

Information Sharing from RP's to FSI and the network

At the request of FSI's Resource Parent Committee two of our staff hit the road over the last year and began a provincial tour visiting with our wonderful volunteers. The purpose of the tour has been to do several things:

1. Network and meet new families and introduce them to FSI.
2. Deliver a workshop in those communities based on the needs of those attending.
3. Meet with our volunteers and find out what you may need from us to keep you strong and engaged as a Resource Parent. We also wanted to share with you what the office is faced with regarding support calls and other requests for FSI support – and see if any of you are willing to step in and take on other related roles as a volunteer.

The feedback has been so good and the staff will continue their tour in the fall going to places they have not yet gone, and possibly going back to places that have asked for a repeat visit.

One thing that did shine brightly for us on the tour is how engaged and connected many of you are in your own communities. ***You told us you would like to share that work with us on a regular basis.*** As such, we have created a place for you to share your work with us online. This will help us in so many ways. We will make new connections and know more about your unique communities. We will learn more about services and supports in your regions that we may not be aware of. We will have a new refreshed perspective on calls we can refer to you based on your experience. Finally, we will also begin to see emerging trends in a new way that can inform our dialogue with government as we begin to seek partnerships on how to improve supports and services in BC.

So we will send you this link quarterly and you can share as much as you like with us. Now you might be saying "but I don't do anything in my community" and that may be true – but I doubt it. Here are some things you may do in your community:

- a. Chat with families on the playground at school
- b. Mention FSI to your doctor
- c. Hand out a brochure at a fair, ministry office or school event
- d. Mention FSI or what you learned at the training weekend to a CLBC or other staff
- e. Attend your school PAC
- f. Sit on/attend other disability related committees and introduce yourself as an FSI volunteer

These are examples of things that help us know how informed and connected communities are. There may be more or different things – anything helps us to learn.

To share your information with us, please go to the FSI website and login as an RP/RFM (<http://familysupportbc.com/rparea/>). If you have not created an RP/RFM account, please do so. Once logged in, scroll down and find "RP/RFM Case Report". Then click on the "Link to Report Form". Please complete the form fields and click on "Submit". You will receive a note saying that "Your form has been successfully submitted". An email will be sent to FSI staff members (Marta Carlucci, Bob Kashyap and Si Stainton).

Thank you for all you do for FSI and for families in BC. You are the backbone of family support and we are so grateful.

Please use this page as a means to share with us the great work you do in community.

Angela Clancy

Executive Director
Family Support Institute