



October 1, 2020

Good Afternoon Foster and Kinship Caregivers,

I am always excited to be involved in recognizing the wonderful work that foster and kinship caregivers do to help provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and youth in need.

I fostered for the department of Children's Services for 32 years, which has provided me with a good insight into the lives of foster and kinship caregivers. Through my fostering journey, I have been blessed to care for many young people, develop many positive relationships with them and their families, and have seen many of them, succeed. To think I may have played even a small part in helping them get there, is a real honour.

We were thrilled to have the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children's Service, on behalf of the province of Alberta, declare the month of October as Foster and Kinship Caregiver Appreciation Month. This declaration is another positive step by the Alberta Government, to show recognition and appreciation for the unwavering support, commitment and kindness shown every day, by Alberta's foster and kinship caregivers.

For most of us, our hopes and expectations for 2020 were dampened by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, out of this difficult situation, we have seen many acts of kindness and selflessness, offering signs of hope for the future.

During this time, you, the foster and kinship caregivers have continued to provide safe and loving care to Alberta's children and youth. You have been resourceful and creative in ensuring connections to family, community and culture, supporting education and meeting medical needs. You have done this while adapting your lives, as you often do, to ensure the health and safety of the children and youth placed in your care. You take your roles seriously and, in many cases, go to great lengths, to advocate for the children in your care, without any expectation for acknowledgement or praise. And so, on the first day of this very special month, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks, as well as that of the AFKA's board and staff, to foster and kinship caregivers. Thank you for answering often late-night phone calls and for opening your doors, your hearts and your homes to children and youth in need.

It is my pleasure today to wish my fellow foster and kinship caregivers a very Happy Foster and Kinship Caregiver Appreciation month!

Sincerely,

Katherine Jones RSW  
Executive Director

It's all about  
**Kids**