

Family Support Institute of BC

Resource Parent (RP) and Resource Family Member (RFM)

Volunteer Description

A Resource Parent (RP) or Resource Family Member (RFM) is a parent, guardian, or relative of an individual with a disability, and who has an active role and/or vested interest in the life of their loved one.

Each RP or RFM is a unique individual who contributes in their own way according to their interests and strengths.

A. Active Resource Parent or Resource Family Member

1. Stay Current

When families look to you for support:

- 1.1 Be willing to learn together with other families; meet people where they are at. We hope for a reciprocal relationship for everyone.
- 1.2 Be willing to help them find what they need.
- 1.3 Be open to learning in the process of supporting others.
- 1.4 Be familiar with and committed to the mission and vision of FSI.
- 1.5 Have a membership in good standing with FSI. This means renew your own membership paying either \$25 per year (or longer term memberships) or “whatever you can afford” as per the membership form.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Family Support Institute is to strengthen and support families faced with the extraordinary circumstances that come with having a family member who has a disability. We believe that families are the best resource available to support one another. Directed by families, the Family Support Institute provides information, training, and province-wide networking to assist families and their communities to build upon and share their strengths.

Our Vision

All families throughout British Columbia are supported, connected and leading meaningful lives in communities that equally value their citizens.

2. Stay Committed

In your role as an FSI volunteer you will:

- 2.1 Be open to receiving phone calls/emails from families looking for support from another family.
- 2.2 Be available to meet with another family in person, if that is what the family needs/wants at that particular time. Finding a suitable time for both parties is a necessary aspect in meeting in person.
- 2.3 Be open to other families ideas and do not judge their actions or statements through personal biases.

- 2.4 Be open to sharing your story, your experiences, and your gifts.
- 2.5 Be open to listening to another families' story.

3. Stay Connected

In your role as an FSI volunteer you will:

- 3.1 Be available, with the support of the Provincial office, to connect families with other families who have similar concerns and experiences.
- 3.2 Be willing to share other experiences that you have that may potentially assist us in making good connections to you with other families.
- 3.3 Be open to participating, when possible, in ongoing communication with the Provincial office and other RPs or RFMs in your community.
- 3.4 Be willing to explore options to attend the Annual Training Weekend in an effort to stay connected with the larger network.

4. Confidentiality

As we support families and obtain information about their circumstances or challenges, we ask that you respect their right to confidentiality. If you pass on information in your desire to support them, we ask that you consider the following practice:

- We will provide general information on a need to know basis only.
- We will only provide information to others when permission has been obtained from the family.

B. Inactive Resource Parent and/or Resource Family Member

This category is self-determined for those who find they are unable to connect at the current time for any variety of reasons. This status does not prohibit an inactive member from receiving support from the network. It merely means that the person will not have families referred to them as they manage through their own life circumstances. We want to always support our volunteer network and find ways to keep them strong, healthy and vibrant.

C. Retired Resource Parent or Resource Family Member

This category is for RPs or RFMs who choose to discontinue with active involvement such as attending the Training Weekends and supporting other families. This status is self-determined. Once the RP or RFM has decided to retire from the position they will no longer receive the confidential RP/RFM information such as the Directory updates.

D. Administrative Inactive Resource Parent or Resource Family Member

This category is designated by the Provincial office. It is for volunteers who have who have not contacted the office, and who are not responding to attempts at contact. These people will be placed in this category until we are able to make contact. (This would include address changes, out of service phone numbers, mail returned, email kick backs etc).