



Benefits Checklist

Series funded by the Notary Foundation of BC, the Law Foundation of British Columbia and Legal Services Society.

These are some of the programs and benefits you may be eligible for if you receive Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits (CPP-D). These programs are of particular relevance for BC residents.

Income/Disability Assistance

If the monthly amount of your CPP disability benefits is relatively low and you have little in savings, you may be eligible for provincial income assistance or disability assistance. For example, if you are a single person and your total monthly income is below \$906 and your savings are around \$3,000, you should look into applying for British Columbia's Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit. People who qualify for PWD will be topped up to a minimal monthly income level (\$906 in the case of a single person) and are eligible for medical coverage and health and transportation supplements.

To find out if you qualify for provincial income or disability assistance, contact the Ministry of Social Development at 1-866-866-0800 or www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm.

Also see our Help Sheets on the BCCPD website at www.bccpd.bc.ca.

The Disability Tax Credit and Income Tax programs

Canada Pension Plan benefits are taxable income. However, you do not have to pay income tax if your annual taxable income is below the personal exemption amounts set by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). If you are in a taxable bracket, you can apply for the Disability Tax Credit which may allow you to reduce the amount of income tax you pay and may qualify you for other programs, such as the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

To apply for the Disability Tax Credit, contact CRA and ask for the application form called the Disability Tax Credit Certificate (T2201). You can also ask for the booklet noted in the next paragraph. Phone: 1-800-959-2221.



A CRA booklet called Medical and Disability-Related Information is available online or in print. The booklet describes health and disability information within the context of income tax programs and includes the Disability Tax Credit Certificate (T2201): <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4064/README.html>.

Health Coverage Programs

Fair Pharmacare

This program helps pay the cost of prescription medication. For more information, contact Pharmacare at Health Insurance BC: Vancouver: 604-683-7151 or, from the rest of BC, call toll free 1-800-663-7100.
www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/plani/planiindex.html

MSP Premium Assistance

Based on annual income, this assistance reduces or eliminates the monthly premiums for the Medical Services Plan. For information, contact the Medical Services Plan at Health Insurance BC: Vancouver: 604-683-7151 or, from the rest of BC, call toll free 1-800-663-7100.
www.health.bc.ca/msp/infoben/premium.html

Ministry of Social Development

See page 1: **Income/Disability Assistance**.

The following programs and benefits are available through various organizations and agencies.

Housing

Accessible/Affordable Housing

Phone the BC Housing Management Commission (BC Housing) at 1-800-257-7756. Website: www.bchousing.org.

Additional Home Owner Grant for People with Disabilities

For home owners with disabilities. Contact your municipal property tax department.

Property Tax Deferral

Contact your municipal property tax department.



Transportation

To qualify for many of these programs, you must have limited mobility.

Autoplan Disability Discount (ICBC)

Call 604-661-2100 or 1-800-663-3051, if you are outside the Lower Mainland. You can also contact your local ICBC agent. You must be in receipt of the Provincial Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Rebate. www.icbc.com.

BC Ferry pass

Apply directly to the BC Ferry Corporation. Phone 1-888-223-3779 for an application form or go to the website at www.bcferries.bc.ca.

Federal Excise Gasoline Tax Refund

Contact the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-877-432-5472. The phone lines are open from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. (BC time). Website: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/goc/gasoline_tax_refund.shtml.

Flight Discount

Your attendant may accompany you free of charge; ask the airline for details.

Provincial Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Rebate

Contact the BC Consumer Taxation Branch at 1-877 388-4440
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/sbr.

Parking Permits for People with Disabilities

To apply for a permit phone:

- Beacon Community Services (Sydney): 250-656-5537
- City of Kelowna: 250-763-6011
- Cowichan Valley Independent Living Resource Centre: 250-746-3930
- Kamloops People in Motion: 250-376-7878
- Nanaimo Independent Living Centre: 250-758-5547
- Richmond Centre for Disability: 604-232-2404
- Vernon Independent Living Resource Centre: 1-877-288-1088
- Victoria Disability Resource Centre: 250-595-0044
- Wescom Medi-Lend (Langford): 250-478-5373

For all other areas phone: Social Planning and Research Council of BC
604-718-7744.

HandyDART

Look for the HandyDART listing in your phone book.



HandyPass and Taxi Saver

In the Lower Mainland, contact your local TransLink office or go to www.translink.bc.ca. People in other areas should contact their local transit office.

Greyhound (and bus lines other than transit) and Via Rail

Attendants travel free with a Disability Travel Card from the Lions Society of BC. Phone 604-873-1865 or 1-800-818-4483, if you are outside the Lower Mainland. Blind or sight impaired individuals can present their CNIB Card. Obtain the application form from your MSD office.

Leisure

Fishing License fee reduction

Look under Service BC Government Agents in the blue pages of your local phone book. They will be able to provide you with the information you need and an application form.

Access to Recreation/Community Centres and Programs

Most municipalities provide some assistance for people with disabilities who want to access their recreational programs. Call your local recreation/community centre for information.

Other programs you may find helpful

Equipment and assistive devices

For information on equipment and assistive devices to assist you with daily living activities, contact the provincial government's Personal Supports Information Line at 1-888-818-1211, TTY 1-800-661-8773 or visit www.personalsupports.bc.ca. You can also contact the non-profit BC Personal Supports Network (BCPSN) at 1-877-333-7554 or www.bcpsn.org. BCPSN has a project called EATI: the Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative. EATI may provide equipment and assistive devices to people with disabilities who have employment-related goals.

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

This is a new initiative that is available to people with disabilities and their families. There are 3 steps you must follow to be eligible for the RDSP.

1. Make sure you are eligible and apply for the Disability Tax Credit.
2. Have a valid Social Insurance Number.
3. Be up-to-date in filing your tax returns.



You can find many free RDSP resources on our website at www.bccpd.bc.ca/rdsp.htm.

BC Hydro Energy Savings Kits

BC Hydro provides free energy saving kits for low income people and families. The kit includes items such as low-flow shower heads, weather stripping and compact fluorescent light bulbs. To qualify, you must have a BC Hydro account in your name. Call BC Hydro at 1-877-431-9463 or contact the BCCPD office.



The CPP Series is available at: www.bccpd.bc.ca/money.htm.

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Information in this guide is based on the legislation that was current at the time of writing.
Legislation and policy may be subject to change. Please check the date on this guide.



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