



adoption & permanency education month

ACO PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DAY

November 17, 2023

Honouring the Voices Within Kinship Families in our Work

Professional Training Day Overview

We all know that kinship placements of children and youth have been on the rise for some time. And we also know that while kinship placements strive to maintain connections for children and youth, they also present unique challenges. To continue our focus on being guided by the "best interests" of the child, we will focus on the needs of kinship families and the types of support that are most beneficial by exploring their stories.

Like last year, let's talk about how to prepare kin families before placement & support them afterwards to ensure that the voices of children and youth are honoured, and that decisions can be made in a way that is guided by those perspectives.

The day will be an opportunity to connect and learn together with other professionals in the adoption and permanency field in Ontario with a focus on the needs of kinship families and the professionals supporting them through a lens of storytelling. This will give attendees an opportunity to be present with kin families and their journeys. You will hear their voices and stories, and together we will reflect and do some thinking, planning & brainstorming.

Professional Training Day Objectives:

- ✓ Ensuring the voices of kinship families are strong within the day as we examine together how to incorporate their voices into our work.
- ✓ Providing opportunities for professionals to interact across the province.
- ✓ Sharing innovative ideas that can be replicated across the province.
- ✓ Continuing to build a deliberate practice in our work.

Professional Training Day Agenda

Please note all times are EST.

9:30-9:45 AM | Welcome & Overview of Day by Dianne Mathes

9:45-10:45 AM | Stories and Reflections on Kinship Families with Debbie Burk and Irene French

10:45-11:00 AM | Break

11:00 AM-12:00 PM | Debrief & Discussion

12:00-12:45 PM | Lunch & Networking

12:45 PM-2:00 | Panel of Kinship Families & Launch of Kin Resource Booklet

2:00-2:45 PM | Reflection Circle: Takeaways from the Day & the Stories

2:45-3:30 PM | Wrap up & Close

