

## **“FICE IS COMING TO AMERICA” !**

**Introducing the First North American Congress in FICE’s  
46th Year History, Co-Sponsored with N.O.C.C.W.A;  
June 22-25, 1994**

**James Anglin**

*University of Victoria*

*Canadian Representative, FICE North America*

The first thing to clear up is the pronunciation of the name (acronym). F.I.C.E. (pronounced “feet-say”) is the abbreviation of the French words for the International Federation of Educative Communities. These letters are used world-wide to refer to this growing organization for children needing extra-familial care, both residential and community based.

F.I.C.E. was founded in July, 1948, after much international discussion about how best to care for orphans and traumatized children resulting from the devastating Second World War. The predominant approach, adopted in both Eastern and Western Europe, was to create children’s residential villages and homes (“educative communities”).

The founding meeting was in Trogen, Switzerland in the now famous Pestalozzi Children’s Village. To this day, the office of the Secretary-General ( the operational headquarters) is in Zurich, Switzerland. The current president ( elected for a three-year-term for a maximum of 2 terms) is Dr. Steen Mogens Lasson of Denmark, who is the Executive Director of a well-known residential care center for children in Udby. The Secretary-General is Thomas Machler, President of the Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation.

F.I.C.E. has NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status with UNESCO and observer status at the United Nations. In 1989, F.I.C.E. was recognized as an “International Peace Messenger” by the UN, one of a select group of organizations to receive this honour, for its work on behalf of children in need of care.

What are the objectives of F.I.C.E. ? F.I.C.E. seeks to facilitate the development of social education including residential care by:

- The organization of international conferences and work groups
- The publication of relevant materials concerning contemporary problems
- The arranging of exchanges for professional staff working in this field

- Consulting with and to governmental and political organizations
- Stimulating research
- Promoting training and education
- Encouraging the exchange of ideas and the making of friendships between professional workers in the social educational field
- The development of holiday camps for children and youth

In political and religious matters F.I.C.E. is neutral. It rejects racial discrimination. F.I.C.E. members are expected to agree with the fundamental tenets of the UN and UNESCO. F.I.C.E. defends the rights of children and youth irrespective of nationality, race or religion. F.I.C.E. is especially concerned with children and youth who grow up in conditions which arrest their physical, emotional and social development.

There are currently over 20 nations holding full or associate member status, including west European countries (e.g., U.K., France, Germany, Denmark, Luxembourg, etc.), east European countries (e.g., Russia, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Czech and Slovak republics) and nations as far afield as Israel and South Africa. Following initial efforts of Karen VanderVen and Raymond Peterson of the United States, and later, Jim Anglin of Victoria, the United States and Canada were accepted jointly as "F.I.C.E.- North America" in 1988. Since that time, Karen and Jim have been working to develop the linkages between F.I.C.E. International and North American child and youth care organizations.

The joint N.O.C.C.W.A. - F.I.C.E. sponsorship of the conference is intended to strengthen the linkages between Canada, the U.S.A., and the other F.I.C.E. countries in order to encourage more potent and effective international connections and work on behalf of children in need of care.

We hope you will come to Milwaukee this summer, as the world of child and youth care is coming for an historic meeting and celebration in our own backyard! The N.O.C.C.W.A. - F. I.C.E. conference planning committee and the Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals is working hard to ensure that this will be one of the most memorable conferences ever.

"Let your feet say "Yes!" to F.I.C.E. in 1994 !"