



2025 *Symposium* FORTIFYING RETENTION

24 APRIL
THURSDAY

27 APRIL
SUNDAY

REGISTER BY MARCH 15

Radisson

85 Ste Anne Road,
Greater Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 4S4



Carol St. Clair

TRAUMA INFORMED
COMMUNICATIONS
ANALYST



DSGT. Clark & Amanda May

ANTI-HUMAN
TRAFFICKING



Vicki Cochrane

PARENTS for CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
(PCMH)



Calvin Lawrence

EMPOWERMENT
FACILITATOR

Dear LOFF members,



It is my pleasure and with a great sense of pride that I introduce, to you, this 2025 Symposium, hosted by LOFF and put together by a remarkable team of individuals. This Symposium marks the first time in Foster Parent history that we officially present ideas and the initiative that will enhance our understanding of the function of Advocacy and its essential role in strengthening our membership of this unique community. It is so important we recognize that we have a responsibility toward creating a strong and united force. We can do so much in facilitating a vehicle for retention for our fellow foster parents.

Simply put, we, as Advocates work for our Foster Parent Associations, teaching them to advocate for themselves. They, in turn, model this advocacy for the children and youth in their care so that they can become strong proponents for their own lives and futures.

We have an exciting weekend lined up for you and we know that you will learn much as you enjoy the opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

I look forward to welcoming you all to this significant event.

Warmly,

Judith Clark

LOFF PRESIDENT

EVENT PROGRAM

Thursday April 24, 2025

4:00 pm: Advocacy Registration

Friday April 25, 2025

9:00 am

Carol St Clair

Advocacy

4:00 pm: Symposium Registration

Saturday April 26, 2025

9:00 am

DSGT. Clark & Amanda May

Anti-Human Trafficking

10:30 am

Vicki Cochrane

Parents for Children Mental Health (PCMH)

1:00 pm

Calvin Lawrence

Empowerment Facilitator

7:00 pm

Hospitality

Sunday April 27, 2025

9:00 am

AGM



Carol St. Clair is an engaging speaker bringing nearly forty years of knowledge and experience working in Crisis Management, Human Development, and Child Welfare. Carol has been a Foster Parent Advocate for 15 of the 21 years she has been fostering. Prior to entering the fostering community, she was a Frontline Crisis Counsellor and Children's Worker in the domestic violence sector for two decades. Carol is a Certified Master Graphologist and Document Examiner. Her business Tales of the Script often works with lawyers in statement analysis and verification. Carol is currently Vice President of Highland Shores FFA, co-chair of the Eastern Zone Foster Family Association, sits on the Eastern Zone Managers Collaboration committee, and is a member of LOFF.

Carol's calm and optimistic demeanour coupled with her passion that all humans be treated with respect and dignity lends itself to being an advocate. This advocacy training is a continuum of Advocacy 101 and will focus on understanding all aspects of an investigation and the advocates role. Participants will gain hands on experience in active listening, crisis reduction and recovery.



**DSgt. Rick
Clark**

&

**Amanda
May**

ANTI-HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

Detective Sergeant Rick Clark has been with the Greater Sudbury Police Service for 25 years. He is currently the Officer in Charge of the Intelligence Unit which oversees Human Trafficking related investigations.

Amanda May has been with the Greater Sudbury Police Service for 14 years. She is currently the Human Trafficking Crime Analyst working with GSPS as well as the Ontario Provincial Police as part of the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence-Led Joint Forces Strategy.

Together they will focus on the signs, awareness, internet safety and reporting.



Vicki Cochrane is the Family Partnerships Program Manager for Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO), leading the provincial volunteer-based peer support program, Parents for Children's Mental Health (PCMH). She is also a parent with lived experience, having raised two boys with exceptions who have required constant advocacy and support throughout their childhood. Vicki has over 25 years of experience as a Child and Youth Care Practitioner, Having worked in the child welfare sector with many families to advocate for their needs and support them in navigating systems. She is an original member of the Family Advisory Council at the Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions having represented the family voice in several provincial initiatives, served on grant selection committees, and co-developed quality standards. She is passionate about volunteerism, advocacy, family engagement practices, and the value of peer support being integrated into our healthcare systems.



Calvin Lawrence is a passionate advocate for the transformative power of the human spirit. With years of experience as a life coach, educator, project manager, and public speaker, Calvin has dedicated his career to inspiring individuals and organizations to embrace change, overcome challenges, and achieve excellence.

A firm believer in the beauty of diversity, Calvin thrives on working with people from various cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. His approach emphasizes the importance of leadership, collaboration, and resilience in driving personal and professional growth.

Guided by the philosophy that every challenge is an opportunity for growth, Calvin seeks to empower others to face challenges and navigate change with confidence and purpose.

Calvin will be sharing his thoughts on the power and value of advocacy - exploring how each of us can use our voice, actions, and influence to drive meaningful change - individually and as part of a caring and supportive community.