

# Inclusive Education

## - Accessing Resources

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resources



Navigating and accessing resource supports for families and their loved ones can be a daunting task, particularly if you are undertaking this on your own. Knowing who to talk to and what resources to consider makes this potentially challenging task easier -

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!



**Meet Shintaro Tachihara,**  
Manager, Family Resources  
– Aspire Richmond

Shintaro shared with us, that he has the privilege of connecting with families and their loved ones from birth through all of life stages, while supporting them in identifying opportunities in the community that suit their individual wants and needs. Some of the things that Shintaro supports family's with are:

- Finding programs
- Completing applications
- Finding and assisting with grant applications
- Connecting with inclusive and accessible organizations
- Advocacy

An example of how Shintaro has supported was a family wanted support in accessing resources to participate in certain programs. He assisted with liaising between the different funding agencies and arranged a meeting to advocate for services. When a family is interested in applying for the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation, he can arrange a time to meet with family's so they can complete the application together.



**Meet Ruth Shannon,**  
Resource Parent  
— Family Support Institute BC

The Family Support Institute (FSI) was established in 1986 by a group of parents who wanted better lives for their loved ones living with a disability. An invaluable part of FSI is their Family Resource Parents. Family Resource Parents are trained volunteers who have lived experience and a desire to help other families. The Richmond community is fortunate to have Ruth Shannon as one of the Richmond Resource Parents. Ruth is the proud mom of Richard who is 33 years old and lives with a genetic disability. As a past CLBC Community Council Chair and a long-time member of Aspire's Inclusive Education Committee, Ruth's brings perspectives of both a mom and an advocate. These experiences give her the insight and understanding to support and mentor other families.

### **Richmond Parents for Transition Group (RPFT)**

RPFT began eight years ago with the purpose of providing parents and guardians who have a loved one aged 12-19 years old with a disability. The focus of RPFT is to provide opportunity to network, share resources and materials, as well as information about the transition process from high school to young adulthood. Community Professionals are always welcome to attend any of the RPFT presentations. 4-5 presentations are offered throughout the school year; each presentation is based on families needs and interests. All presentations are recorded providing parents access to the information at any time.

The most popular topics are:

- CLBC: What's It All About
- Persons With Disability (PWD) Pension
- Day Programs,
- Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP),
- Representation Agreements, Employment,
- Post-Secondary Education,
- Housing, an
- Mental Wellness.

Three facilitators support RPFT: Eve Minuk – Retired Teacher, Richmond School District; Emily Tan – Richmond School District and Shintaro Tachihara – Aspire Richmond.

Family Support Institute: A provincial not for profit society committed to supporting families who have a family member with a disability at no cost.. [Family Support BC | Calendar | Family Support](#)

findSupport BC: Connects individuals with disabilities to different resources based on their age, disability, region, and city. [Find Support BC](#)

Inclusion BC: A federation of members that work together to build inclusive communities.. [IBC | Inclusive Education](#)

We would like to hear from you. If you have any community resources, or topics you would like covered in the Inclusive Education section of the Aspire newsletter, please contact [Info@aspirerichmond.com](mailto:Info@aspirerichmond.com).

*The Inclusive Education Committee consists of parents, self-advocates, Richmond School District educators and Aspire staff. Our responsibilities include promoting opportunities and materials for inclusive educational practices benefiting families, educators and students as well as making recommendations to the Aspire Board for advocacy related to public education issues and changes that affect students with developmental disabilities. If you're interested in becoming a member of the Inclusive Education Committee, connect with Carrie at [cmclellan@aspirerichmond.com](mailto:cmclellan@aspirerichmond.com).*