



The Compassionate Friends of Canada

When A Child Dies....

National Newsletter - February 2018

National Office

The Compassionate Friends of Canada
#4 - 69 Campbell Crescent SE
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1B 1J7
Toll Free: 1-866-823-0141
(403) 487-1802
E-mail: nationaloffice@tcfcanada.net
Website: www.tcfcanada.net

National Executive:

Donna Rodin (Medicine Hat, AB) - President
Susan Doyle Lawrence (Victoria, BC) -
Vice-President and International Liaison
Cathy Sosnowsky (Vancouver, BC) - Secretary
Kathy Brooks (Victoria, BC) - Treasurer
Eileen and Andy Bond (Ottawa, ON) -
Chapter Development Committee
Directors-at-Large
Barbara Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)
Gary Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)
Judy Dowd (Campbell River, BC)

Transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope.

- Reverend Simon Stephens, Founder, TCF

Business first:

Chapter annual reports: We like to receive these each spring, to coincide with our own “new year”, but we appreciate receiving them at ANY time. They help us to help you. We’ve attached a copy of the form, should you need one. Don’t have all of the info yet? Send it in anyway, and fill in those blanks later.

Nominations for the Board of Directors, TCF Canada: We are attaching a copy of the form again, in the hope that we might find some new board members, especially from the eastern provinces. Nominations should be received by the end of March.

Processing Donations: Our fiscal year end is March 31, so soon after we will be able to send you a synopsis of our financial activity over the past year. The Board continues to keep a close rein on expenses, so at our January meeting we were able to pass a motion that will affect chapters who do not have a Charities number. Until now, those chapters were able to send to National Office any donations that are intended for the local chapter (not a donation to TCF Canada, in other words.) National would send the donor a tax receipt for the full amount, then donate the funds back to the chapter after withholding a 10% handling fee.

Effective January 1, 2018, as a courtesy to chapters, ***National will continue to process donations that require a charitable tax receipt, charging a 5% processing fee, which may be waived—to be considered on a case-by-case basis.***

Chapter Business Cards: TCF Canada has received requests for chapter business cards. Although we do not have the resources to print and supply cards to individual chapters, we can offer support for producing your own cards. You can download a business card template for use in Word from Avery.com. Microsoft Publisher, Photoshop or Adobe Photoshop Elements can also produce very nice quality business cards if you have access to those programs.

Contact TCF Canada through our webpage to receive a quality TCF Canada Logo for use on your card. We would be glad to email you the file. Then add the desired content that is pertinent to your local TCF Chapter. Below is a demo business card that you can use as an example. Perhaps you would like your executive listed as contacts or a local phone number, to find out more about your chapter. Please, contact us if you need help with this project. Also, we would love to see examples of what you have created. Here is a sample, for the Saskatoon chapter.



And now to pleasure:

Our TCF Canada Olympic Medals: While the rest of the world was anticipating the Winter Olympics in South Korea, our Chapter Development team, Eileen and Andy Bond, were watching their mailbox and their inbox for Chapter Annual Reports. First across the finish line was the Calgary team, just hours after they received their January newsletter. Second place goes to S E New Brunswick, with a January filing date, and third place goes to Cranbrook, with a Feb 5 date stamp.



Calgary Jan 26/18 (Gold)



S E New Brunswick Jan 30/18 (Silver)



Cranbrook Feb 5/18 (Bronze)

The Annual Report is the one thing that we request of the chapters each year. It is an essential tool for communication between National and Chapters. It allows us to check the accuracy of the Chapter Contact information for National Office and for the National Web Site. If the Board receives inquiries for support we can immediately refer bereaved parents to the closest Chapter. All leaders listed on the Annual Report are added to our National Newsletter distribution list. And, finally, this is the Chapter's opportunity to request materials and support or to ask questions. Communication is the key. Let us hear from you, please.

Chapter Profile: We would like to start introducing our Chapters to each other, so if you would like to say hello, please let us know. We'll start off on the West Coast, and see where we wind up next:

Oceanside Chapter, BC

Oceanside is the collective name for a string of communities along the central eastern coast of Vancouver Island. Most of them were founded in support of resource development (mining, forestry, aquaculture), and the original "Island Highway" strung them together. The main highway connecting northern and central Island communities to the south Island and Victoria has now been re-located several kilometers inland, and the economies of these coastal towns are now dependent upon tourism. They are blessed with magnificent beaches, forests, mountains, lakes and rivers, and fabulous views.

Back in 2012 and 2013, when their grief was still quite new, Carolyn Farrington, of Qualicum Beach, and Joan Mantei and Christina Cornish, both of Parksville, were travelling to Nanaimo each month to attend TCF sharing meetings. When that chapter faltered in 2013, the three moms took the initiative to start a new chapter in Qualicum Beach, meeting at Valhalla House, a centre run by the local Hospice society. Carolyn and Joan led the group until last year, when Josie LeBlanc became the new leader. Within months, though, Josie needed to move back to Ontario, so Marsha Bergen stepped forward. With strong leadership and a committed membership, the chapter has a solid foundation and continues to provide caring support for its new and ongoing members. They keep in touch between meetings through a closed Facebook site. Plans for the future include holding a "flower floating" event, and sharing each other's company at a Mother's Day charity walk/run. Their Good Idea to share with other chapters: at their February meeting attendees each brought along a book that had helped them on their grief journey. One member shared her appreciation the next day:

Thank you, Friends, for another wonderful and inspiring meeting last night! Nowhere else can we drop the mask that has become our permanent companion, and truly share our common bond. It is so refreshing to be open and honest, and know that the room is filled with empathy and acceptance. Isn't it amazing how total strangers can fill a need in us that no one else can? Thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I now have a list of books to try!

