

Community & Disability Related Resources

CONDENSED VERSION

**Practical information for BC residents living
with a disability**

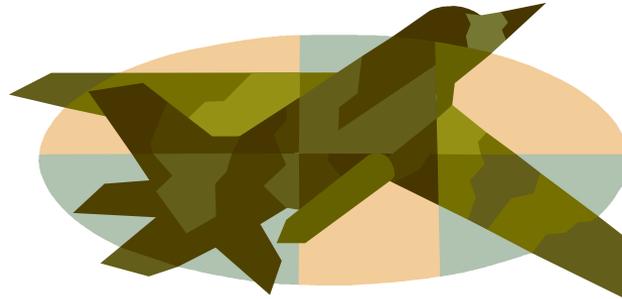


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GFS Educator

Agenda

- Transportation Resources
- Tax Credits & Grants
- Travel & Entertainment
- World Wide Web – internet

Transportation Resources



HandyDart?

- HandyDART is a door-to-door, shared-ride service
- It is a specially-equipped vehicle for passengers with disabilities
- You must be registered to use this service
- Medical certification is required
- Visitor applications are available
- For more info:
 - www.translink.ca
 - call (604) 575-6600



HandyCard

- **Allows travel at concession rates on the bus, SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express**
- **All Zones \$1.75 per trip OR \$52 for a monthly pass**
- **Attendants ride free!**
- **Registration is free**
- **Provide two pictures (1 1/4" x 1 1/4")**
- **Use the same form as HandyDart application**
- **Note: HandyCard can't be used on HandyDart**

Taxi Saver Coupons

- **Must be a HandyCard user**
- **Can purchase two \$25 packages (value: \$50) every month, but they give you \$100 in taxi vouchers**
- **The coupon amounts are \$1, \$2 and \$5**
- **Call Access Transit office to request order form: Access Transit office: (778) 452-2860**
- **Complete order form, include cheque and return by mail**
- **Note: let them know you will pay with taxi vouchers when you call to book**

Public Transit



Public Transit

- The Bus, SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express is accessible to people of all abilities
- Buses come equipped with ramps and lifts, and all SkyTrain stations have elevators
- Every bus can carry two wheelchairs
- Use your HandyCard to pay concession rate fare and have your attendant ride free
- Wheelchair accessible stops: 604.953.3333
- Bus Training: 604.264.5420

Sparc BC Parking Permit

- **Parking permit lasts 3 years**
- **Costs \$20**
- **Medical certification is required**
- **Forms can be submitted by mail**
- **Takes 3-6 weeks to process applications**
- **You can drop off your application at their Burnaby office and receive your placard right away**
- **Can park in Vancouver residential permit zones for 3 hours**
- **For more info: www.sparc.bc.ca**



Fuel Tax Rebate Program

- **Medical certification required**
- **1 claim per year is recommended**
- **Can claim every 4 years**
- **Only claim \$10- \$500 per year (no more, no less)**
- **letter of “ownership interest” is accepted when not the “registered” owner of a vehicle**
- **Include driver’s license and vehicle registration documents with application**
- **Submit all original gas receipts with claim by December 31st each year.**
- **For more info: www.sbr.gov.bc.ca**

ICBC Disability Discount

- **25% discount on your autoplan insurance**
- **Must be approved with the Fuel Tax Rebate Program in order to qualify**
- **Must be the registered owner of the vehicle**
- **If NOT the owner, spouse/partner can gift/transfer the ownership of vehicle into both parties names**
- **To avoid \$28 “transfer of ownership” fee, wait until vehicle insurance needs to be renewed**

GST/PST Motor Vehicle Rebate

- **Claim GST/PST on the purchase, or modification, of a “qualifying” vehicle (e.g. lift, ramp, adaptive driving control)**
- **Must apply for rebate within first 4 years of the paid tax**
- **leased vehicles that have been adapted also qualify**
- **Send all original receipts with claim**
- **More info:**

www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/gf/gst518/README.html

Confused yet?

If any of the above interests you, please talk to:

- **Your friendly social worker**
- **Disability Alliance BC: 604.872.1278;
1.800.663.1278; www.disabilityalliancebc.org**



Tax Credits & Grants



Disability Tax Credit

- **Non-refundable tax credit used to reduce payable income tax**
- **Who Qualifies?**
 - Canadian citizens
 - Individuals with a severe and prolonged disability
 - A spouse, common-law partner or family member providing care
- <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html>

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) - For more info: www.rdsp.com

- Registered matched savings plan specific for people with disabilities Every \$1 put in an RDSP account, federal government can match up to \$3 (if your family income is below \$87,123) → **Canada Disability Savings Grant**
- For people living on a low-income (< \$25,356), federal government will put in \$1,000 each year for 20 years → **Canada Disability Savings Bond**
- For people living on an income between \$25,3456-\$43,561, they can still receive partial bond
- Anyone can contribute to RDSP (families, friends, neighbours)
- Must be approved for the Disability Tax Credit

Home Owners Grant for person with disability

- **Reduces amount of property tax you pay for your principal residence**
- **Grant is applied to amount of property taxes over \$100**
- **Home modifications (ramps, lifts, wheel-in-shower, bathroom bars, etc.) or homecare support required**
- **Must make claim by December 31st of the current year**
- **Medical certification needed**

Property Tax Deferment

- **Low-interest loan program**
- **Assists qualifying home owners with paying annual property taxes**
- **Must have medical certification or provide confirmation of person with disability (PwD) designation through the Ministry.**
- **Must be Canadian citizen living in BC at least 1 year**

Home Adaptations for Independence HAFI

- BC Housing has a maximum \$20,000 grant available for people who need to modify their homes for accessibility purposes
- The grant does not need to be paid back, but must live in the house for 5 years from date of receiving grant
- To be eligible, your family income needs to fall within the income limits, and the house value needs to be within the assessed values for the area you live in
- Not available for subsidized rentals
- Available for landlords and tenants as well, income and rent need to qualify for your region
- BC Housing ask that you provide 3 different quotes from contractors along with your application

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Travel & Entertainment



BC Ferries Pass

- A discount for persons with a permanent disability and attendant to go for the price of one (2 for 1)
- If you have an “over height” vehicle, with a lift or ramp, you can pay the regular “car” tariff
- Priority boarding included with pass
- Medical certification required
- Pacific Coach Bus Lines will pay for a cab to take you to the ferry terminals if an accessible bus is not available after you had made arrangements.
- http://www.bcferrries.com/travel_planning/disabilities.html

Disability Travel Card

- **Provided by Easter Seals Canada for persons with a permanent disability**
- **Provides discounts for person with permanent disability and their attendant (2 for 1)**
- **Accepted for discounts with Via Rail train, and coach Canada bus lines (Greyhound, Motor Coach Canada)**
- **Needs to be signed off by a health care provider**
- **Need to book a wheelchair lift 48 hours before traveling on any of the bus lines**
- **<http://easterseals.ca/english/disability-travel-card>**

Access 2 Entertainment Card

- **Allows persons w disability to receive either free admission or a significant discount for their support person at selected movie theatres and attractions across Canada**
- **\$20 fee (2 years) or \$30 (3 years)**
- **Accepted at all major movie theatres in Canada**
- **Accepted at many local venues in Vancouver (Vancouver Aquarium)**
- **<http://easterseals.ca/english/access-2-entertainment-card>**

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Dr. Google

Check out:

- About Us
- Vision or Mandate



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Websites

- Diagnosis specific
 - Brainstreams
 - Spinal Cord Injury BC
- Disability
 - Disability Alliance BC
 - Neil Squire Society
 - Self-management BC

THANK YOU



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