



# Muskoka Family Network Newsletter

December 2017

**Website:**

[www.muskokafamilynetwork.weebly.com](http://www.muskokafamilynetwork.weebly.com)

**Facebook Page:**

[www.facebook.com/MuskokaFamilyNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MuskokaFamilyNetwork)

*(Thank You Erica for managing this page)*

## Committee Updates:

### 1. **Speech & Language Committee:**

The panel was very happy to report progress in decreasing assessment and intervention waiting times and will continue in every aspect to provide services as quickly as possible.

As of January 1, 2018, all Early Years Centres will now be the responsibility of the District of Muskoka. There will be changes happening with regards to open and closing times as well as staffing, more information to come on this. New licensed daycares are now open at Irwin, Manson and Watt schools, along with infant and toddler rooms in Gravenhurst. For more information, contact Linda Burton at [lburton@muskoka.on.ca](mailto:lburton@muskoka.on.ca)

Any parents seeking assistance with speech are encouraged to contact the Parry Sound office for information and enrolment in the HANEN and SPARK parent training programs that are being offered. For more information, contact Stacey Bullock at [Stacey.bullock@clhuntsville.ca](mailto:Stacey.bullock@clhuntsville.ca) or Adele Kirby at [adelek@onekidsplace.ca](mailto:adelek@onekidsplace.ca).

It takes both Professionals and Parents to achieve success!

*Thank You Sarah for representing Muskoka Family Network on this Committee.*

### 2. **Transition in Youth – Muskoka Region:**

Money was received to host a Youth Summit that was held on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the St. Dominic's Secondary High School in Bracebridge. Youth, Grades 9 & 10 were bussed in from various communities to attend this event. The event was a huge success. Blake Fly was the guest speaker.

*Thank You Moira for representing Muskoka Family Network on this Committee.*

### 3. **Independent Facilitation & Planning Steering Committee – Muskoka/Parry Sound/Nipissing**

We attended a presentation in Kitchener on September 20<sup>th</sup> about Independent Facilitation. We heard many success stories of individuals receiving this service. If you would like to learn more about what Independent Facilitation is about, check out their website: [www.oifn.ca](http://www.oifn.ca).

*Thank You to Sherri Lynn for representing Muskoka Family Network on this Committee.*

#### 4. *Family Alliance Ontario*

We are now a board member on this Provincial Family Advocate Group. If you would like to learn more about Family Alliance Ontario, you can check out their Facebook Page or website: <http://family-alliance.com>

Family Alliance Ontario will be partaking in a project over the next 2 ½ years collecting stories and visiting our communities of individuals that lived in institutions. We are quite excited to be able to proceed this project, more information to follow.

Thank You Carla for representing the families of the Muskoka Family Network.

### *We have been Busy!*

It has been a busy Fall season! We have attended several workshops such as Person Directed Planning, Crisis Planning and Self Care. We now have a website and new facebook page.

#### Community Events:

1. Halloween Spooktacular in Bracebridge, October 28<sup>th</sup>: Family Event, great attendance. Chance to meet existing families and new families. Children had fun placing beads our on Tree!
2. Santa Clause Parade in Huntsville, November 24<sup>th</sup>: Great fun for all! 18 Family members carried sponsorship signs. Families enjoyed socializing and having ice cream after the event.
3. Family Event in Parry Sound on October 16<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Al Condeluci.

#### Webinars:

1. Understanding Challenging Behaviour Webinar on November 14<sup>th</sup>. This was a partnership with Autism Ontario.
2. One Page Profiles Workshop on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### Provincial:

1. Exciting: MCSS contacted our Network to learn more about what we do!
2. Board Member of Family Alliance Ontario
3. Meeting with Tony Clement to share information about our network.
4. Meeting with Norm Miller to share information about our network.
5. Invited to attend focus groups such as HANDS DSS and Case Management for Professionals.

**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
From our Families to Yours!**

