

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, you will be willing to:

- 1.1 Learn together with other families; meet people where they are at. We hope for a reciprocal relationship for everyone.
- 1.2 Help them find what they need.
- 1.3 Learn in the process of supporting others.
- 1.4 Be familiar and committed to the mission and vision of FSI.

Our Vision

All individuals and families are supported, connected and fully valued in their communities.

Our Mission

To strengthen, connect and build communities and resources with families of people with disabilities in BC.

2. Stay Committed

In your role as an FSI volunteer you will be open to:

- 2.1 Receiving phone calls/emails from families looking for support from another family.
- 2.2 Meeting 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 Hearing other families' ideas and not judging their actions or statements through personal biases.
- 2.4 Sharing your story, your experiences, and your gifts.
- 2.5 Listening to another families' story.

3. Stay Connected

In your role as an FSI volunteer you will be willing to:

- 3.1 Connecting families with other families who have similar concerns and experiences, with the support of the Provincial office.
- 3.2 Sharing other experiences that you have that may potentially assist us in making good connections to you with other families.
- 3.3 Participating, when possible, in ongoing communication with the Provincial office and other RPs or RFMs in your community.
- 3.4 Exploring 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. The inactive status is for a one year term with the possibility of an additional year extension. Under extenuating circumstances, the inactive status may be extended beyond the two year time frame. The Provincial office will contact inactive RPs/RFMs at three and six months of being inactive to ensure that the RP/RFM has the support they need and to determine together whether the RP needs to step aside from this role.

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. Should a retired RP want to become an RP once again they would re-apply to the Provincial office and begin the process of becoming an active RP again.

D. Administrative Inactive Resource Parent or Resource Family Member

This category is designated by the Provincial office. It is for volunteers who have not contacted the office and whose phone numbers are out of service, mail is returned, emailed bounce back and essentially the office has no way of contacting the volunteer to complete their duties as a volunteer. We understand that sometimes it takes a while to update your contacts after a move or a change so we give these people a 6 month grace period after which time they will be removed from the volunteer network. Should an RP placed in this category and removed from the network want to become an active RP once again they would re-apply to the Provincial office and begin the process of becoming an active RP again.