

ABOUT THE CERTIFIED CANADIAN FAMILY EDUCATOR (CCFE) PROGRAM

Applications are reviewed twice per year.
The deadlines to submit applications are April 30th and September 30th.
Questions? info@frp.ca

1. WHAT IS THE CERTIFIED CANADIAN FAMILY EDUCATOR PROGRAM?

The Certified Canadian Family Educator (CCFE) program is a national certification process available to existing family educators (also called “family life educators” or other similar terminology). The certification aims to raise the profile and standards of family education and family educators. The program was initiated by Family Service Canada and is currently supported by the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada). More information can be found at www.frp.ca/CCFE.

2. WHY CERTIFICATION?

Certification promotes professional accountability and visibility.

Certification identifies to the public and professional peers those family educators who have met professional standards.

Certification encourages the continuing growth, support, and development of family educators across Canada.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS A CANADIAN FAMILY EDUCATOR

a) The potential candidate must have:

- a post secondary degree, diploma or certificate or the equivalent (to be described in detail by the candidate), as well as training in family education for a least one year prior to applying for certification.
- proof of education and training in the specified areas (see 3(b) for detailed experience requirements)
 - college or university transcripts
 - certificates or diplomas of satisfactory completion of training program in same and/or related fields or equivalent documentation
- practical experience within recognized agencies, organizations or institutions. The activities and types of groups dealt with could vary while retaining the educational validity. Approximately one hundred and fifty (150) hours of practice is the suggested minimum requirement.
- three (3) letters of reference
 - two (2) are required from professionally related sources attesting to candidate’s professional competence and ability.
 - one (1) is required from another related source attesting to candidate’s suitability to work as a Family Educator.

b) The potential candidate must document training and experience encompassing at least the following areas: *(In one to two areas where specific training is lacking, candidates may submit a short essay (max. 5 pages) based on independent study in that area. Essays will not be considered sufficient for education in group process and program planning.)*

- **An orientation to Family Education (also known as Family Life Education):** The candidate must understand the philosophy, nature and purpose of Family Education.
- **Individual, life stage development and family development:** The candidate must have an understanding of an individual's relationship within the context of a family and of the family as a sub-group of society from psychological and sociological perspective. Included is family of origin, family and transitions, life span development, child rearing, adolescent management, and an understanding of family and change across the life cycle.
- **Families:** The candidate must demonstrate an understanding of the definitions and meanings of various forms of family in today's society, as well as an understanding and sensitivity to the various needs and concerns for different and changing family structures. Included is the knowledge of communications patterns, conflict resolution, divorce, remarriage, death, stress, violence and substance abuse, prevention and enrichment.
- **Human sexuality:** The candidate needs an understanding of the psychological, physiological and social aspects of sexual development throughout the life cycle, as well as a sense of ease discussing topics pertaining to sexuality. Included are reproduction, intimacy, gender-related issues, sexual orientation, STD's and AIDS.
- **Interpersonal relationships:** The candidate needs an understanding of the dynamics, development and maintenance of interpersonal relationships. Included is an understanding and acceptance of self, skill in listening, interpersonal communications, decision-making, problem solving, as well as sensitivity, sincerity and a sense of responsibility and respect for others. To this, the candidate must also possess an understanding of his/her own relationships.
- **Values education:** The candidate should have an understanding of social attitudes and values, while recognizing and respecting the diversity and complexity of values in today's multicultural society. He/She must demonstrate an ability to examine values and attitudes objectively while understanding the complex relationship between the candidate's personal values, beliefs and family education areas.
- **Group process:** The candidate must have an understanding of and experience in group dynamics, group development and group leadership of people's learning styles and educational modalities. A basic awareness of the candidate's own leadership style and approach is also expected.
- **Program planning:** The candidate must be able to design and implement creative programs/workshops, as well as the ability to evaluate them. Included is the knowledge of a variety of educational techniques and methodologies to maximize program workshop effectiveness.

N.B. The Certification Panel will accept AFLEQ and NCFR materials for review, as approved by those organizations, accompanied by the FRP Canada processing fee.

Adapted using materials from:

AFLEQ = Association of Family Life Educators of Quebec

CGCA = Canadian Guidance and Counselling Association

NCFR = National Council on Family Relations

Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada)
707-331 Cooper St. Ottawa Ontario K2P 0G5
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4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- a) A paragraph on each of the following:
 - Your definition of Family Education
 - Your philosophy and principles of Family Education
 - Your reason for having chosen the profession of Family Education
 - Your areas of particular expertise in Family Education
- b) One sample outline of a preventative family education workshop or program session you have designed or adapted. Include:
 - An explanation of the role you play in facilitating the process. Describe how you facilitate interaction among members of the group and how you deal with challenging situations. Give examples.
 - Activities you have used to promote interaction
 - Workshop handouts (*please acknowledge all sources*)

5. PROCEDURES FOR CERTIFICATION

- a) Review by the Certification Panel (approximately 4-6 professionals with a minimum of 5 to 10 years in the field)
- b) All applicants will be notified in writing of the Panel's decision.
- c) Certified Canadian Family Educator's names may be published in the FRP Canada newsletter and/or on the FRP Canada website
- d) The application fee is \$25.00 (non-refundable)
- e) The certification processing fee is \$150.00. This will be refunded should certification not be awarded.

6. ENTITLEMENTS

- a) Those granted certification will be entitled to use the initials CCFE (Certified Canadian Family Educator)
- b) A certificate will be awarded.
- c) CCFEs will receive FRP Canada's electronic newsletter plus occasional updates about resources of interest, training opportunities and other news.

7. ANNUAL CCFE FEE

There is an annual fee of \$50 for all CCFEs, payable on April 1st.

8. RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- a) CCFEs are required to recertify every five (5) years.
- b) It is essential that CCFEs keep up with the rapid changes occurring in this field. Certification maintenance assures the public that they are being served by professionals who are familiar with the latest advancements in family education.
- c) The process will entail submission of a form (www.frp.ca/CCFE) outlining professional development, proof of continuing education, changes in employment or education, and development of new programs over the past five (5) years.
- d) Recertification fee is \$40.00, in addition to the annual certification fee of \$50.00.