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Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 3:02 PM

To: Info <info@northcowichan.ca>

Subject: E-mail from the Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of Children and Family Development

Your Worship Mayor Rob Douglas
District of North Cowichan
E-mail: info@northcowichan.ca

Dear Mayor and Council:

Since 1990, October has been declared a time to celebrate and honour the caregivers in our communities across British Columbia who make the unconditional commitment to protect and care for some of our most vulnerable children and youth. I am pleased to announce that this October will mark the 33rd Foster Family Month in British Columbia.

As Minister of Children and Family Development, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to caregivers who have stepped up when they are needed most. By embracing the challenges and rewards of caring for these children, they have made a huge difference in their lives, as well as the communities in which they reside. I have the deepest respect for the hard work that they have done and continue to do as caregivers. In being part of the lives of these young people, they fulfill many roles, including parent, mentor, teacher, friend, and cheerleader. Their efforts and compassion create a safe haven and a home while responding to each unique family situation. I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the warmth and dedication these caregivers and foster families have shown to the children and youth in their care. The support, guidance, and love they have shown will last a lifetime.

To help these children and youth, as part of *Budget 2023*, the Ministry of Children and Family Development increased monthly payments for foster caregivers by as much as 47 percent to ensure that these young people and those who care for them will have the support they need to build safe, stable and happy futures.

Please join me in celebrating October as Foster Family Month to show those in your community how important the role of a foster caregiver is. I encourage you to celebrate foster families for the selfless work they do for the children, youth, and families of British Columbia.

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia and its citizens, thank you for your continued support in recognizing foster caregivers.

Sincerely,

Mitzi Dean
Minister

Sent on behalf of the Minister by: