



# The Compassionate Friends of Canada

## When A Child Dies...

## National Newsletter - April 2019

### National Office

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### National Executive:

Andy Bond (Ottawa, ON) - President  
Donna Rodin (Medicine Hat, AB) -  
Past President  
Susan Doyle Lawrence (Victoria, BC) -  
Vice-President and International Liaison  
Cathy Sosnowsky (Vancouver, BC) - Secretary  
Diana Cadigan (St. John's, NL) - Treasurer  
Eileen Bond (Ottawa, ON) - Chapter  
Development Committee  
Directors-at-Large  
Barbara Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)  
Gary Kachur (Saskatoon, SK)

*Transforming the pain of grief into the elixir of hope.*

- Reverend Simon Stephens, Founder, TCF

### SOME ADMIN STUFF ...

#### Chapter Annual Report

As we have noted before, the Chapter Annual Report is our only way to keep our contact information up-to-date and learn what issues are of concern to Chapters across the country. If you have not yet sent in your report, please take a few minutes to complete one now. In response to recent requests, we are sending the form in both .pdf and Word format. To date we have received ten Annual Reports, led by Burin Peninsula, NL. Thank you!

#### Annual Chapter Donations

A message of appreciation goes out this month to chapters in provinces to the East and West: Burin Peninsula (NL), and North Shore (Vancouver, BC) and Kamloops (BC). Our primary source of funding is donations from Chapters and individuals, so any amount is gratefully received. Thank you for your support!

#### Nominations for Board of Directors

The TCF Canada Board meets by teleconference once a month to review, discuss and plan how we can best encourage and support Chapters across the country. We are always looking for

new members to bring their ideas, energy and enthusiasm to benefit bereaved parents from coast to coast. Directors are elected for a two-year term at the Annual Business Meeting held in June. If you would like to join the Board, or propose someone else who is willing, the Nominating Committee, headed by Past President Donna Rodin, would love to hear from you.

Please complete the attached nomination form and e-mail to [NationalOffice@TCFCanada.net](mailto:NationalOffice@TCFCanada.net). Nominations should be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup>, although we are willing to consider interested candidates at any time.

## Annual Business Meeting

We recognize that not everyone gets excited about another meeting, but this one only happens once a year and it is your opportunity to contribute to how TCF Canada operates. As an incorporated not-for-profit organization, we are required by Corporations Canada to hold an Annual Business Meeting (ABM) at which all members may vote on key aspects of our operations. The ABM will be held in June by teleconference; the actual date will be confirmed next month.

If you have any questions or suggestions for discussion at the ABM, please e-mail them to [NationalOffice@TCFCanada.net](mailto:NationalOffice@TCFCanada.net). If you would like to participate in the ABM (by teleconference), please let us know and we will forward the toll-free call-in number and time.

## Reaching Out

In keeping with our objective of raising the public profile of our organization, the Board has agreed to a request from the Canadian Cancer Society to include TCF on their Community Service Locator list. We are expecting that the listing will include the National Office contact details for general enquiries, and the e-mail address and phone number for each Chapter listed on the TCF Canada website.

After this list is published, you may be contacted by parents or groups in your area looking for information or support. If so, we would appreciate hearing from you so that we can assess the effectiveness of this outreach strategy.

Thank you for your support!

## Facilitator Training

We are planning another telephone training session based on the *“Information for Facilitators”* handbook prepared for the 2017 National Gathering. The session runs for approximately one hour and is intended to provide guidance for new Chapter Leaders and Circle Facilitators and a review / refresh opportunity for those more experienced.

The proposed date is **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>** starting at noon Eastern time. If you would like to attend, please e-mail [nationaloffice@tcfcanada.net](mailto:nationaloffice@tcfcanada.net) indicating where you will be calling from. If you need a copy of the handbook, please e-mail and we will send you a Dropbox link to download and print a .pdf copy (approx. 40 pages).

As with all of our services and activities, there is no charge to participate in this training session.

## AND NOW FOR THE GOOD STUFF...

### Our TCF Canada Family is Growing

Someone said the word *Spring* and new chapters started popping up like spring flowers across the country:

March:

**Kincardine, ON**, led by Vida Proctor and Joanne McClory

April:

**Assiniboia, SK**, led by Melanie Delorme and Marnie Willer

**New Glasgow & Area, NS**, led by Debra Long

## Chapter Profile

### Bonding Through Sorrow: Olds & Area, AB, Chapter, founded September 2018



The Compassionate Friends of Olds and Area came into fruition by the dedication and passion of three bereaved moms. The group was spearheaded by the hard work and determination of Anissa Craig.

Anissa lost her daughter, Kaitlyn, on April 11, 2017, after a six-week battle with an extremely aggressive type of cancer called Vascular Leiomyosarcoma. Kaitlyn was 23 years old. Anissa was looking for answers and trying to find comfort in her pain and picked up the book "Beyond Tears" by Ellen Mitchell.

The book is about several parents meeting at a Compassionate Friends chapter in the United States.

Anissa saw the need for herself and for so many other parents that are hurting and need somewhere to go to share their heart and stories. They long to hear their child's name and share their grief journey with others in a safe place with no judgement and with those who know and understand the pain of child loss. Anissa joined the TCF Facebook page, which was helpful but felt she needed more. She then was connected to three other wonderful, angel moms who bonded instantly and the wheels started rolling.

After much thought and consideration, Jackie Dinzey decided to join Anissa in her endeavours to bring a Compassionate Friends chapter to Olds and area. Jackie lost her seventeen-year-old daughter, Taylore, on April 30, 2016. She was killed instantly when a commercial tow truck driver failed to stop at a stop sign. Jackie also feels there is such a need for bereaved parents to come together and offer support to each other.

The Compassionate Friends of Olds and Area is focusing on advertising and getting the word out there. We feel positive that it will reach others who need this type of support and look forward to the hope and comfort that this chapter will bring to all of us.

