



“ I believe in a world where everyone belongs ”

The purpose of the letters Inclusion BC Foundation sends out once or twice a year is to share our work by connecting people to stories that illustrate the crisis, isolation, and lack of support that many families experience in BC.

It has come to our attention that a recent letter from Inclusion BC Foundation may have left the impression that a school district in Prince Rupert was unwelcoming of or did not support Angie Robinson and her son Robert. We did not intend to leave this impression and we apologize for any confusion or misunderstanding it may have caused.

Dear Supporter,

Imagine you are a single-parent of a teenager with special needs. Your son is at home and not welcome at school; you have tried to access services, but have been denied, all the while struggling to keep your job. You've looked for help and are exhausted from negotiating with a government system that considers your family a burden and of low social value.

This was the experience of Angie Robinson, a Prince Rupert mother who took her son Robert's life before taking her own.

Inclusion BC has been supporting and representing the Robinson family in the media. We were a witness at the BC Coroner's inquest into their deaths.

Crisis leads to dire situations. **Ending the barriers and isolation that affect families with special needs happens best at a local and personal level.** In that, we want to connect families with other families in order to create channels to share experiences, knowledge and resources.

Access to essential supports for people with intellectual disabilities benefits the entire community.

Your support this holiday season will fuel our work to establish regional family advocacy networks across BC, creating a valuable resource for parents and deepening Inclusion BC's influence to make urgent change at a personal, local, and government level.

For more information on the Robinson family and networks we are creating, visit: inclusionbc.org/networks

Faith Bodnar
Executive Director, Inclusion BC

“ My heart breaks for families that are not able to advocate for themselves or to find the right people to assist them. Without a lot of time and effort you are really left to fall completely apart. ”

“ I had to enlist the support Inclusion BC, my MLA, and numerous others in order to get help for my son. The government had all of the required documents to process his eligibility, yet I was spoken to in a belittling manner. My phone calls rarely returned. It was a horrid experience. Now, even though he has been approved for support, he still has no service. I am a single employed parent. ”

“ The respite funding does not go as far as needed. I work full time and my daughter's program is less hours than that. I often have to leave work to care for her as the funding only covers about 33 hours. ”

In July, 2015, Inclusion BC conducted a survey for parents of adult sons and daughters with intellectual and developmental disabilities. 647 people responded within two weeks.

What do you have to say?

Add your voice. Together we can bring attention to this very important matter.
DONATE ONLINE at InclusionBC.org/our-foundation. If you require assistance, call (604) 777-9100 ext 522