

Nov. 25, 2021

For Our Kids

Dear team leaders,

How can we help you in 2022?

It's been an intense year, and at the same time it's been a profound privilege to work with each of you, learn from you, and look for ways the FOK network can support what you're doing. Time to look ahead to 2022 and where we could and should focus our energy as a network. Your input into this is crucial and valuable, because your goals and visions for the year shape what we do. Please try to send one member from your team to this [strategic planning session](#) on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10am (PST) 11am (MST) noon (CST) 1pm (EST) and 2pm (AST). I'll send out draft goals and an agenda prior to the meeting, and there will be an opportunity to provide feedback if no one from your team is able to attend - but I strongly encourage you to be represented at the meeting because the in-person (although virtual) discussion is really important.

There will also be a chance to look back at 2021 and let us know what worked well and where there were gaps.

Happy to address any questions about the session - you can reach me by email or on Slack.

Happening now: Solidarity with Wet'suwet'en Land Defenders

Even through the devastation in BC over the past week, RCMP resumed raids, arrests, and removal of Indigenous land defenders from their traditional territories, and of journalists covering the events. Teams across BC created a joint call to action [you can find here](#). An open letter of solidarity from FOK is being drafted and will be shared shortly.

Two new team members to support you (:

We're super happy to welcome Lorna and Ruth to the FOK team! Many of you will recognize Lorna Pelly as a member of the FOK North Shore team. She is stepping into the Development & Communication Lead role and will be connecting with you about your stories and how we can share and amplify them. Please feel free to reach out to her at lorna@forourkids.ca

In the last update I mentioned that Ruth Kamnitzer has joined the team as an Organizer for the e-school bus campaign, thanks to a grant from Trottier Family Foundation. Ruth's experience is in conservation, environmental education and campaigning. She'll be reaching out directly to PACs and developing resources for them to use in advocating for e-school buses; you can reach Ruth at ruth@forourkids.ca

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion update

Introducing the JEDI Accelerator committee - which grew out of requests from across the network for meaningful ways to put these principles into practice throughout FOK's operations and actions. Thanks to Vanessa (FOK Toronto), Sarah (Pour Nos Enfants/FOK Montréal), Sally (FOK Sunshine Coast) and Gabrielle (Mères au Front) for forming this committee.

It will guide FOK in enacting and reflecting JEDI in its communication and actions, propose education/training opportunities, and create a framework for this work to be built into FOK's operations going forward. Look for lots more info soon.

Dec. 18 Year-End Celebration

Songs, toasts, hails, and boasts, and a chance to catch up with parents across the country. You deserve a celebration - and we're eager to give you one! Please save the date!

Just want to close with thanks for your patience as I've been focused on transitions on the FOK team and haven't been as available as I'd like. It's been awesome to have Natalie join the team, and together with Lorna and Ruth we are really looking forward to doing all we can to support you! Please don't ever hesitate to run an idea, a question, or a request past us. That's why we're here.