



Families for Addiction Recovery

Newsletter Spring 2017

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1. FAR Launches Website and Parent to Parent (P2P) Peer Support Program

On May 4th, 2017 FAR celebrated our first anniversary by launching our [website](#) and our Parent to Parent (P2P) Peer Support Program. On our website families can learn the importance of [self-care](#) as well as [how to support their loved-one](#).

As part of our [P2P Peer Support Program](#) we have trained nine parent volunteers with lived experience who are ready to support other parents across Canada who have children of any age who are struggling with addiction.

Get Involved

We are looking for [Stories Of Recovery](#) to inspire and give hope to those currently struggling with addiction and their families. If you or your loved one has had a difficult journey to recovery and you would like to see changes to how we deliver health care to those with SUD, please consider submitting an article for our section [Why We Need Change](#). Articles can be sent to info@farcanada.org.

2. Submission Regarding Bill 89, The Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act, 2017

FAR made a submission to, and appeared before, the Standing Committee on Justice Policy regarding Bill 89. The main points in our [Submission](#) are:

- When a child can no longer live in the family home due to the child's addiction and/or mental health conditions, the child should receive a full mental health assessment and be placed in residential treatment with the purpose of treating the child and family and reuniting the family as soon as possible. The reality today is that these children end up on the streets, in the care of Children's Aid Societies (without receiving an assessment or treatment) or in youth detention.
- The legislation, as drafted and as applied, must comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In particular, Article 33 provides States must take all appropriate measures to protect children from the illicit use of drugs and prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of drugs.

3. Request for Urgent Action due to Opioid Overdose Epidemic

In March, 2017 FAR sent a [Request for Urgent Action](#) to the Federal and Ontario Ministers of Health regarding youth addictions and the opioid overdose epidemic. We have not received a response. We met with Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, with one of her constituents to discuss these concerns.

4. Who is Mae Katt?

We are excited to announce that [Mae Katt](#) is one of the six members of our Advisory Board. Mae is a Nurse Practitioner in Thunder Bay and is a member of the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Council, appointed by Ontario's Minister of Health, Eric Hoskins. Mae is a member of Temagami First Nation (Ojibway) near North Bay.

Mae has a wealth of experience in treating youth who are addicted to opioids. She is part of a Mobile Treatment Team which includes a physician, addiction counsellor, case manager and herself as a Nurse Practitioner. This team delivers a Suboxone Program to a First Nations High School using local counselling and Elders program support. **This high school had an over 40% rate of opioid addiction and after 5 years all students were successfully treated and tapered off of Suboxone.** A research project is underway to identify the key components of treatment (for example, use of low-dose, short-term treatment model, wrap-around approach).

Mae is also involved in other research in Northern communities showing the effectiveness of low-dose treatment with Suboxone and treating expectant mothers who are addicted to opioids to avoid neonatal abstinence syndrome (withdrawal) in newborns.



5. Appointment

Angie Hamilton, the Executive Director of FAR, has been appointed to the Task Group for Opioid Prescribing Education. The Task Group will advise the Pan-Canadian Collaborative on Opioid Prescribing regarding educational programming necessary for practitioners to improve the assessment and management of acute and chronic pain, to ensure safe, appropriate, and compassionate prescribing of opioids, and to facilitate prevention, early identification and effective management of opioid use disorder in communities across Canada.

6. Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

On April 1st, 2017 FAR attended an information day for parents with children at a TDSB school. We provided information on drugs, addiction and our organization.



7. Canada's Drug Futures Forum (CDFF)

On April 4th and 5th, FAR participated in Canada's Drug Futures Forum held in Ottawa and sponsored by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Once we receive a copy of the forum report, including the recommendations that were generated collectively, we will post it on our website.

8. Sunnybrook Mental Health Week

On May 3rd, 2017 FAR attended an information evening on mental health at Sunnybrook Hospital organized by the Family Navigation Project.



A decorative pattern of stylized, light blue leaves is scattered across the teal background. The leaves vary in size and orientation, creating a subtle, organic texture.

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