of social services was working in a treatment facility for youth up to the age of 12. I had recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree in psychology and exhausted any monies I had set aside for school. I had been an electronic technician for many years and had been working on my degree on a part-time basis. We had just moved into a new house and with two young children and with the full support of my wife, I quit a job with a local school board and became a full-time student to finish my degree.

I worked in children's treatment facilities for a number of years and was invited to take on a leadership role in a new venture, a shelter for street involved youth, which I readily accepted. As the agency grew and developed I was asked to become the organization's first Executive Director. The agency was funded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and little did I realize in accepting the position I had also taken a vow of poverty. While working in the youth shelter I worked on my Masters of Social Work on a part-time basis at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. It was a 4 year program that require two practicums, so between work, school and practicums I was in a constant state of flux.

When I completed my Masters I worked in Mississauga for a period of time as the Executive Director for a shelter for street involved youth aged 18-21 and left there to work in a woman's shelter. I was the Director of Residential services for a number of years, one of three men in North America in a director position in a shelter for women and their children who experienced domestic violence.

I started with Family Services of Peel in 2008 as the Director of Client Services and threw my hat into the ring when the Executive Director decided to retire in 2010. I have been the Executive Director of Family Services of Peel since 2010 and with the support of an excellent senior team have seen the agency grow and develop. Family Services of Peel has a long history of membership with Family Service Canada and is committed to supporting the work of Family Service Canada as they move forward.



## Interesting Reads and Talks:

Adam M. Grant is an American psychologist and author who is currently a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania specializing in organizational psychology. He is the author of Give and Take Ted Talks [https://www.ted.com/talks/adam\\_grant\\_are\\_you\\_a\\_giver\\_or\\_a\\_taker](https://www.ted.com/talks/adam_grant_are_you_a_giver_or_a_taker)

The Myth of the Innovation Lab

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tendayiviki/2018/04/15/the-myth-of-the-innovation-lab/#1f72ba924125>

When a Nonprofit Decision is Strategic but Not Mature: Reflections on the United Way Movement

[https://nonprofitquarterly.org/2018/04/05/nonprofit-decision-strategic-not-mature-reflections-united-way-movement/?utm\\_content=70018785&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/2018/04/05/nonprofit-decision-strategic-not-mature-reflections-united-way-movement/?utm_content=70018785&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

We want to know what is happening in your agency. Let us know about your successes, new initiatives, important changes in staffing, anniversaries, etc. We will include them in future issues of our newsletter.

