

About the Block Parent® Program of Canada Inc.

For over 40 years, the Block Parent® Program has been helping to make our communities safer. Throughout Canada, the red and white Block Parent® sign is a symbol of a safe refuge where assistance is available. Police, government departments, educators, sponsors and volunteers support the Block Parent® goal of providing safer communities for children and other citizens.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Block Parent® Program is to provide immediate assistance through a safety network and offer supportive community education programs.

Mandate

The mandate of the Block Parent® Program is:

- to assure that there is a minimum of one Block Parent Window Sign in each community (Business or residential); and
- to provide a network of security screened, easily recognizable safe homes or businesses for members of the community, especially children, to turn to in times of distress; and/or
- to educate children about the Block Parent® Program, safety on the streets and within the home; and/or
- to develop promotions and materials to educate the community about the Block Parent® Program and personal safety; and/or
- to work together with the police, school boards and other community groups toward safer communities.

Who

The Block Parent® Program of Canada Inc. (BPPCI) is an affiliation of 12 registered Provincial and Territorial Block Parent® Programs, one from each Province and Territory. In turn, these committees have over 900 community members across Canada. Each committee operates the Block Parent® Program in accordance with the Bylaws and Policy of BPPCI.

What

BPPCI is a Canadian registered charity, Registration Number: 89264 4477 RR0001. It is the largest volunteer operated child safety and crime prevention program in Canada.

What are the goals of the Program?

Block Parent® volunteers are working together to:

- expand the network of Block Parents until there are several Block Parent® homes on every block in every community in Canada; and

- teach children and adults streetproofing tips. Education is the first step to safety!

History

The first Block Parent® Program began in London, Ontario in 1968. The Program rapidly expanded across Canada over the next five years. In 1983 a national committee was formed and the Block Parent® Program of Canada became incorporated in 1986.

BPPCI operates in Canada with an affiliate in Belgium. Our Program is recognized internationally as a quality child safety program. We have assisted foreign governments and police forces in establishing similar child safety programs overseas and continue to respond to all requests for information.

How the Block Parent® Program Works

Block Parents are responsible adults who care sufficiently about the well-being of children and others to volunteer their homes as a temporary refuge in an emergency. All Block Parents are screened by the police and are given instructions on the program by local volunteers.

The Block Parent® window sign is shown only when someone over the age of 18 is available to answer the door. If the sign is not displayed, this does not mean that no one is home, only that the Block Parent® is not available to offer immediate assistance.

In addition to the primary goal of making communities safer for children, the Block Parent® Program deters criminals and trouble makers. The network of Block Parent® homes is a visible reminder that citizens are watchful in their neighbourhood.

What does a Block Parent® do?

A Block Parent® may be called upon to offer their home as a place of safety when someone is in a dangerous or frightening situation such as:

- bullied
- lost, hurt or ill
- caught in severe weather
- frightened by a stranger

A Block Parent® assists persons in distress by telephoning the appropriate emergency service (police, fire, ambulance, etc.) when necessary.

What is not expected of a Block Parent® ?

Block Parent® volunteers are not expected to:

- provide food, drink, toilet facilities or transportation
- administer first aid
- leave their home to break up a fight

- open their door to anyone if they feel uneasy about the situation

FAQs

[Who can become a Block Parent®?](#)

Anyone over the age of 18 years who has successfully passed the screening process done by Police. Volunteers can be single, married, divorced and may work outside the home. They do not have to have children and seniors make great Block Parents.

[Is there much work involved?](#)

NO! It will not alter your life style or make demands on your time. When you are "available" (which means you are home and able to answer the door to someone requiring assistance), simply display the sign in a window visible from the street. If a child is bothered by a stranger or a bully, is sick, hurt or lost, he knows that when he sees the sign a "SAFE ADULT" is there to offer help.

[Is Block Parent® a glorified babysitting service?](#)

DEFINITELY NOT! Children are taught in school to respect the Block Parent® home and use it only for an emergency. Parents should insure their children are educated about the Program.

[Is there really a need for the Block Parent® Program?](#)

YES! Today's society is so mobile that children can no longer rely on their extended family. Most parents don't even know their neighbours well enough to trust them with their children. Block Parents are there to help should the need arise.

[How often are Block Parent® homes used?](#)

THIS VARIES - Some homes may never be used while others will be used several times. Each year, over 1000 Block Parents from coast to coast are called upon to help. Bullying appears to be the cause of the majority of incidents. Remember that the Block Parent® sign acts as a deterrent to most troublemakers; hence, the more signs on display, the safer your community is.

[Who can use Block Parent® homes?](#)

Anyone in distress, including children, teens, women and seniors.

[How can I help? I'm never home.](#)

There must be a few hours a week or month when you are home and could display a sign, especially during the evening hours or on weekends and holidays. Halloween is particularly important. This is the ideal volunteer position for a busy person like yourself. You can provide a valuable service to your community without having to make a special effort to do so. Simply put your sign in the window when you are available.

[Do we have to have children to be a Block Parent®?](#)

NO. Block Parent® needs as many volunteers as possible. Anyone over the age of 18 years who can pass the police screening process can become a Block Parent® and make a valuable contribution to the Program.

[Aren't there enough Block Parents on our block already?](#)

The Block Parent® Program always needs more volunteers so at least one sign can be visible at all times on each block. This requires a large number of approved volunteers because many volunteers find it difficult to display their signs more than a few hours a day or week. The more Block Parents your community has, the better it is protected.

[Do I have to let strangers into my home?](#)

NO - you do not have to let anyone into your home if you think it may threaten you or your family. Information can be exchanged through a locked door if necessary and the necessary telephone call made.

[When I take my sign down, doesn't that indicate that we are not at home?](#)

DEFINITELY NOT! A sign removed from view does not necessarily mean that no one is home. There should be many times when the volunteer is home, but does not want to be "on duty", so the sign is not on display. Police assure us that there are many easier ways for would-be criminals to determine whether or not a home is occupied. They would not rely on the Block Parent® sign as a reliable indication. If you are concerned about this, try using your sign only on certain days of the week and leave it down at all other times. Do not attempt to leave the sign up permanently because children are taught that when they see the sign, help is available.

[What is the legal status of a Block Parent®](#)

There is no legal status other than of a private citizen who has agreed to act as a sensible and responsible adult should a problem arise. All Block Parent® volunteers are covered by liability insurance.