

## **What is a Regional Parent Advisory Committee (RPAC)?**

RPAC “strives to always consider the best interest of children with disabilities and their families”.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the RPAC is to enhance the involvement between families of children with disabilities, and regional supports and services. RPACs provide regional committee members with a mechanism to have their voices heard at both the regional and provincial levels.

RPACs are accountable to the FSCD Provincial Parent Advisory Committee (PPAC). PPAC is an advisory committee accountable to the Minister of Community and Social Services. In addition to other responsibilities, PPAC members serve on their local RPAC. The role of PPAC members is to bring the issues and recommendations identified at the RPAC level to the Statutory Director for FSCD and to the Minister as appropriate.

RPACs are uniquely positioned to provide feedback to PPAC and Disability Services on implementation of FSCD policy and procedures. RPAC members share their lived experience to help identify broader issues that may be regional, provincial or systemic in nature. RPACs strive to consider the best interest of children with disabilities and their families, and to engage in open and transparent communication with PPAC, Disability Services regional staff, stakeholders and the public.

\* The committee is established solely for the purpose of providing informed and trusted advice about the FSCD program from the lived experience of committee members, it does not have decision making authority.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Provide feedback and evaluation to Disability Services through regional FSCD leadership team and the PPAC representative, on current and future Government initiatives and legislation affecting children with disabilities
- Cultivate an enhanced partnership between families and the FSCD program through open and transparent communication to better support children with disabilities and their families.
- Set up RPAC meetings in coordination with PPAC representatives to support communication with PPAC.
- Constructively raise and identify systemic issues.
- Assist FSCD in developing and recommending strategies that increase public awareness at the regional level on the opportunities and challenges encountered by families who have children with disabilities.