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Press Release: Enhancing Accessibility for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Our Community

The Family Action Network (FAN), in collaboration with the Diverse Family Roots Society (DFRS), is excited to announce a new series of community conversations aimed at improving support for children and youth with disabilities. These discussions will explore the successes and challenges faced by these young individuals and seek to identify ways to overcome barriers in our community.

With these conversations we hope to understand and address the obstacles and successes experienced by children and youth with disabilities in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB). The sessions will celebrate effective support strategies and work towards solutions for identified issues. The input from families will be central in these discussions, which will take place in Trail and Grand Forks. Service providers will also join to discuss organizational and institutional challenges. Families who are unable to attend are encouraged to share their voice through an online survey.

For families able to attend in person, childcare with snacks and a meal for family participants will be provided. Attending families will also receive a cash honorarium to recognize their valuable time and input.

Families in Trail and Surrounding Area:

o Date: September 24, 2024

o **Time:** 4:00 PM

 Location: Kootenay-Columbia Learning Centre, Board Room, 2001 3rd Avenue, Trail, BC

o Register Here

Families in Grand Forks and Surrounding Area:

o Date: October 7, 2024

o **Time:** 4:00 PM

Location: Boundary Family Services (BFS) Glanville Family Centre, Groups Room,
1200 Central Avenue. Grand Forks

o Register Here

Families across the Kootenay Boundary Region

o **Date:** October 1, 2024

Time: 7:00 PMLocation: OnlineRegister Here

RDKB Service Providers (Hybrid Meeting):

o Date: October 1, 2024

o **Time:** 4:00 PM

o **Location:** Virtual or in person, Board Room, 2001 3rd Avenue, Trail, BC

o **Register Here**

We also encourage families and youth to <u>share their experiences and feedback via our survey</u>, which can be completed anonymously. Our collective aim is to enhance services and improve the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities in our local communities.

We extend our gratitude to Inclusion BC for their support in making this initiative possible.

About the Family Action Network:

The Family Action Network is dedicated to making this region the best place to raise a family. We support organizations that help families, we encourage organizations to invest in families, and help link families to resources and community-based initiatives. For more information about the Family Action Network please visit familyactionnetwork.ca, or call 1-855-368-3707.

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TAGS: InclsuionBC, RDKB, children and youth with disabilities, community engagement