



Statement

Oct. 1, 2021
For Immediate Release

October is Foster Family Month, a time when we recognize the hard work and dedication of foster caregivers across the province. Throughout this very challenging past year, I have listened to countless stories about the caring and compassionate nature of British Columbia's foster caregivers. These stories never cease to amaze me.

With the added stress of children returning to schools this year amidst an ongoing pandemic, foster caregivers have played a pivotal role in helping children adapt and make key day-to-day decisions in their lives. Their patience and thoughtfulness is simply remarkable. I am deeply appreciative of the effort and flexibility foster caregivers bring to their roles as care providers.

It's important to note that the work of foster caregivers has an ever-lasting impact on the lives of children. The smallest acts of kindness pave the way for a better life for children in care. Although these moments cannot be measured in numbers, they are sometimes shared by those who have experienced them – and it is evident how much they truly mean.

SEMA'TSE Jordan, RCY's Social Media Youth Team member, recently shared stories about her own experience of feeling included and cared for by her 'second home' and how much those gestures of kindness helped her through some difficult times:

"My foster mom and my care home never judged – never pushed me away – no matter what. And for that, I would like to thank them for always standing by my side. I've learned so many things that I will carry with me for the rest of my life... I'm proud to call you guys my 'second home'."

The warmth and support she felt is, in essence, what caregiving is all about. Please take a moment to listen to her incredible podcast [here](#).

I'd also like to share another story that highlights the incredible commitment of foster caregivers. In our report, *Excluded: Increasing Understanding, Support and Inclusion for Children with FASD and their Families*, we had an opportunity to

speaking to Robin and Rose – foster mothers – who have taken care of more than 50 foster children over the years, most of whom have been diagnosed with FASD. Robin and Rose provide a warm and loving home to all their children, helping them to manage their lives with FASD. Their support and stability help nurture self-confidence and enable these children to explore opportunities to grow and flourish.

These examples are just snippets of the amazing job B.C.'s foster caregivers do on a daily basis. I want to sincerely thank foster caregivers for your continued hard work throughout these very difficult times and show my gratitude for your dedication towards the beautiful children who are in your care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Charlesworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Charlesworth
Representative for Children and Youth