



## Family Support Institute

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# Stories about Our Families - creating informal safeguards and developing relationships

Do you or someone you know have a story to share that can help or inspire others?

The Family Support Institute (FSI), in partnership with Community Living BC, is compiling a book of stories about our family members with developmental disabilities and the informal safeguards and relationships that makes their lives richer and safer.

Informal Safeguards involve caring connections between people and can help reduce someone's vulnerability. These relationships may develop with neighbours, store employees, bus drivers or others in community who get to know the individual and what's important to them.

- Does your son or daughter have rich, rewarding relationships in his or her life?
- If your family member needed help in community, how would people respond?
- How does he or she engage in community, feel included and have a sense of belonging?



At FSI we know the phenomenal power that personal stories have in helping and inspiring others. The things that you consider "just living our lives" are often a source of inspiration to others. We will be talking to families across BC to gather stories about the informal and often unplanned ways that relationships have made the life of your family member safer.

Do you have a story to share? Do you know of someone else who has a story? Please contact FSI at 1-800-441-5403 or email Maria Glaze at [mglaze@fsibc.com](mailto:mglaze@fsibc.com). Maria will be compiling and writing the stories for our book. Stories that are not used in the book may be published in the FSI *Possibilities* Newsletter.



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