

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foster Parents Receive First Increase in a Decade

SOS Children's Village BC commends the Finance Minister for Budget 2019

SOS Children's Village BC commends the Finance Minister for a budget that will increase funding for foster parents – the first rate increase in a decade.

“Support payments will increase by \$179 per month and that will make a significant difference to foster parents who often struggle to make ends meet,” says Douglas Dunn, Executive Director of SOS Children's Village BC.

“We are thrilled that the importance of kinship care is being recognized in the provincial budget today and that caregivers who are extended family will have their support payments increased to match those of foster parents,” says Kistie Singh, Village Director of SOS Children's Village BC.

SOS Children's Village BC is committed to working with all stakeholders in the foster care community to develop a new model of care and enable foster children to thrive in a loving home and community of caregivers, with lifelong connections.

- SOS Children's Village BC has proven its successful model of foster care for 70 years at 572 villages around the world.
- Onsite, independent living suites for youth who have aged out of government care.
- In the 'Transition to Adult' program they learn to apply for a job or higher education, cook, pay rent and other life skills.
- 100% high school graduation rate (only 40% graduation rate within regular foster care system.)
- After leaving the Village, youth have an SOS family to turn to for help - - forever!

Excerpt from Budget 2019: www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2019/affordable.htm

SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS

- *Community Living BC homeshare providers will see the first increase to their compensation since 2009.*



- *Family-based caregivers looking after children will see their support payments increase by \$179 per month starting April 1, 2019.*
- *Extended family, like grandparents and aunts who support children and keep them out of care, will have their support payments increased to match those of foster parents.*

For more info or interviews, please contact:

Catherine Pope
Communications Consultant
SOS Children's Village BC
778-229-0330 / catherinepope@sosbc.org

William Brennan
Manager of Communications
SOS Children's Village BC
604-574-2964 / williambrennan@sosbc.org

Backgrounder:

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental, non-denominational child development organization and cares for fostered, orphaned, or abandoned children. It has existed for over 70 years with presence in 135 countries and 572 Villages. British Columbia is home to the only SOS Children's Village in Canada. SOS Children's Village BC provides homes, a supportive community, and programs to help foster children and youth in need grow into caring, self-reliant adults.

Photos and videos:

www.sosbc.org/the-village/media-room/