

Community Connections

Finance and Benefits

PWD Application

BC [Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities](#) provides disability and supplements to provide greater independence for people with disabilities, including security of income, enhanced well-being, and participation in the community.

<http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/pwd/apply.htm>

Earning Exemptions

Earnings exemptions allow eligible income assistance and disability assistance clients to earn income (up to a monthly limit) in addition to shelter and support assistance.

These exemptions offer individuals a better opportunity to get job skills and experience to transition to employment, take advantage of short-term or temporary work, and better provide for their families while receiving assistance.

http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2006/Earnings_Exemption.htm

RDSP plan

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a long-term savings plan to help Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the future. If you have an RDSP, you may also be eligible for grants and bonds to help with your long-term savings.

<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/savings/index.shtml>

Disability benefits under CPP

Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) provides financial assistance to CPP contributors who are unable to work because of a severe and prolonged disability.

<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/benefits/index.shtml>

17 year old Disability Assistance applicants

The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation has special procedures in place to ensure that youth with disabilities can complete the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation application process and begin receiving disability assistance as soon as they are 18 years old. If you are 17 years old and you are planning to apply for disability assistance, you can begin your application **six months** before your 18th birthday.

http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2005/17yr_old_PWD.htm

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)

Information to aid in the financial planning for a person with disabilities.

<http://plan.ca/>

Transportation

Bus Pass Program

The BC Bus Pass Program offers a reduced cost, annual bus pass for low income seniors and individuals receiving disability assistance from the Province of British Columbia. Passes are valid in communities serviced by BC Transit or TransLink. The pass is only valid for the eligible rider and is non-transferable. Handy Dart is not included in this program.

<http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/programs/bus-pass.html>

Disability Travel Card

The Card offers its holder discounts to the support person in attendance with them when traveling with participating partners Via Rail, Greyhound bus lines and Coach Canada.

<http://easterseals.ca/english/disability-travel-card>

Handy Dart and Handy Pass Program

<http://www.translink.ca/en/Rider-Guide/Accessible-Transit/HandyDART.aspx>

Taxi Saver

<http://www.translink.ca/en/Rider-Guide/Accessible-Transit/HandyCard.aspx>

Special Transportation

Subsidy http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/general_supplements/sts/policy.html

Employment

bc211

A non-profit organization that specializes in providing free information and referral regarding community, government and social services in BC.

<http://www.bc211.ca/>

Ministry of Social Development

<http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/programs/other.htm>

Legal

Legal Tree

<http://www.legaltree.ca/node/111>

Legal Resources for British Columbia

A source of application guides for various services, information sheets, free on-line legal courses, workshops and speaker events. A toll-free listing of numbers for whom to call for legal assistance. Includes an advocated directory for British Columbia. Extensive information on disability issues. <http://www.clicklaw.bc.ca/>

Nidus Registry

For information about supported decision making, creation and registration of Representative Agreements in British Columbia.

<http://www.nidus.ca/>

Public Guardian & Trustee of B.C.

The Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia operates under provincial law to protect the legal rights and financial interests of children, to provide assistance to adults who need support for financial and personal decision making, and to administer the estates of deceased and missing persons where there is no one else able to do so.

<http://www.trustee.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Medical/Personal Supports

Autism Society of BC

Promotes understanding, acceptance, and full community inclusion for people with autism in British Columbia while providing support for the realization of the rights and informed choices of individuals with autism and their families

<http://www.autismbc.ca/>

BC Epilepsy Society

The BC Epilepsy Society is a provincially incorporated non-profit, and federally registered charitable organization dedicated to serving British Columbians living with epilepsy, and their families.

<http://www.bcepilepsy.com/>

Canadian National Institute for the Blind

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is a national voluntary agency providing services to individuals across Canada to whom loss of vision is a central problem in personal and social adjustments.

<http://www.cnib.ca/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Cerebral Palsy Association of BC

The Cerebral Palsy Association is committed to making a *Life Without Limits* for people with disabilities.

<http://bccerebralpalsy.com/>

Down Syndrome Research Foundation

At the Down Syndrome Research Foundation, we investigate best practices and initiate and participate in research studies to gain a better understanding of the learning styles of individuals with Down syndrome. Using behavioural assessments, we are gaining new insight into how people with Down syndrome see the world around them and process information

<http://www.dsrfg.org/>

Pharmacare

Special Authority Request Form

<https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/exforms/pharmacare/5328fil.pdf>

Free Medical ID's

<http://www.medids.com/free-id.php>

Canadian Red Cross - B.C. Lower Mainland Region

www.redcross.ca

Ph: 604-709-6600

TL: 1-800-565-8000

Health Equipment Loan program (HELP)

This site contains **information** about and links to programs that provide equipment and assistive devices or other personal supports to persons with disabilities in British Columbia.

<http://www.personalsupports.bc.ca/>

Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Provincial Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (PDHHS) is dedicated to supporting the diverse and multicultural goals of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind individuals and their families within an ASL and English environment.

<http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/pdhhs/>

Assistive Technology

Telus (Service for the Deaf)

Voice to TTY: 1.800.855.0511

TTY to Voice Customers Call: 711 or 1.800.972.6509

TTY to TTY: 1.800.855.1155

Tetra Society

Tetra's assistive device projects tackle barriers to mobility, personal care and communications. They facilitate education, work and recreation. They provide increased access within households – kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms – and other environments, such as vehicles or places of business. In short, assistive devices created by Tetra focus on improving quality of life.

<http://www.tetrasociety.org/>

Neil Squire Society

The [Neil Squire Society\(new window\)](#) is the only national not-for-profit organization in Canada that has for over twenty-nine years empowered Canadians with disabilities through the use of computer-based assistive technologies, [research and development](#), and various [employment programs](#). Through our work, we help our clients remove barriers so that they can live independent lives and become active members of the workplace and our society.

<http://www.neilsquire.ca/>

Assistive Technology & Seating Service (ATSS) GF Strong

The Assistive Technology and Seating Service (ATSS) supports clinicians and rehabilitation professionals working with adults and adolescents with disabilities in the public health system of British Columbia and the Yukon.

ATSS maintains an extensive and up-to-date inventory of assistive and seating technology, techniques, and information to provide the best assistive and seating technology options and solutions to residents of BC/Yukon. Our Service consults with and supports a client team in the assessment, selection, and application of technology to further an individual's goals related to seating, communication, vocation, education, leisure, and independent living.

<http://www.assistive-technology.ca/>

CAYA

Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults (CAYA) is a Provincial Resource Program that supports adults aged 19 years and older who require an augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) system due to a severe communication disability, i.e. speech that is not functional for daily communication. The goal of CAYA is to ensure that eligible individuals have access to the communication tools and professional support to enable them to create an adult life to the best of their abilities.

<http://www.cayabc.org/>

Portacom

The Portacom System is truly a wonderful, hands free, communication and scheduling tool. Product line designed to take your AAC with you as you live your life at home, in school or out in community.

<http://www.portacom.bc.ca/>

Able

AbleNet is an international company and industry leader in providing educational and technical solutions to help children and adults with disabilities lead productive and fulfilled lives. This includes a complete line of communication aids for nonverbal individuals; access aids for all ages and situations; and special education classroom curriculum that both enhance and help ensure learning progress.

<http://www.ablenetinc.com/>

Food

Low cost Food and Dining options

http://www.kiwassa.ca/wp-content/uploads/free_meals_VCH.pdf

Quest Food Exchange

<http://www.questoutreach.org/>

Food Bank

<https://www.foodbank.bc.ca/>

Recreation / Entertainment / Sports

BC Parks

Free Camping and park access for people's with disabilities.

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fees/disability.html>

CNIB Library

<http://www.cnib.ca/en/services/library/>

Vancouver Leisure Access Card

<http://vancouver.ca/parks/rec/lac/index.html>

Special Olympics BC

Special Olympics BC provides individuals who have an intellectual disabilities the opportunity to enhance their lives and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences.

<http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/>

KickstArt

Formerly the Society for Disability Arts and Culture

July 17, 2008 - 3:40pm — [root](#) Based in Vancouver, Canada, Kickstart's mission is to produce and present works by artists with disabilities and to promote artistic excellence among artists with disabilities working in a variety of disciplines.

<http://www.icasc.ca/kickstart>

Jo Dickey Foundation

The Jo Dickey Foundation was established to help mentally and physically challenged members of the community residing in group homes in improving their quality of life. This improvement can be achieved through the universal empowerment of this group, within their greater communities, as individuals. This is the concept underlying what has come to be known by the term "community living"; a concept conceived through the pioneering vision of Jo Dickey in the 1970's.

<http://www.jodickeyfoundation.ca/>

Ministries and Government Support

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)

Community Living BC delivers support and services to people with developmental disabilities, children with special needs and their families in British Columbia. It has a board of self-advocates, family and community members, as well as staff located throughout the province.

<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/>

Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funds a range of programs and services for children and youth with special needs and their families. Services and supports are intended to promote children's healthy development, maximize quality of life, assist families in their role as primary caregivers and support full participation in community life.

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/>

Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation

This site contains information about: persons with disabilities, disability assistance rates, earnings exemption for persons with disabilities, employment program for persons with disabilities Minister's Council on employment for persons with disabilities, and vehicle and earnings exemptions for caregivers of children with disabilities.

http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2006/Earnings_Exemption.htm

Fraser Health Authority

Provide individualized assessment, treatment and education for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities and complex mental health needs. Offers psychiatric and behavioural assessment, diagnosis, psychiatric treatment, clinical counselling, speech/language assessment, music or art therapy, therapies to deal with behavioural disorders.

<http://www.fraserhealth.ca/>

Advocacy

InclusionBC (formerly BC Association for Community Living)

InclusionBC is a province-wide, non-profit federation working to ensure children and adults with developmental disabilities are able to live quality lives in their communities.

<http://www.inclusionbc.org/>

Disability Alliance BC

Formerly the Coalition of People with Disabilities

support people, with all disabilities, to live with dignity, independence and as equal and full participants in the community. We champion issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities through our direct services, community partnerships, advocacy, research and publications. This coalition is a provincial, cross-disability advocacy organization.

<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/>

Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL)

The Canadian Association for Community Living is Canada's national association dedicated to promoting the participation of people with intellectual disabilities in all aspects community life.

<http://www.cacl.ca/>

Individualized Funding Resource Centre (IFR)

The **Individualized Funding Resource Centre (IFRC) Society** operates to assist people with disabilities in BC who utilize the Choices in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) program, by simplifying the CSIL application process and providing the skills and tools necessary for successful use of the program. In addition, the IFRC is working to raise the funding necessary to further develop its services, and to ensure long-term operation.

<http://www.ifrcsociety.org/>

BC Self-Advocate Net

Changing attitudes one person at a time

<http://selfadvocatenet.com/>

TASH

Described by many as pioneers of social change for persons with disabilities who have been underserved and undervalued in our society.

<http://tash.org/>

Family Support and Guidance / Respite

Family Support Institute

The purpose of the Family Support Institute is to strengthen and support families faced with the extraordinary circumstances that come with having a family member who has a disability. We believe that families are the best resource available to support one another. Directed by families, the Family Support Institute provides information, training, and province-wide networking to assist families and their communities to build upon and share their strengths.

<http://www.familysupportbc.com/>

Abilitas Foundation

The Abilitas Foundation aims to provide accessible respite accommodation and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities (including ranch tourism) to people with disabilities living in BC. The Abilitas Foundation is currently coordinating the development and construction of a fully accessible lodge at the Cold Water Ranch (20 min. west of Merritt, BC).]

<http://abilitasfoundation.org/>

Vancouver Parents Transition Group

A group of families who have “been there, done that”. They meet on a monthly basis to provide assistance and information to families with youth ages 14-17 and preparing for the transition to adulthood and changes in support services. Everyone is welcome. It is not necessary to live in the Vancouver area to participate.

<https://vptg.wordpress.com/>