How The Pandemic Has Affected Our Community and Our Work

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SUMMER 2020

transition

The Magazine of Disability Alliance BC

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DABC During COVID-19



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editorial

by erin pritchard

How the pandemic has affected our community and our work.

It is difficult to overstate the impact that COVID-19 has had on our daily lives.

The pandemic has profoundly affected the way we live, work, move about our communities and interact with each other. New terms like "physical distancing" have quickly become part of our everyday language.

Unsurprisingly, COVID-19 has significantly changed the way Disability Alliance BC (DABC) operates. Directives from government and the Provincial Health Officer about physical distancing and working from home led to our office closure in mid-March, and we have temporarily transitioned our programs to remote service (primarily via phone and email).

While we know that not all of our clients can access remote services, our advocates have done an incredible job of adapting to the circumstances and accommodating people as much as possible.

We have also launched our new Disability Law Clinic (read more about the clinic in this Transition), and our staff lawyer, Andrew Robb, is providing remote legal advice and representation on disability-related legal issues.

COVID-19 has also significantly affected the substance of our work. The pandemic has intensified many pre-existing social inequalities and created a disproportionate impact on many people with disabilities.

How has COVID-19 affected people with disabilities?

While a disability does not necessarily put someone at a higher risk of infection from COVID-19, pre-existing health conditions can put someone at heightened risk of serious illness– and disruptions in services can have a disproportionate impact.

We regularly hear from people with disabilities who are unable to leave their homes to purchase essential goods or to attend appointments. In addition to increased social isolation and the effects that can have on mental and physical health, we know many are facing additional expenses and loss of work due to the pandemic, and are having difficulty making ends meet.

We also hear from people who are afraid of what will happen if they do get sick. We have been advocating, for example, to ensure that essential support people are allowed to accompany people with disabilities when they are hospitalized, and that triage protocols in hospitals do not discriminate against people with disabilities. We were glad to see the province amend the COVID-19 hospital visitor policy to clarify that, for many people with disabilities, essential support people are not visitors, but partners in care. They are critical to proper communication and consent to care.

With respect to triage protocols, we said government must consult with human rights experts when creating triage guidelines to determine how life-saving resources (such as ventilators) would be allocated if a surge of COVID-19 cases overwhelms the healthcare system. These guidelines must not result in people with disabilities being excluded from life-saving care.

How have our governments responded to COVID-19?

In a number of ways, all levels of government have responded extremely well to this unprecedented crisis. Many supports–financial and otherwise–have been rolled out quickly, and our governments have shown willingness to consult with communities and adjust some programs in response to feedback.

Our provincial government in particular has shown leadership on many issues.

This includes temporarily exempting Employment Insurance and the new Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) from clawback from income assistance and disability assistance (PWD), and providing a $300/month supplement for three months for income assistance recipients and PWD recipients that are not eligible for EI or the CERB. The CERB is a temporary federal income support for eligible workers who have lost employment or self-employment income because of COVID-19.

The Ministry has also temporarily opened up the emergency/disaster supplement (in addition to regular crisis supplements) which income assistance and PWD recipients can apply for on an as-needed basis for unexpected COVID-related expenses. DABC (and many other groups) advocated for the introduction of these and other provincial supports.

We were pleased to see the provincial government temporarily exempt the CERB from clawback, as it is a significant benefit for those that are eligible for it. The federal government also introduced the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) which provides financial supports for post-secondary students and recent graduates, with additional funds available to students with disabilities.

Has the response been enough?

While the provincial and federal governments have introduced some invaluable supports and policies, there is work left to do.

It has been disappointing, for example, to see the lack of dedicated federal supports for people with disabilities. At the time of writing, the government has not provided any supports for people who rely on CPP-D as their main source of income. DABC has been advocating at both levels of government for this gap to be addressed to ensure people are safe and can meet their basic needs during this crisis.

We have been advocating, for example, to ensure that essential support people are allowed to accompany people with disabilities when they are hospitalized, and that triage protocols in hospitals do not discriminate against people with disabilities.

It is also worth noting that provincial income and disability assistance, even with the $300 COVID supplement, are below the poverty line.

We are disappointed that the BC Temporary Rental Supplement and the BC Emergency Benefit for Workers are not available to people receiving income assistance or PWD. Looking forward, we would like to see the $300 increase made permanent, with a plan to increase rates further to bring everyone above the poverty line, or better yet, provide a universal basic income to ensure everyone can enjoy a certain standard of living.

Beyond financial supports, we will continue to advocate for access to personal protective equipment, and other equipment and supplies that people need, as well as for home supports (like the recently expanded BC211 service) for all those who need supports and are unable to leave their homes due to the virus. As businesses and services in our communities start to reopen, we are also hopeful that safety recommendations and measures (like non-medical mask policies) will be inclusive for people with disabilities.

While it is difficult at this point to look beyond COVID-19, it is safe to say the financial, health and social impacts will be felt for quite some time. We appreciate the conversations we had with so many of you in our community and hope that you will continue to share your thoughts, suggestions and experiences with us.

In this Transition, we share some of the advocacy we've been undertaking around COVID-19, as well as how we've adjusted our services to support you as best we can.

We're also giving you a look inside how our staff are coping–how they're adjusting to working from their own homes and how COVID-19 has affected them personally. The virus has definitely changed how we work, but not our commitment to it.

I'm proud of how our staff have stepped up in this extraordinary time and I hope you'll enjoy getting to know us a bit better through these stories.

ERIN PRITCHARD IS DABC'S, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, POLICY AND PROGRAMS.



COVID-19, Advocacy and the Human Impact

BY SALINA M. DEWAR, BA, LL B

I am a Tax AID DABC and Access RDSP Advocate with Disability Alliance BC. More broadly, I identify as a social justice advocate, who is affected by both visible and invisible disabilities.

I live alone and independently, and work full time. For the past four years, I have had the pleasure of assisting others with disabilities to file tax returns to claim tax benefits, and to apply for the Disability Tax Credit, to address tax debt or access the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

It is impossible to do this work without learning something about the struggles my clients have gone through. Arbitrary social and systemic barriers so often worsen their struggles and isolation more than the impairments or health conditions themselves.

Equally, I cannot do this work without remembering times I felt as if I "fell through the cracks" myself, where my ability was overlooked and whatever minimal support I may have needed to fully exercise my abilities was not available to me.

As March brought a significant increase in infections, I became increasingly anxious and preoccupied by questions. "How long will I have to be alone? Who can help me get the things I need if I get sick? Will I receive proper care if I am hospitalized?"

Service Gaps More Obvious Than Ever

Important local, national and global events like the COVID-19 pandemic often shine a bright light on service gaps and other barriers to full community participation. As March brought a significant increase in infections, I became increasingly anxious and preoccupied by questions. "How long will I have to be alone? Who can help me get the things I need if I get sick? Will I receive proper care if I am hospitalized? Will someone else decide for me that my life has less value than someone who does not have a disability? What if I can't speak for myself?"

And I began wondering the same things about friends, colleagues, clients, and others in our wider communities with disabilities and health conditions. These questions are with me daily and could easily become paralyzing.

The two most important factors that keep this paralysis at bay have been the sense that I am part of a larger community working to address just these types of questions, and the opportunity I still have to provide meaningful assistance and support to my clients.

Creating Consistency for Clients

Since I started working for DABC in 2016, I have developed a rapport with many clients who see me year after year for tax filing or DTC assistance. Every time I speak to a client who thought they weren't going to be able to get the tax help they needed to access GST, the Canada Child Benefit and, in some cases, get COVID-related benefits, I have a renewed sense of purpose.

There are significant challenges assisting clients. Because the benefits available due to COVID-19 are new and constantly evolving, clients have a lot of questions. Thanks to the work of other staff in our office,

I can offer some information about these benefits and how they interact. But clients understandably have questions that go beyond what we know at this point in time and have trouble contacting relevant government offices.

Staff Are Supporting Each Other

Like everyone at DABC, I will continue to help as many clients as much as I can, and the sense of community and commonality I have will help me to do that.

I have been inspired by the determination and ingenuity of my DABC colleagues, and people in Vancouver and beyond, to resolve the practical problems of serving people while protecting them from COVID-19. It is my hope that the advocacy that organizations and community members have done will pave the way for social, legislative and policy changes. I hope that we can build on these changes so people with disabilities and chronic health conditions can exercise self-determination, and participate fully in various facets of community life, including independent living, accessing community resources, and participating in the workforce as and how they are able to do so.

> Every time I speak to a client who thought they weren't going to be able to get the tax help they needed to access GST, the Canada Child Benefit and, in some cases, get COVID-related benefits, I have a renewed sense of purpose.

I want to thank my friends and colleagues for their ongoing support and encouragement, and our clients for their continued patience while we navigate the impacts of COVID-19.

If you or someone you know has a disability and needs help to file their tax returns, please email: taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org. If you would like assistance to apply for the Disability Tax Credit, please email: accessrdspteam@disabilityalliancebc.org.

SALINA IS A TAX AID AND ACCESS RDSP ADVOCATE WITH DABC.

What Are You Learning From COVID-19?

That individual sacrifices are sometimes necessary for the good of the group. And people are willing to spend big bucks buying shoes designed in honour of public health doctors with good leadership skills (John Fleuvog designed a shoe named after BC's Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry).—*Annette Murray, DABC Senior Advocate*

What I've learned is how much I enjoy giving and receiving hugs, and how important hugs are in our daily lives. —*Sharareh Saremi, DABC Advocate*

My first thought is that COVID 19 really evens out the playing field. Everything we once held dear is gone, from jobs, money, health to travel. What is important now are relationships and showing compassion to one another.—*Lillian Wong, DABC Advocate*

DON'T BE SAD

SUPPORT OUR VISIONARY CIRCLE

Sometimes it's hard to know what you can do to help.

When you join DABC's Visionaries Circle with monthly giving, you'll be providing the best support possible. Even a small amount goes a long way and provides a stable funding base for planning our programs and services.

Joining is easy.

- You can set up monthly donations in seconds at www.CanadaHelps.org by searching for "Disability Alliance BC."
- Or, set up a monthly credit card donation by calling Terry at 604-875-0188.

Thank you for your support!



Using DABC's Services During COVID-19

Everyone at DABC is doing our best to serve clients during this time. Here's how to reach our core programs.
JUSTINA LOH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS



To remain in line with the recommendations of provincial health authorities around physical distancing, DABC's office will remain closed until further notice. Our direct services are now being offered remotely. Appointments can be booked by email or phone, but during this time email may be a more efficient way to reach us.

Thank you for your patience. Stay safe, everyone!

Advocacy Access

If you require help accessing provincial disability benefits (PWD) or Canada Pension Plan-Disability Benefits (CPP-D), contact Advocacy Access:
Email advocacy@disabilityalliancebc.org
604-872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278 (Toll-free)

Tax AID DABC

If you are a person with a disability who requires assistance filing your income taxes, contact Tax AID DABC:
Email taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org
236-477-1717 or 1-877-940-7797 (Toll-free)
Book an appointment online at http://disabilityalliancebc.org/direct-service/file-income-taxes/tax-appointment/

Access RDSP

If you require help accessing the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) or Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), contact Access RDSP:
Email rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org
604-872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278 (Toll-free)
https://www.rdsp.com/supports-and-services/

Disability Law Clinic

The brand new Disability Law Clinic can help British Columbians with disabilities with legal issues. Please see the article about the clinic on the opposite page.

New DABC Law Clinic | by Andrew Robb

DABC is glad to announce our latest project: The Disability Law Clinic. This free service, funded by the Law Foundation of BC, is based in DABC's new office in downtown Vancouver. My name is Andrew Robb and I am the Clinic's staff lawyer.

I spent my first weeks at DABC getting to know the local community of people advocating for people with disabilities, as well as my new colleagues at DABC.

Since then, while working from home due to the pandemic, I have had the opportunity to talk to people with disabilities about some of the legal issues that affect them. I've learned a lot about the wide variety of challenges and I am looking forward to helping clients with some of those challenges.

The Disability Law Clinic is the first community legal clinic in western Canada that specializes in disability-related areas of law. We will assist people living in British Columbia with legal issues related to accessibility and discrimination, including:

- Accommodation in the workplace
- Access to transportation
- Access to education
- Accessible housing
- Access to supports, including service animals
- Accommodations related to the COVID-19 virus and social distancing

In some cases, the Clinic may be able to assist people with:

- Disability-related human rights cases at the BC Human Rights Tribunal, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, and the Canadian Transportation Agency
- Questions or concerns about disability-related service providers, such as care homes and support workers
- Decision-making rights and supported decision-making, in cases involving court-appointed guardians and trustees or the Public Guardian and Trustee
- Questions or concerns about disability insurance benefits

The Clinic will also work with DABC's Advocacy Access program to assist people who are applying for government disability benefits or who are involved in disputes with the government about their benefits. I am very fortunate to be able to draw on the experience and expertise of DABC's advocates, who have comprehensive knowledge about the complex system of government benefits for people with disabilities.

I am very happy to be a part of this new chapter in DABC's long history of advocating for people with disabilities and am looking forward to meeting you.

If you need legal advice or assistance with an issue related to your disability, please contact the Disability Law Clinic by leaving a message on DABC's Advocacy Access line (604-872-1278 or toll free 1-800-663-1278) or emailing lawclinic@disabilityalliancebc.org.

The Disability Law Clinic is the first community legal clinic in western Canada that specializes in disability-related areas of law.

Most of our services are provided by phone, especially during the pandemic. For anyone whose disability requires them to communicate by other methods, we will do our very best to accommodate you.

ANDREW ROBB STARTED AS THE CLINIC'S STAFF LAWYER IN FEBRUARY 2020. HE PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR LEGAL AID AGENCIES IN ONTARIO AND ALBERTA, AND MOST RECENTLY FOR LETHBRIDGE LEGAL GUIDANCE, A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC PROVIDING FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO PEOPLE LIVING ON A LOW-INCOME. ANDREW MOVED TO VANCOUVER TO START THE DISABILITY LAW CLINIC, AND IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY.



Journalling, Mental Health and a Pandemic

I by Jennifer Campillo

I lead a Journaling group at the Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends Society. I'd like to tell you a little about us.

It didn't hit me until I was twenty-one and had a mental health breakdown how difficult it is to have a permanent disability that impedes learning.

It wasn't easy, but I eventually finished my BA in Arts at UBC and went on to finish an MA at Vancouver School of Theology. To put myself through school, I was a tutor for ten years and worked at the office in my graduate school. I used extremely rigid study habits to help me achieve success.

I draw on these experiences today supporting my peers with disabilities. I lead a Journaling group at the Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends Society.

I'd like to tell you a little about us.

What Happens at Meetings?

Five to seven participants meet at our office. I plan a writing theme, get snacks that reflect that theme, and record our brainstorming on a whiteboard.

We arrive at each session with a "hook." A hook is something that helps us visualize ideas through the five senses. For example, a glass slipper ornament could be used to describe and symbolize a fairy-tale theme like Cinderella. The slipper could be physically described as delicate or beautiful and then we would play with those adjectives in our minds.

Sometimes the hook can be food. We drank raspberry cordial when we created an essay about *Anne of Green Gables*, literally internalizing and experiencing literature together through this hook!

After reflecting on the hook for ideas, we write an original piece, like a poem.

The level of creativity this technique inspires is amazing! I think part of the reason is that it's about community. We brainstorm and write together. We take turns sharing, are surprised by our communal thoughts and write about things that are important to our experiences as people with disabilities.

A Survival Theme: A Pandemic

This year, we started journaling based on some common book themes. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic closed our office, our journaling session topic was "survival." The pandemic has almost made this journaling session a reality.

I used the *Hunger Games* movies to get us into the theme. We wrote a science-fiction utopian piece that engaged our imaginations.

Our Members are Diverse

As a group of people with disabilities, we have differences and similarities. Some peers write from an electric wheelchair, some from walkers, some with mental health

Sometimes we discuss controversial topics, but our meetings are extremely therapeutic because our thoughts and opinions are heard. Sometimes just voicing thoughts can quiet the roar of mental health difficulties.

challenges and some recovering from substance abuse. But, in a room where we can share ideas and inspire each other, we create a beautiful community.

In this community, participants are all generally vocal, but we have learned to listen to everyone as well. Sometimes we discuss controversial topics, but our meetings are extremely therapeutic because our thoughts and opinions are heard. Sometimes just voicing thoughts can quiet the roar of mental health difficulties.

The main similarity within the journaling group is the shared understanding we have as mental health peers. Because we all know what it's like to try to recover from a mental health diagnosis or disability, we start from a shared place in each journaling session.

In fact, the theme of survival originated from a brainstorm about what it means to survive as mental health peers. We wrote a utopian piece about aliens that have to ride electric scooters and face economic challenges in a pandemic of inequality. It reflects a little too well the real experiences of people receiving the Persons with Disabilities benefit in British Columbia.

Expression and Mental Health

Journaling helps break down the stigma we all face, by writing it out.

As the cliché goes, the pen is mightier than the sword. Words are our "weapons" in our Journaling group, as we grow to be more critical thinkers and not passive observers of the world we all live in.

Not only do our words matter, but those words do not cost much, except the exercise of the mind, and a few snacks and trinkets.

Our imaginations are available to anyone who can harness it. Journaling is not about complaints, venting or negative thoughts because those things are not ultimately true. We write about our world and our experiences individually and, often amazingly, together.

This group is open to adults with a mental health diagnosis living in Richmond. For more information on the group, please email Jenn at jennifer.campillo@vch.ca.

JENNIFER CAMPILLO IS A DABC BOARD MEMBER, PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT RICHMOND MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER AND FRIENDS' SOCIETY AND A FREELANCE WRITER. SHE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT ADVOCACY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY. SHE HOLDS A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE AND A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

ABOUT TRANSITION

Editorial Statement
The views and opinions expressed within the pages of TRANSITION are not necessarily those held by the total membership or Board of Directors. The material presented is meant to be thought-provoking and to promote dialogue.

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https://disabilityalliancebc.org/category/publications/transition/

DABC general:
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The Pandemic's Impact on an Advocate and Caregiver

I by Sophia Underhill

When I was offered the job of Community Advocate at DABC in March, I never anticipated I would be starting my job remotely, amid a global pandemic and shut-down.

Every workday begins and ends at home. Needless to say, it's very strange to start a job remotely, disconnected from the physical office space and from the physical presence of colleagues and clients.

I can't picture the office or the flow of a normal day, where my colleagues sit, or the banter and chatter throughout the course of a day. I have to rely on partial and incomplete information, something I'm conscious that many people with disabilities, particularly sensory impairments, do on a daily basis.

The experience is challenging and somewhat lonely, but we're all adjusting to this new reality. I'm forced to relate to my small physical environment (aka living room) in a different way, to adjust to a simplified, pared down version of my life, and to reach out and connect with others in a new way.

When I'm finished with my work for the day, I move on to my other "work" to provide respite and care for my younger sister, Alynne. Alynne has a rare chromosomal deletion syndrome called 5p- and is deafblind.

My sister is a tenacious, resilient and full-of-life 23-year-old. She is non-verbal, and communicates through a combination of picture cues, a few modified ASL signs, facial expressions and body language.

Alynne and I are very close, highly attuned to one another in a way that is difficult to explain. Although we're used to seeing each other on a regular basis, we have been spending a lot more time together since the start of COVID-19 because her day-program is closed. All but one of her at-home support workers have been asked not to work for the time being, to ensure that the risk to Alynne is as minimal as possible.

When I'm finished with my work for the day, I move on to my other "work" to provide respite and care for my younger sister, Alynne.



Alynne, like many people with disabilities, is at heightened risk of becoming extremely sick if she were to contract COVID-19 and, while these measures help to protect her, they also cause a drastic reduction in the amount of much-needed support my parents receive in providing for Alynne's care.

I know my family is not the only one navigating these extremely difficult circumstances, having to balance mitigating risk with receiving vital caregiving support.

In our many hours spent together over the past weeks and months, I can see this time of quarantine and distancing is challenging for Alynne.

She can't do so many of the things she loves and that connect her to the community: riding the Skytrain and holding on to the yellow pole, afternoons spent at the library, and long coffee dates with her family and friends.

She loves a room full of people laughing, talking and eating together, people that she can see and touch. While many people are getting creative through communicating with their friends and family remotely, this isn't something that Alynne is able to do.

For her, what matters are people who are tangible and present with her physically. I worry about the

Alynne is an asset to her community and is much beloved by all in our neighbourhood. Still, ensuring that she is included, valued and safe in our society is an ever-present fight and struggle.

effect that COVID-19 is having on her sense of community and connection, areas that were already challenging before the present situation.

I worry about other things too. What if Alynne gets sick? How will we explain to her what is happening if she needs to get tested? What if the hospital doesn't want to allow me or my parents to be with her? What if they see her as a lower priority for treatment because of her disability? What if those of us who care for Alynne get sick, who will care for her then?

Again, I know we're not alone in these thoughts and fears. Since starting at DABC, I find myself encouraged by the solidarity I have found and grateful for the systemic advocacy work that DABC is doing to ensure that people with disabilities are heard and their rights protected during this time.

My sister is resilient and strong. She bestows many gifts on those who are lucky to know her, gifts that are not limited to her infectious smile, her silly sense of humour, and her ability to dwell in the present. Alynne is an asset to her community and is much beloved by all in our neighbourhood.

Still, ensuring that she is included, valued and safe in our society is an ever-present fight and struggle. And it has become more evident with the current crisis.

Caring for Alynne at this time has given me insight into the challenges and unique difficulties that COVID-19 presents to many people with disabilities, and a window into what many of DABC's clients are also contending with.

Many people are asking what the world will look like after this crisis passes and whether there is an opportunity to re-shape our societies to be more inclusive, just and community-oriented.

My hope is not only that Alynne's rights as a person with disabilities will be respected and that she will always be well cared for by the health system, but that our society will create space for her to thrive and contribute as a valued member.

And despite the unorthodox beginning, I'm excited to join DABC in the work that they do to bring this vision to fruition.

SOPHIA UNDERHILL IS A COMMUNITY ADVOCATE WITH DABC'S ACCESS RDSP PROGRAM.



dabc's new location

we've moved!

DABC has moved to a more modern office space in the heart of downtown.

Stay Tuned for News

At the time of writing, we are doing almost all our work remotely. Stay tuned for when and how we will open our offices again.

If you don't already follow us on social media, please sign up so you'll receive these updates. Facebook DisabilityAllianceBC, Twitter @DisabAllianceBC or sign up for our e-newsletter at disabilityalliancebc.org.

Thank you all for your patience during this challenging time of COVID-19 and an office move.

Getting There

We are just a few blocks from the Vancouver City Centre Canada Line station and the Granville Skytrain Station. We're one block from bus routes that run down Granville Street.

Parking

There is some street parking and nearby parking lots.

Our New Home

1450- 605 Robson Street
(at Seymour Street)
Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3

DTC RESOURCES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Access RDSP has created two new booklets to help health professionals support clients with Disability Tax Credit applications:

- **A Nurse Practitioner's Guide to the Disability Tax Credit**
- **A Guide to the Disability Tax Credit for Occupational Therapists**

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) offers significant benefits for people with disabilities who qualify.

With these guides, we explain the different sections of the form and offer suggestions for supporting patients' applications.

For more information, please contact the Access RDSP Outreach Coordinator at DABC at 604-872-1278 or rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org.

ACCESS RDSP IS A PARTNERSHIP OF BC ABORIGINAL NETWORK ON DISABILITY SOCIETY, DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC AND PLAN INSTITUTE, MADE POSSIBLE WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE VANCOUVER FOUNDATION.

THANK YOU TO THE BC NURSE PRACTITIONERS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR COLLABORATION ON THIS RESOURCE.

CPP-D Recipients Among the Hardest Hit

| by Ashley Silcock

Things have dramatically changed for the CPP Disability program, but we are still here and helping clients remotely.

All of our advocates are working from home which is something I am very grateful to be able to do. The treatment for my disabilities suppresses my immune system and makes me very high risk for COVID-19 and its complications.

Currently, our appointments are done from our personal phones and, to protect our privacy, we appear on clients' phones as a private caller. This causes some delays because people often ignore these calls. When we first started working remotely, I would connect with a handful of people and, for the rest, left messages. This slowed the process down quite a bit. As people are adjusting to remote services, where private numbers are more common, more people are answering those calls.

I also find myself using email and the mail system much more than I have in the past. These are the best ways for people to reach me now. Our Advocacy Access assistant records phone messages and forwards them to the Advocates. This works, but it is slow at times. Emails come directly to us.

One of the hardest hit groups I serve are people who are collecting CPP Disability benefits who have not worked and who are not on PWD because their monthly benefits are slightly above the Ministry's rates. This population is dealing with all of the increased costs of living due to COVID-19 with few resources to assist them during this very difficult and very expensive time.

One of the good things that I see coming out of this time for our CPP Disability program is some of the techniques and procedures we are developing internally. They will continue after this crisis ends and will enable us to better support people who are living outside of the Greater Vancouver area who may not have a local community Advocate.

I am immensely grateful for the patience and understanding people have shown us. These are scary and stressful times, and navigating government systems can be frustrating at the best of times. I want to thank each and every one of you in the community for giving us the time to set up remotely and for understanding the delays that have come from working in a COVID-19 world.

ASHLEY SILCOCK IS AN ADVOCATE WITH DABC'S ADVOCACY ACCESS PROGRAM.

If you have been denied CPP-D at Reconsideration, please note that the Social Security Tribunal announced in March they will no longer process paper mail. If you have sent anything by paper mail to the Tribunal after March 1st, you may want to resubmit the information by fax to 1-855-814-4117 or email to info.sst-tss@canada.gc.ca.



If you need help with a CPP-D issue or if you have questions about Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits, please feel free to contact me at ashley@disabilityalliancebc.org or you can phone and leave a message at 604-872-1278.



WorkBC Assistive Technology Services

Assistive Technology Services are available to individuals who have a work related barrier due to a disability or functional limitation. Learn about how this service can benefit you by attending a Lunch and Learn or Webinar.

Topics include:

- Workplace accommodations
- Community supports programs
- Assistive technology demonstration
- Available resources
- Funding options

Lunch and Learns take place at the Assistive Technology Services Lab, 400 – 3999 Henning Drive, Burnaby, BC V5C 6P9, on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 11:50am to 1:00pm. Lunch is provided.

Webinars take place online on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 12:30pm to 1:00pm.

For more information or to register, please contact Marketing Manager, Nate Teevs:
604-473-9363 ext. 122 or natat@neilsquire.ca
For more information: workbc-ats.ca

Canada BRITISH COLUMBIA

This program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

Helping Ourselves by Helping Others

I by Lillian Wong

It was like being in a foreign country—I could hear the sounds, but I had no idea what they meant.

The COVID-19 pandemic knocked me off all my moorings and turned my life upside down. For the first two months, I cried every day.

As someone with a brain injury, I struggled to learn the new technology needed to work remotely without the assistance of someone sitting beside me. It was like being in a foreign country—I could hear the sounds, but I had no idea what they meant.

One day, I reframed this overwhelming challenge as free rehab for my brain. As soon as my perspective started changing, I began to want to help others through this crisis.

When the Chinese Christian Mission Canada donated over 200 free cloth masks, I was totally stoked!

Over the next few weeks, I passed out over 100 masks to people living on the street and others. Their gratitude made it all worthwhile.

Resilience is the key to ride out this pandemic.



LILLIAN WONG IS A TAX AID, ACCESS RDSP AND PWD ADVOCATE AT DABC. T







MORE DABC NEWS

New Accessibility Committee

We have formed an Accessibility Committee to provide DABC with advice and recommendations on the accessibility of our services and our physical space.

The Committee will consider issues of importance to staff, volunteers and clients–all of whom will be represented on the committee.

The first project will be working on inclusive design in our new downtown office.

Please see the article on page 24 for details on a DABC-Emily Carr University partnership around design and accessibility!

Transition is Taking it Easier in 2020

DABC has decided to reduce Transition's publication schedule from four times a year to three.

You'll still find Transition coming to your front door, your email inbox or online at https://disabilityalliancebc.org/category/publications/transition. T

What Are You Learning From COVID-19

COVID-19 has taught me how important it is to stay home when you're sick. To be more mindful about how my physical presence can affect others. To stay calm when being disconnected from my umpteenth video conference. But, most of all, it's indelibly impacted my sense of gratitude for everything and everyone in my life. *—Cynthia Minh, Program Manager and Outreach Coordinator, Access RDSP, DABC*

I have learned that we are not as "free" as I thought we were. Some fundamental freedoms such as freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, thought, beliefs seem to be on hold.*—Anonymous*

What I have learned from COVID-19 is: when the zombie apocalypse happens, run for toilet paper first and weapons second.*—Trace, Advocacy Access Assistant*

NEW DABC PROJECT

Indigenous Women, Disability and Violence

DABC has received funding for a new one-year project. With our project partners, we will look at the significant gaps and lack of information on Indigenous women living with disabilities who experience domestic violence and/or sexual assault. The project will also examine the barriers they experience to accessing appropriate and culturally responsive services.

DABC, BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) and Chastity Davis Consulting will conduct six focus groups in six regions of BC in the fall of 2020. In each region, we will create space to gather the wisdom and lived experiences of Indigenous women living with disabilities. The project will include a COVID-19 plan to help us conduct the groups safely.

We will gather our findings in a report that will include needed action steps and strategies. The report will be shared with First Nations communities, and domestic violence and sexual assault services in British Columbia, in order to help address service gaps for Indigenous women living with disabilities.



For more information about the project, please contact Karen Martin: karen@disabilityalliancebc.org.

This project has been generously funded by the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Access RDSP

Change your tomorrow today

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a Canada-wide registered matched savings plan specifically for people living with disabilities. To learn more go to www.rdsp.com

Information and Support on the

Registered Disability Savings Plan





FREE RDSP SUPPORT

HELP WITH THE RDSP

For information about the RDSP or disability planning, call Plan Institute's information hotline at 1.844.311.7526, or take our online tutorial at www.rdsp.com.

DISABILITY TAX CREDIT

Before opening an RDSP, you need to have been approved for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). DABC offers one-on-one help with your DTC and information about the RDSP.
Call 604.872.1278/1.800.663.1278 or email rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org.

FREE RDSP INFO SESSIONS

RDSP information sessions for individuals, community organizations, banks, and credit unions. To find out more about this, or to request a workshop please call 604.872.1278/1.800.663.1278 or email rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org.

INDIGENOUS RDSP NAVIGATION

Are you an Indigenous person living with a disability? If so, you may be eligible to open an RDSP to assist you in meeting future financial needs. Contact the BCANDS RDSP Navigator program for more information. Call toll free 1.888.815.5511 or email rdsp1@bcands.bc.ca.

With special thanks to the Vancouver Foundation for their support with this project.

vancouver foundation



Staying Connected

I by Tom Brookes

In response to these unprecedented times, Plan Institute, alongside its sister organization PLAN, launched a five-part webinar series designed to help people facing social isolation stay connected.

Now, more than ever, it's important to stay connected with those we love.

The ability to stay connected to one another has dramatically changed over the last few months, as most of us are staying home to protect ourselves, and our loved ones.

As a result, many of us have lost our community connections, have less contact with family, friends and formal support, and are experiencing increased isolation.

Isolation affects us all, but it can affect people with disabilities disproportionately.

In response to these unprecedented times, Plan Institute, alongside its sister organization PLAN (Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network), launched a five-part webinar series designed to help people facing social isolation stay connected.

Each webinar features a conversation with Rebecca Pauls and Shelley Nessman from PLAN, and other guest speakers. Participants discuss how we can ensure our friends and loved ones maintain their social connections throughout this crisis.

At the time of writing, we are halfway through the series.

"It's been really meaningful to have this opportunity to bring in a diverse range of speakers from across Canada to share their stories and tips on Staying Connected," says Rebecca Pauls, host of the series and Executive Director at PLAN.

"People have really resonated with the stories and ideas that have been shared by our guests, many of whom are people with disabilities themselves."

The series kicked off on May 26th with, "Don't Wait to be Asked," when the panel discussed how and why to reach out to people to offer support.

As a person with lived experience of disability, Karen Lai said she is used to people expecting her to ask for help, but help is a two-way street. It is important to accept help, as well as to offer it.

"If you ask for help, you are letting people know that you're vulnerable," Karen explained. And that is not always easy to do.

Help can come in many forms: advice, getting someone their groceries, running errands or showing someone how to use the computer.

"Be confident in your own abilities and your limitations," Karen said, "we all have them. There is no shame in limitations."

The conversations from these webinars have been impactful and honest. We've heard back from the community that these sessions are helping people to redefine and adapt their community relationships in light of COVID-19. We've also had the opportunity to hear what participants are doing to stay connected.

As a person with lived experience of disability, Karen Lai said she is used to people expecting her to ask for help, but help is a two-way street. It is important to accept help, as well as to offer it.

One webinar on using technology highlighted the opportunities and challenges of using modern communication platforms to stay up-to-date and in touch. We learned as much from the participants as from our panel!

We hope these webinars will help people to maintain or rebuild social connections that have been impacted by physical distancing. For some, social connections can mean the difference between life and death. Even small changes can have a real impact.

If you're feeling isolated or would like advice on any disability-related matters, please call Plan Institute's helpline at 1-844-311-7526.

To see the recordings of previous conversations, please visit: www.planinstitute.ca/staying-socially-connected-webinars.

TOM BROOKES IS THE PROJECTS MANAGER AT PLAN INSTITUTE. ORIGINALLY FROM THE UK, HE IS NOW BASED IN VANCOUVER WHERE HE WORKS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CANADIANS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES.



PLANNED LIFETIME ADVOCACY NETWORK (PLAN) IS A FAMILY-LED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL CITIZENS. PLAN HELPS FAMILIES TO BUILD PERSONAL SUPPORT NETWORKS AND IMPLEMENT PLANS TO ENSURE LOVED ONES WITH DISABILITIES ARE SAFE AND SECURE FOR THEIR LIFETIME. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MORE IDEAS ABOUT STAYING CONNECTED DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, PLEASE VISIT HTTPS://PLAN.CA.

PLAN INSTITUTE (PI) IS A NATIONAL NON-PROFIT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT WORKS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BY COLLABORATING ON COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS, OFFERING A SUITE OF LEARNING INITIATIVES, AND ADVOCATING FOR POLICY REFORM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT HTTPS://PLANINSTITUTE.CA. T

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_____

THANK YOU!



Connect with DABC

ABOUT US

Our mission is to 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.

FRONTLINE SERVICES

Our Advocacy Access Program provides one-on-one assistance with provincial and federal (Canada Pension Plan Disability) income supports and other benefits. Our Tax AID DABC program helps PWD and PPMB recipients to file their income taxes year-round. Access RDSP helps people with the Disability Tax Credit and with opening a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

Our projects respond to community need and increase people's ability to participate and contribute.

GROWING PARTNERSHIPS

We stay connected with a large network of community organizations across BC and regularly provide them with updates about issues of importance to the disability community.

FREE PUBLICATIONS

We publish a range of capacity-building, self-help guides and advocate resources, in reader-friendly language. Resources are provided free of charge, either by mail or from our website.

BECOME A DABC MEMBER

Numbers matter. The more members we have, the stronger our voice in the community.

Please become a Disability Alliance BC (DABC) member today. You can be a voting member or a non-voting member, and we welcome both individuals and groups.

I accept your invitation to join the DABC and enclose my membership fee of $15 (individuals) and $25 (groups).

I am also including a tax-deductible donation of $_____. (Donations over $10 are tax deductible).

You can also become a member or donate online at: http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/about-dabc/become-a-member.

Please return your payment/donation with this form to: DABC, 1450- 605 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please check the applicable boxes:

❏ New membership or ❏ Renewal

❏ Voting Member or ❏ Non-voting Member

Voting members are people with disabilities and self-help groups where at least 50% of members have a disability.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/Prov_____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____



DONATION DRIVE!

Our rent for the new DABC offices has increased by 100%.

If you support DABC's work, please consider a one-time contribution or become a monthly donor. Our monthly donors help us to create a funding base we can count on.

Please visit our Support page at http://disabilityalliancebc.org/support-us for ways you can give.

Thank you for helping us continue our work on behalf of people with disabilities.



Icons designed by EpicCoders from Flaticon

A Real-Life Design Challenge for Emily Carr Students

I by Lisa Boulton and Eugenie Cheon

In the fall of 2019, DABC contacted the Health Design Lab at Emily Carr University with a unique idea for design students—to apply their talents in communication design to the voices connected to DABC.

We were excited by this opportunity to connect 16 third-year Communication Design students with people living with visible and invisible disabilities to make design recommendations to DABC.

The idea was to imagine how to navigate to and around the new DABC office in downtown Vancouver.

Over the course of the semester, students led by Professor Eugenie Cheon, worked with staff, volunteers and clients of DABC in a series of co-creative workshops. We hoped to shift perceptions of disability, so our young designers saw people with disabilities as the experts in, and advocates for, their experiences.

In a series of three co-creative workshops, six teams of design students partnered with the DABC participants. Each team created unique creative activities for these events, aiming to build relationships through shared storytelling and develop insights into what is supporting and hindering people's participation in their community.

During the last workshop, one of the teams explored what an ideal space would look like for DABC. The team first delved deep into what makes up the DABC community, by creating personas. They then took each persona on a journey through various scenarios to gain insight on what type of elements would be helpful, useful or even playful in an ideal DABC space.

Visual and tangible props were used to stimulate different senses and act as prompts to assist people in generating ideas and recalling past experiences.

One of the core insights gained from this particular activity was that DABC is more than just a place that provides professional assistance. It is a community that values playfulness and human connection.



We were excited by this opportunity to connect 16 third-year Communication Design students with people living with visible and invisible disabilities to make design recommendations to DABC.

Design recommendations, along with individual learning and reflection, were captured in visual essays and shared with the DABC community.

Throughout the project, Emily Carr's Design students gained rich experience in being empathetic designers. Third year communication design student, Vannysha Chang, described her experience.

"In each co-creation session, our team had the pleasure of getting to know our DABC representative, Salina who showed us the importance of community, playfulness and professionalism. The stories that we heard gave us valuable insight and inspired us to form a set of design recommendations—which will hopefully lead to the creation of a space that supports DABC's work and fosters meaningful interactions between members of the community."

Professor Eugenie Cheon commented on the collaboration with DABC.

"Engaging with the DABC to study its space, and the everyday context lived by its community, was a meaningful and valuable learning experience each step of the way. The co-creative workshops were an incredible opportunity for students to grow as empathetic designers and to think and apply the values of design. We were inspired by the stories told and challenged by the wisdom, knowledge and resilience of the DABC community.

"I hope to see this partnership grow, where we continue to create positive social impact together."

LISA BOULTON IS THE MANAGER AT HEALTH DESIGN LAB, EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY. EUGENIE CHEON IS A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY.





"Since DABC was making the transition to a new office, it seemed like the perfect time to start a conversation on accessibility in relation to space and design," said **Myung Lee, DABC Accessibility Project Manager**. "We wanted to gather ideas from staff, volunteers and clients who are going to use the new space and interact with DABC.

"Through this project, we hoped participants would recognize the potential of inclusive design to empower individuals, create positive experiences, build strong communities and transform the face of DABC.

We have completed this first partnership, but we look forward to working with ECUAD on future projects!"



Planned Giving

You've always been there for others. It's part of who you are. Now, you can continue to give beyond your lifetime.

DABC has a Planned Giving program. Planned Giving is the opportunity to think ahead about causes or organizations that you may want to financially support beyond your lifetime.

You can take the time now to gather information and leave instructions in your Will.

By planning ahead, you can research charities or have someone research charities for you that fit your values. You won't feel rushed or pressured to make a decision and you can ensure that your money is spent in the way you want.

Benefits

There are many benefits to Planned Giving. By writing down your wishes, you will have increased peace of mind and control over your finances.

Through Planned Giving, you can provide a significant future donation without reducing your income today.

A gift in your Will to a registered Canadian charity is tax-deductible. And, your Planned Gift helps DABC to be here in the future for those who need us.

Tax Savings

You can realize significant tax savings with Planned Giving. For example, stocks, bonds and mutual funds that you may have in a Trust can be transferred in your will to a charity and a tax receipt will be issued.

A bequest from your estate of cash or RRSPs will reduce the taxes that your estate will be required to pay.

Other ways of donating give twofold value: by naming DABC as the beneficiary in a life insurance policy, you do not incur any costs now and a tax receipt is issued when the estate is settled.

To Learn More

Our donors are important to us and we'll work with you to be recognized in the way that you'd prefer.

If you would like more information about Planned Giving, please contact Justina at DABC at jloh@disabilityalliancebc.org or 604-875-0188. She will send you DABC's Planned Giving information to review with your financial planner or lawyer, family and friends.

The Challenges of Working Remotely | by Sharareh Saremi

When I said to my colleagues one Friday, "See you on Monday." I meant the following Monday, not an undetermined one in the future. Ironically, this was on Friday, March 13th. Maybe I should have seen it as an omen.

DABC, like many other organizations, has had to close down its offices because of COVID-19 and switch to remote work. We were unprepared for the impact this would have both on our work and on our clients.

DABC has supported people with disabilities since 1977, and most of our operations and procedures do not lend themselves to working remotely. As a new advocate, I have spent the last two years doing client work by filling out physical documents, relying on photocopiers and scanners, and keeping physical copies of all client files. I left the office on a Friday with that system in place, but by the next week, we were faced with a new reality we needed to adapt to quickly.

With the leadership and quick thinking of program managers, and our co-executive directors, we are continuing to adapt to meet the needs of both our staff and clients.

As an advocate who assists people with the PWD designation, CPP-Disability and the Access RDSP program, I didn't know how some of our workflow, like client intake, was going to work. Luckily, the program manager for our Access RDSP program had already created an Excel spreadsheet as a new way to keep track of client intake and phone calls. This system was quickly copied to use for client intake in other programs as we all switched to working remotely.

I try to give people the best help I can, in the current circumstances, but I explain that we don't have the same capacity to offer support as we would working at the office. Some procedures take less time now, whereas others take much longer. Some clients don't have access to technology which can make things even more difficult to navigate.

I have my own challenges working from home. I live in a small apartment with a roommate who has been laid off. Trying to find the balance between work and home has proven to be mentally exhausting and physically challenging, especially because of the importance of confidentiality in our work. I remind myself how lucky I am to be able to do my job and how important my role can be to the many people we support.

People, of course, are worried about the pandemic, and have questions about government benefits and what they may or may not be entitled to. Things are constantly shifting and the advocates are staying on top of these changes, so we can relay accurate information to clients. We hear clients' fears and frustrations (and often share them) and include them in our systemic advocacy whenever we can.



Trying to find the balance between work and home has proven to be mentally exhausting and physically challenging, especially because of the importance of confidentiality in our work.

My dining room table is definitely not where I thought I would be having client appointments when this year started. However, I think that some of the technological procedures we've put into place have been for the better.

When this is all over, we will be in a better place. We have learned new and improved ways to help clients. I definitely miss the office environment and my colleagues, but I get to connect with them in our weekly Zoom calls.

SHARAREH SAREMI IS AN ADVOCATE AT DABC.

Tax Assistance & Information for People with Disabilities

Contact Tax AID DABC Today for Free Income Tax Assistance

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Program Manager
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taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org
https://taxaiddabc.org

Appointments During COVID-19
You can book your remote appointment with DABC online at http://disabilityalliancebc.org/direct-service/file-income-taxes/tax-appointment/.
We also offer our services by email and mail. Please send your tax slips and photo ID to taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org. We will contact you for follow-up.



Tax AID DABC helps people in BC receiving PWD (Persons with Disabilities) or PPMB (Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers to Employment) benefits to file their income taxes.

CONTACT THE TAX AID DABC REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU

- **METRO VANCOUVER & FRASER VALLEY I VANCOUVER I** DABC I 236-477-1717 I Toll Free 1-877-940-7797
- **INTERIOR I KELOWNA I** Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society I 250-763-4905 ext. 215

✓ Yes, our income tax services are free.

Am I eligible for Tax AID DABC services?

We help people who are receiving:

- Persons with Disabilities (PWD) or
- Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers (PPMB) to Employment benefits.

What if I Haven't Filed Taxes for Years?

We help prepare simple income tax returns for the most recent tax year, as well as for previous years. One of our specialties is to help people who have multiple years of taxes to file.

What if I Don't Have All My Tax Documents (T5007, T4s)?

Don't worry! We'll contact government agencies to help you find them.

My Income is Low. Why Should I File Taxes?

There are many advantages to filing your income taxes! Our clients usually receive $400 to $600 in income tax credits for each year they file. People eligible for an income tax refund, and those with dependent children, often receive much more.

If you haven't filed your taxes for multiple years, your refunds may grow dramatically.

Other benefits you may be eligible for include:

- GST Credits
- BC Sales Tax and Climate Action Tax Credits
- Canada Workers Benefit
- Child Tax Benefits
- Registered Disability Savings Plan Grants and Bonds

Income tax filing can also help you qualify for MSP Premium Assistance coverage, subsidized housing, and other income-tested benefits.



What Should I do Next?

Contact Disability Alliance BC or one of our Regional Partners. We'll set up an appointment to meet with you. Call us today! We're here to help.

CONTACT THE TAX AID DABC REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU

- **VANCOUVER ISLAND I VICTORIA I** Together Against Poverty Society I 250-361-3521
- **NORTHERN I PRINCE GEORGE I** Active Support Against Poverty Society I Toll-Free 1-877-563-6112

Download DABC's Free Self-help Resources

Did you know DABC has a library of help sheets, self-help guides and resources for individuals, organizations and community planners? Here are some of the free resources you can read and download from our website.

BC Disability Benefits

We have over 15 Disability Benefits Help Sheets that are our most popular downloads. You'll learn about applications and appeals for the PWD and PPMB benefits; health benefits and nutritional supplements; filing income taxes for people receiving PWD and PPMB; PWD applications for people with disabilities living on reserve, and more.

Canada Pension Plan Disability

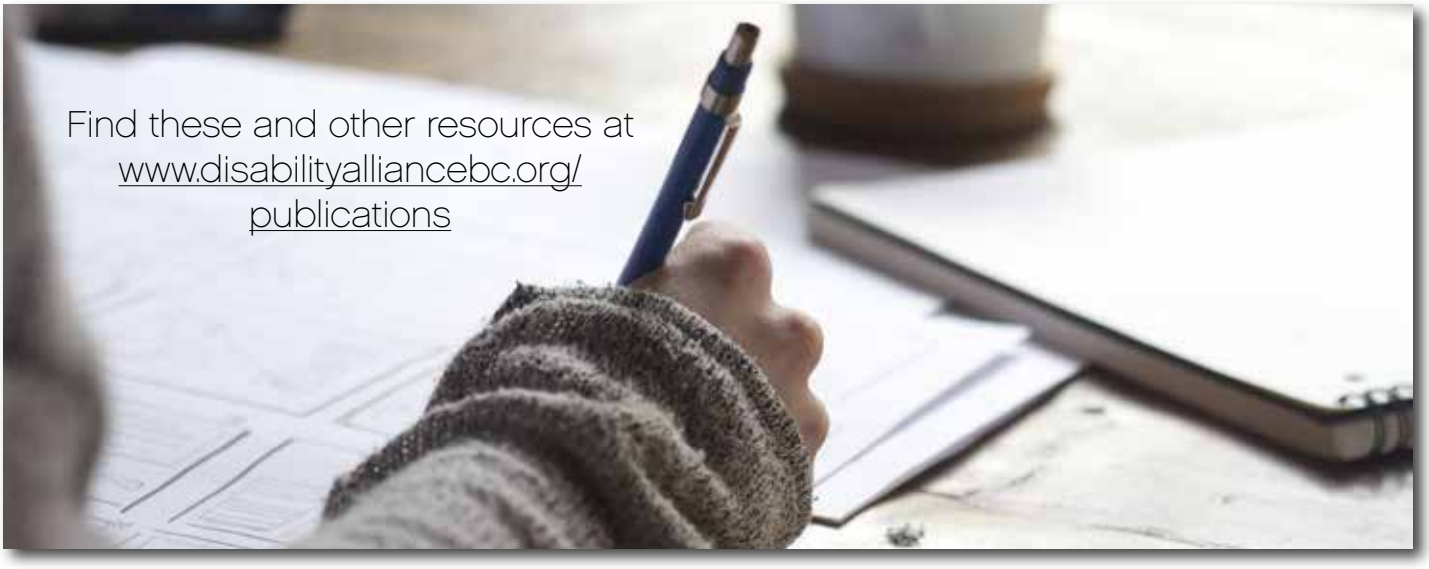
In the CPP-D section, you'll find our application and appeal guides for CPP-D, as well as a benefits checklist.

Registered Disability Savings Plan and Disability Tax Credit

We've created guides and help sheets on these key financial tools for people with disabilities and for health professionals who want to help their clients access these tools.

Other

- Anti-violence resources to help people with disabilities understand the steps they will go through if they have been a victim of a crime. We have also created resources for front line anti-violence workers.
- Emergency Preparedness guides on inclusive emergency planning for community partners.



Thank you for helping us grow.

Programs and Projects

- BC Rehabilitation Foundation
- City of Vancouver
- Council of Canadians with Disabilities
- Law Foundation of British Columbia
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Ministry of Public Safety
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver Foundation

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of BC.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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- Simpson, Thomas and Associates (Trial Lawyers)
- TELUS Employees Charitable Giving Program
- Tompkins Wozny, Chartered Professional Accountants
- Vancouver Taxi Association

disability alliance bc

we are all connected

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DABC's New Law Clinic



The Disability Law Clinic is a new, free DABC service.

This is the first community legal clinic in western Canada that specializes in disability-related law. The Clinic will assist BC residents with legal issues related to accessibility and discrimination.

Contact us for help with:

- Accommodation in the workplace
- Access to transportation, education or housing
- Access to supports, including service animals
- Accommodations related to the COVID-19 virus and social distancing

We may also be able to assist with:

- Disability-related human rights cases
- Questions about disability-related service providers, such as care homes
- Decision-making rights and supported decision-making
- Concerns about disability insurance benefits

Learn more about the clinic inside this edition of Transition.

This project was made possible through the generous support of the Law Foundation of BC.

disability alliance bc | THE LAW FOUNDATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Thank you to the Province of BC for their continuing support.

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