

## A Functional Needs Framework for Every Community Emergency Planning and Response for People with Disabilities



# Extra Items for Emergency Social Services to Have on Hand

This document is part of a series created by Disability Alliance BC in order to help local Emergency Programs in British Columbia integrate the needs of people with disabilities into their emergency plans. The series was developed for the **A Functional Needs Framework for Every Community** project, based on key areas identified by local Emergency Programs.

**Links provided in this document are live and were accessed February 2017.**

Created by  
Disability Alliance BC



Generously funded by  
Emergency Management BC



## ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT

---

### DEFINITION

Assistive devices and equipment are any tools that are designed, fabricated, and/or adapted to help a person with a functional limitation to perform an action, task or activity.

### SUGGESTED ITEMS TO HAVE AVAILABLE (THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

---

- Canes
- Crutches
- Walker
- Magnifying glass
- General reading glasses
- Paper and pens
- Communication board
- Handouts in large print
- Raised toilet seat
- Headphones (for people with anxiety)
- Squeeze balls (for people with anxiety)
- Transfer height cots

### SUPPLIERS OF EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES

---

In BC, local branches of the Royal Canadian Legion have Medical Equipment Loan cupboards. This is a community service available to legion and non-legion community members. Please contact your local branch to find out more information.

Shoppers Home Health Care provides mobility aids, daily living supplies and therapeutic aids:

🔗 <http://www.shoppershomehealthcare.ca/>

Please see the Accredited Business Directory of medical equipment and supplies suppliers in the Lower Mainland, Thompson-Okanagan, North, Central and Southern Interior of BC:

🔗 [www.bbb.org/mbc/accredited-business-directory/medical-equipment-and-supplies](http://www.bbb.org/mbc/accredited-business-directory/medical-equipment-and-supplies)

The following are categories listed on this website (these bulleted items link to online resources):

- [Health and Medical \(General\)](#)
- [Senior Specialty Services](#)
- [Computer Software and Services](#)
- [Wheel Chair Lifts and Ramps](#)
- [Wheelchairs](#)
- [Hospital Equipment and Supplies](#)
- [Health and Wellness](#)

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) lists adaptive products resources, programs and businesses:

🔗 [http://www.cnib.ca/en/useful-links/adaptive\\_products/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cnib.ca/en/useful-links/adaptive_products/Pages/default.aspx)

CNIB lists alternative formats providers:

🔗 [http://www.cnib.ca/en/useful-links/alternative\\_format/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cnib.ca/en/useful-links/alternative_format/Pages/default.aspx)



## DEFINITION OF A COMMUNICATION BOARD



A communication board, mentioned earlier in this resource, is a board with symbols, the alphabet or pictures that is used to facilitate communication for people with limited expressive language/speech ability. People communicate by pointing and gesturing to symbols or pictures on the board. At its simplest, a communication board can consist of a yes/no board or a pencil and piece of paper. The goal is to allow the person to communicate his/her needs. A communication board is a low-tech way for people of all ages with communication disabilities to express themselves.

Communication boards that can be downloaded from the following links:

-  <http://www.instructables.com/id/Communication-Board-for-Individuals-with-Disabilit/>
-  <http://www.do2learn.com/picturecards/printcards/>
-  <https://sites.google.com/site/speaking4autism/information/free-picture-symbol-resources>
-  <https://www.pinterest.com/explore/pecs-pictures/>

