

Research, Partnerships  
and Plans from  
DAC's First Year

ADVANCE Network's  
Cross-Canada Work  
for Youth & Families

Nunavut's Unique  
Beauty and Challenges

# transition

The Magazine of Disability Alliance BC



Disability Alliance Canada

GROWING OUR SUPPORT  
FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST

SPRING 2026

# A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO THE DISABILITY TAX CREDIT



Created by Access RDSP in partnership with Island Health Authority, with thanks to our funders BC's Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Vancouver Foundation.

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# inside

## featured articles

Editorial by Cynthia Minh .....	4
Poverty Reduction is Harm Reduction by Sarah Jama .....	6
Highlights of DAC's First Year by the DAC Team .....	8
Nunavut: Reimagining Accessibility in the North by Pierre Essoh .....	12
Ongoing Unmet Needs in BC by Helaine Boyd .....	18
ADVANCE Network Strengthening Families' Access Across Canada by Brittany Finlay and Dr. Jennifer Zwicker ...	20
Gaps and Challenges in Higher Education by Margarita Jarrín .....	24

## selected content

Accessibility Projects Grants 2025/26 .....	10
CSIL Program Offers Users Independence by Monica Gärtner .....	15
Contact Tax AID for Free Income Tax Assistance .....	16
Notes from DABC HQ .....	28
Advertise with DABC .....	29
Contact DABC Programs and Services .....	30
Right Fit Program .....	32



# editorial

I by Cynthia Minh

DABC is now taking a bold new step in our journey. We are bringing our services across the country through a new national non-profit, Disability Alliance Canada.

Since 1977, Disability Alliance BC (DABC) has been a provincial, cross-disability voice for people with disabilities. The services and programs we offer have changed, but our work has always been grounded in community—in the stories we hear about the impact social policies have on everyday lives, and in the realities that people with disabilities experience when navigating difficult social systems.

DABC is now taking a bold new step in our journey. We are bringing our services across the country through a new national non-profit, Disability Alliance Canada (DAC).

This moment is a culmination of our decades-long experience directly supporting people with disabilities to access supports and services.

DABC has become the leading disability benefit service provider in British Columbia. We have helped thousands of people with disabilities through provincial and federal disability assistance, the Disability Tax Credit, and other tax-related benefits. Our contributions have allowed BC to maintain the highest uptake of financial programs, such as the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), compared to other provinces.

We are proud of the services we provide. However, we have come to recognize that navigational sup-

port—how people actually access and find their way through provincial, territorial and federal benefits—is not consistently offered in other provinces.

It is our hope that, with our expansion, people with disabilities across Canada will be able to access more consistent support for services.

The new DAC will remain closely tied to our provincial roots. It will continue to be governed by several DABC board members and led by our Executive Director, Helaine Boyd. Members of the management team at DABC are helping to ensure a smooth transition.

Most important, our mission and values remain aligned with DABC. We're committed to promoting a more inclusive and equitable society for people with all disabilities across Canada through direct services, community partnerships, systemic advocacy, research and publications.

This coast-to coast-to coast expansion gives us the opportunity to advocate more effectively at the federal level, to share knowledge across regions, and to organize with others around issues of dignity and access. It also allows us to work toward the dream of a more equitable country where accessibility is not just an idea, but the standard.



In this Transition, you'll hear from advocates and organizations already doing great work around the country. For Nuability, supporting the Nunavut community means offering services that are accessible and culturally-grounded. Disability Policy Research Program shares their approaches to persistent gaps faced by youth and families.

Margarita Jarrín shares a personal reflection on her journey through a challenging education system. And, DAC's Sarah Jama takes a look at the poverty cycle that traps so many people living with a disability.

We will also share what we've learned about unmet needs that will shape DAC's systemic advocacy.

We would like to thank our readers for continuing to support the work of our organization as we explore new directions—everyone who shared their story, challenged us to grow and believed that a provincial organization could help inspire national change. As we embark on this new chapter, we hope we continue to move together.

Our work has always been about community—about the recognition that we are all connected. Now, our community is national.

CYNTHIA MINH IS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS, DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC AND DISABILITY ALLIANCE CANADA. 

# Why DAC

We recognize that many Canadians do not have access to the same in-depth support that DABC offers.

So we launched DAC to expand our services across Canada.

# Poverty Reduction is Harm Reduction

BY SARAH JAMA



This all means that too many Canadians with disabilities are left with the best of poor choices: to remain on the disability benefits that have legislated them into poverty.

Over the last decade, we've celebrated many wins within the disability community. We've seen the creation of the first-ever [Accessible Canada Act](#), the creation of the Canada Disability Benefit, pilot projects testing out a Universal Basic Income across Canada, and a real push toward building accessible housing from the federal government.

We have also seen changes that make the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) more accessible, and a deeper, more widespread societal understanding of what ableism entails, through the COVID-19 pandemic.

It won't surprise most readers that, despite how far we've come, there are still many, many Canadians with disabilities living with unmet needs. Social assistance rates in Canada are

almost universally below the poverty line, with a [2024 report](#) finding that "98% of tracked households on social assistance were living in poverty." A significant portion, 73%, were in "deep poverty."

This situation is widespread. Social assistance programs vary by province and territory, but most often leave Canadians with disabilities struggling to pay for necessities, like food and rent. [In 2021, the poverty rate for people with disabilities was 16.5%](#), compared to 8.6% for the general population.

Then, there are the many disincentives to work, starting with inaccessible work environments with a lack of accommodations. People with disabilities often settle for casual work which is often lower-paying, less stable and offering limited opportunities for career advancement.

Most of all, it is difficult for people with disabilities in Canada to escape poverty through employment because of income limits on assistance programs. If they earn extra income, it can be clawed back.

With these insecure employment opportunities, many people with disabilities rely on disability assistance programs that also provide access to assistive devices funding and other life-sustaining support.

This all means that too many Canadians with disabilities are left with the best of poor choices: to remain

on the disability benefits that have legislated them into poverty.

DAC supports, and will continue to support, the work being done by advocates across Canada that calls for the Canadian government to:

- Fully enforce the *Accessible Canada Act* with binding time-lines and strong penalties for non-compliance.
- Invest in independent living programs and community-based supports.
- Mandate that all new federally-funded housing be fully accessible.
- End requirements that force people to repeatedly prove their disability, even if it's permanent.
- Allow people to work without losing essential benefits, including health, housing and assistive supports.
- Provide universal access to disability-related healthcare (mobility aids, home care, mental health services, etc.).
- Harmonize federal, provincial and territorial programs so that people are not punished for where they live.

Bettering the living conditions of Canadians with disabilities through the reduction— and eventual elimination—of poverty is the best way

to ensure that we meet the needs of those being left behind across the country.

We are hopeful that within our lifetime we will experience a world where people with disabilities are able to exist in society fully and freely. Until then, we must continue to push for reforms that move us toward this long-term goal.

SARAH JAMA (SHE/HER) IS CURRENTLY A DISABILITY TAX CREDIT ADVOCATE WITH DISABILITY ALLIANCE CANADA. SARAH IS THE PREVIOUS MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT FOR HAMILTON CENTRE AND SHE WAS THE FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DISABILITY JUSTICE NETWORK OF ONTARIO.

SHE SITS ON THE BOARD OF THE MUSLIM ADVISORY COUNCIL OF CANADA, AND MUHSEN CANADA, AN ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS MUSLIMS WITH DISABILITIES. SHE IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD AT THE YWCA WOMEN OF DISTINCTION, AND THE 2022 RECIPIENT OF THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD. 



disability alliance canada

**We're here to help.**

**Call**  
(604) 606-4160

**Email**  
**General**  
[info@disabilityalliancecanada.ca](mailto:info@disabilityalliancecanada.ca)

**CPP-D Assistance**  
[cppd@disabilityalliancecanada.ca](mailto:cppd@disabilityalliancecanada.ca)

**DTC Assistance**  
[dtc@disabilityalliancecanada.ca](mailto:dtc@disabilityalliancecanada.ca)

**Online**  
<https://disabilityalliancecanada.ca>

**Instagram**  
<https://www.instagram.com/disabilityalliancecanada>

**Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityAllianceCanada>

**LinkedIn**  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/disability-alliance-canada>

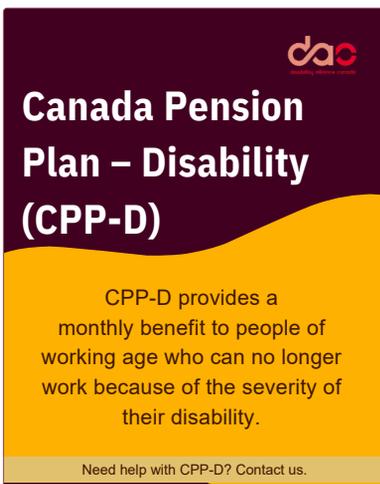


**Disability Tax Credit (DTC)**

The DTC reduces the amount of income tax people with disabilities or their caregivers may have to pay.

It also provides access to other important financial benefits like the Child Disability Benefit, Canada Disability Benefit, and Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Questions about the DTC? Contact us.



**Canada Pension Plan – Disability (CPP-D)**

CPP-D provides a monthly benefit to people of working age who can no longer work because of the severity of their disability.

Need help with CPP-D? Contact us.



**Canada Disability Benefit (CDB)**

The Canada Disability Benefit will add up to \$200/month for Canadians with disabilities with low income across Canada. DAC can help you apply.

Want updates on the CDB? Follow us.

# Highlights of DAC's First Year

| by the DAC Team

April 2026 will mark one year since Disability Alliance Canada (DAC) opened. It has been an exciting start!

We began the year with hopes of expanding our services across the country. Our growth has been intentionally gradual, but we have also hit many milestones. Here are some highlights from our first year.

## Laying the Foundation

We started our journey by conducting an environmental scan on the national impact of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). The scan included:

- ✓ A literature review of leading research.
- ✓ A comprehensive list of DTC navigation service providers across Canada through independent online research.
- ✓ Surveys to community organizations to learn more about their geographical reach, depth of services and position in the DTC navigation landscape.
- ✓ Interviews with DTC service providers to cultivate relationships and understand gaps.

We compared existing navigational services in provinces and territories, and looked for gaps in those services. Our findings confirmed that support around disability benefits exists in many provinces and some

territories, but in-depth, holistic support is not consistently offered. Holistic support with a DTC application, for example, could also include help with tax filing, and information about how their income can affect provincial disability assistance amounts.

One of our main goals for DAC was to share the knowledge we have gained over decades of work in BC to build more sustainable, consistent support for people across Canada. DAC's mission is aligned with Disability Alliance BC's (DABC).

## Our New Staff

When we first launched DAC, we hired two advocates to provide support through key federal disability benefits, including the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), Canada Pension Plan-Disability (CPP-D) and Canada Disability Benefit (CDB). Advocates are trained and supervised by experienced DABC staff members.

Since DAC began just a year ago, we have supported over a hundred individuals with access to national disability benefits. We even traveled to Alberta to offer our first DTC mobile clinic! We have since hired another advocate to assist with the growing demand for our DTC-related services.

## Helping Organizations Support Others

We know that our small team will not be able to support everyone who needs it. So, in addition to of-

fering our support nationwide, we are concentrating our efforts on skill building within organizations across the country who want to offer similar services.

Our long-time partners at [Plan Institute](#) are being trained by DABC staff to offer DTC-related services across Canada. Through a partnership with [Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society](#), we have also increased specialized, local DTC-related support to Indigenous communities living in the Interior Region of BC.

Central to our growth has been our relationships with key community partners. Disability Alliance BC has joined organizations across Canada in a Community of Practice hosted by the [Council of Canadians with Disabilities](#). We are also proud members of [Prosper Canada's Resilient Futures Network](#), a community of organizations providing financial empowerment services across the country.

We are excited to be part of a groundswell of passionate organizations, researchers and service providers working toward advancing accessibility.

As we look forward, DAC will continue to expand our services around benefits navigation and tax filing so that we can address a diverse range of needs. [T](#)

## Trends We Noticed

### Gaps in benefits and navigation services are longstanding, but many want to offer better support.

DAC's environmental scan confirmed that barriers preventing people from accessing benefits also prevent them from seeking help. People eligible for important benefits do not know how to get the support they need. The good news is many organizations we talked to over the year told us they want to offer disability benefits navigation services.

### Navigation services particularly needed in some regions

For people living in Québec, the Atlantic Provinces and the Territories, disability assistance amounts do little to address disability poverty rates. Benefits and navigation services are especially limited. [Learn about the organizations that are supporting benefits navigation across the country.](#)

### Demand growing for Disability Tax Credit-related services

The new Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) offers up to \$200/month for low-income individuals. Access to the benefit is tied to DTC eligibility, so we continue to see demand for DTC services increasing.

### Canada Pension Plan-Disability is less well-known

So far, DAC has received fewer requests from people who need support with CPP-D. Conversations we have had suggest there is less knowledge about the benefit and a lack of support available for people who need it.

### Applying for disability benefits is expensive

One of the biggest barriers to applying for the DTC is the cost. Currently, medical practitioners can charge an unregulated amount for their assistance with an application. This year, DABC was able to cover medical practitioner fees for some of our clients in BC, through our [DTC Medical Fees Fund](#). And, all donations are gratefully accepted! However, there were more people who applied for funding than we were able to cover through donations. The federal government is expected to cover up to \$150 for medical practitioners in 2026/2027, but many people will be struggling to pay these costs until these changes are put in place.

### Lack of data means many people are left behind

There isn't a lot of research on people with disabilities and social programs. It is unclear, for example, how many recipients of disability assistance apply for other federal disability benefits, and how many eligible individuals are left out of accessing any disability benefit. Separate data for the number of people with disabilities living in poverty in each province and territory is also less available. Current research at the University of Calgary's Disability Policy Research Program is essential to our understanding of provincial and federal disability benefits, and their impact on the disability community.



Building Community Wellbeing Through Horses

## 2025/26 Accessibility Projects Grants Recipients

Promoting Inclusion and Accessibility for People with Disabilities

ACT AUTISM COMMUNITY TRAINING SOCIETY - RURAL, REMOTE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES: \$40,000 FOR THE DECOLONIZING AUTISM & NEURODIVERGENCE: GROWING STRENGTH BASED INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT.  
Increasing accessibility for Autistic and neurodivergent Indigenous people by creating culturally relevant and safe training and sustained support systems.

CRIDGE CENTRE FOR THE FAMILY - VICTORIA: \$40,000 FOR THE VISIBLE VOICES PROJECT.  
Starting a trauma-informed arts initiative for women survivors of brain injury, including those affected by intimate partner violence.

FRESH ROOTS URBAN FARM SOCIETY - VANCOUVER AND COQUITLAM: \$40,000 FOR THE CULTIVATING ACCESSIBILITY: EXPANDING SOYL FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES PROJECT.  
Creating accessible employment opportunities for youth with disabilities, empowering them to participate fully in food systems and urban agriculture.

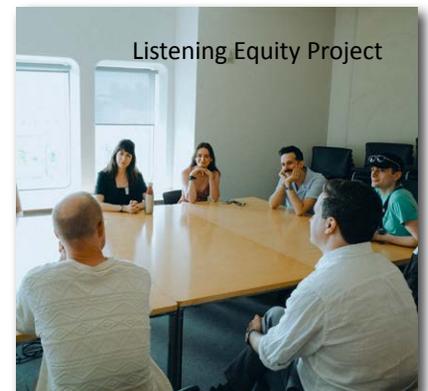
GRUNT GALLERY - VANCOUVER AND RICHMOND: \$39,650 FOR THE BLIND-LED TOURS PROJECT.

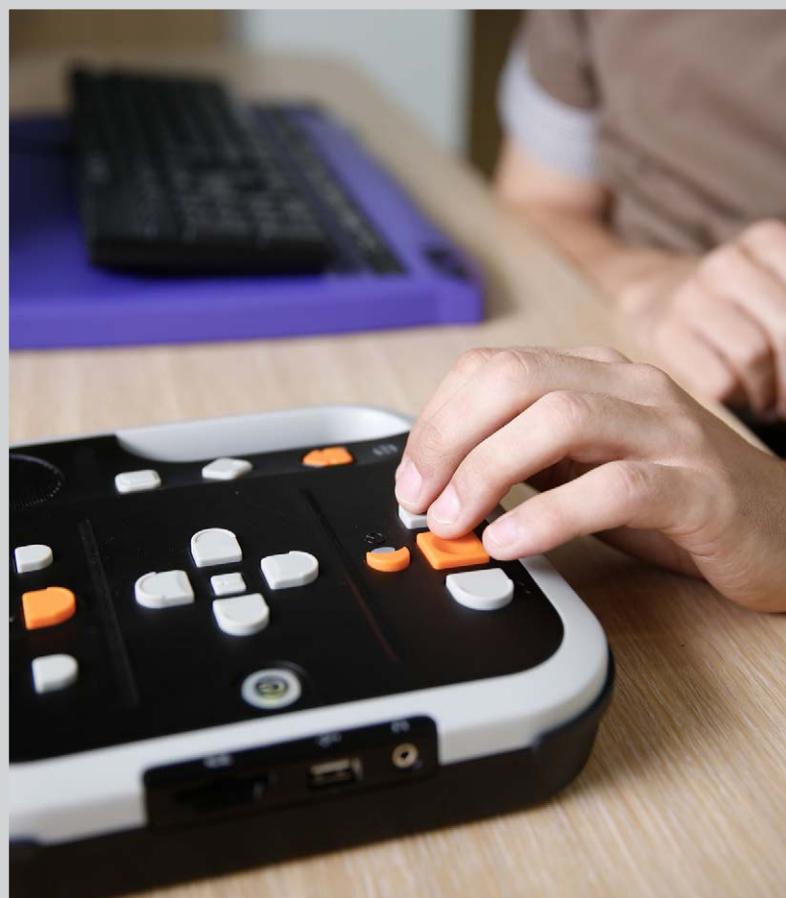
Establishing a transformative program of public tours designed for non-visual engagement and a professional development program to train Blind/low-vision individuals as gallery tour guides.

LITERACY NOW COWICHAN - DUNCAN AND COWICHAN VALLEY AREA: \$23,638.50 FOR THE DIGITAL INCLUSION PILOT PROJECT.

Providing beginner level digital literacy training for adults with disabilities through small group classes and one-on one support, ensuring learners gain the foundational skills needed to navigate technology safely and confidently.

MOMS AGAINST RACISM CANADA - PROVINCIAL: \$40,000 FOR THE NEUROEQUITY PROJECT: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MENTAL HEALTH FOR NEURODIVERGENT COMMUNITIES.  
Addressing systemic barriers to timely and culturally appropriate mental health care for IBPOC (Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour) youth and adults with neurodevelopmental and intellectual disabilities.





# WorkBC

## Assistive Technology Services

Are you employed, self-employed, or seeking employment?

Funding is available now for hearing aids, vehicle modifications, ergonomics, and other assistive devices you may need for work!

**1-844-453-5506**  
**workbc-ats.ca**



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

**NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION - VICTORIA: \$40,000 FOR THE ACCESSIBILITY CHAMPIONS: CIVIC PARTICIPATION 2026 PROJECT.**

Delivering accessible civic education and governance pathways for disabled residents through accessible workshops, committee participation, and cross-stakeholder training.

**OKANAGAN LIFETIME NETWORKS ASSOCIATION - OKANAGAN: \$37,252 FOR THE LIFT (LEARNING INDEPENDENCE FOR FUTURE TRANSITIONS) PROJECT.**

Empowering individuals with disabilities aged 16–29 to develop the financial, career, wellness, and community skills needed for a successful transition into autonomous adulthood.

**SPACE (STUTTERING, PEOPLE, ARTS, COMMUNITY, EDUCATION) - LOWER MAINLAND: \$40,000 FOR THE LISTENING EQUITY PROJECT.**

Training service providers across the Lower Mainland to create accessible communication environments for people who stutter and those with other communication disabilities.

**URBAN HORSE PROJECT SOCIETY - BURNABY AND LANGLEY: \$40,000 FOR THE BUILDING COMMUNITY WELLBEING THROUGH HORSES PROJECT.**

Providing new accessible learning and wellness programs with horses to urban adults, seniors and youth with disabilities.

**ZAJAC RANCH SOCIETY - MISSION: \$40,000 FOR THE ZAJAC RANCH FOR CHILDREN WEEKEND RESPITE FAMILY CAMPS PROJECT.**

Offering weekend family camps for respite support, education and community connection to families with youth who have complex medical conditions.

Learn more about [DABC's Accessibility Projects Grants](#) 

# NUNAVUT

REIMAGINING ACCESSIBILITY IN THE NORTH

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BY PIERRE ESSOH

With 85 percent of the population identifying as Inuit, Inuit cultural and societal values (known as Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit) shape how families and communities care for one another, fostering resilience and resourcefulness.

**N**unavut is a territory of remarkable beauty. Home to sweeping tundra, sparkling coastlines and vast skies, it is a place shaped by its remoteness where land, culture and community are deeply connected.

Yet these same qualities—distance, scale and isolation—can create significant barriers to accessibility for the people who call Nunavut home.

Nunavut has a population of just [over 36,000 people](#) living in 25 fly-in communities, spread across three time zones. Geography shapes every aspect of daily life, from the notoriously high cost of groceries to significant challenges accessing health care, housing and community programs. For people living with disabilities, these conditions are not just inconvenient. They are isolating and at times dangerous.

Beginning in 2021, Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiit Society (NDMS) undertook a [territory-wide research study](#) to understand how Nunavummiut experience accessibility. Over 500 participants from all 25 communities shared their experiences, concerns and priorities.

What they shared paints a picture of barriers to services and supports that are pervasive, severe—and normalized.

## Systemic Racism

Nunavut is a place deeply rooted in Inuit culture. With [85 percent of the population identifying as Inuit](#), Inuit cultural and societal values (known as Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit) shape how families and communities care for one another, fostering resilience and resourcefulness.

However, systemic racism has allowed governments and institutions to rely on this resilience as a substitute for equitable services.

Inuit communities have been expected to “make do” with fewer resources, delayed responses and inadequate infrastructure in ways that would be unacceptable elsewhere in Canada.

## Overall Accessibility

Accessibility in Nunavut is routinely treated as optional, secondary or “too complex” due to geography. When services are not offered in Inuit languages, when programs are not culturally-grounded, when transportation does not exist, when housing is unsafe or inaccessible, and when barriers to employment and income insecurity persist, people with disabilities are effectively excluded from community life.



## Scarce Transportation

For example, the lack of public transportation or a taxi service is a common frustration across many communities. Difficulties accessing medical appointments, grocery stores and social events is a reoccurring theme. Study participants with mobility barriers were especially affected, with some reporting that they spent months confined to their homes until snow and ice conditions improved enough to safely use mobility devices.

## Lack of Medical Services

Access to medical care was another major concern. Many services are unavailable in smaller communities, so residents travel long distances for appointments, diagnostic tests or treatment.

## Inadequate Housing

Another pressing concern identified was the lack of adequate housing. Overcrowding, long waitlists and homes in need of repair are realities for many Nunavummiut. With building materials reaching communities only once a year via sealift, long delays for repairs and new construc-

■ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

■ NUNAVUT, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

tion are common. For people with mobility challenges or health conditions, inaccessible or unsafe housing impacts independence, dignity and overall wellbeing.

Participants emphasized the need for accessibility improvements in existing housing, as well as new construction to be accessible. The Government of Nunavut has committed to building 3,000 new housing units through the [Nunavut 3000 strategy](#), and we are hopeful these homes will include a variety of accessible features. The strategy is a critical opportunity. However, without enforced accessibility requirements, it risks reproducing the same inequities.

Participants also told us of the need for greater accessibility to cultural programming and community events, including going out on the land, hunting and, arts like sewing, beading and carving. When cultural activities are inaccessible, people risk becoming disconnected from the very spaces that sustain community life.

The findings from NDMS's study underscore an important truth: accessibility in Nunavut cannot be achieved through southern solutions. It requires approaches rooted in Inuit knowledge, responsive to local realities and attentive to how remoteness shapes daily life.



The findings from NDMS's study underscore an important truth: accessibility in Nunavut cannot be achieved through southern solutions. It requires approaches rooted in Inuit knowledge, responsive to local realities and attentive to how remoteness shapes daily life.

Continued inaction is a choice, and one that perpetuates harm.

Leadership has both the responsibility and the opportunity to address

these inequities and to ensure that accessibility is not a privilege, but a foundation for inclusive, safe and dignified life for all Nunavummiut.

Nunavut's beauty is inseparable from its challenges.

Yet, by listening to Nunavummiut and centering their experiences, there is an opportunity to reimagine accessibility in the North, not as an add-on, but as a core service and a foundation for stronger, more inclusive communities.

**PIERRE ESSOH, (B. SC, NURSING; M. SC, COMMUNITY HEALTH) IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT NDMS (NUNAVUMMI DISABILITIES MAKINNASUAQTIIT SOCIETY). HE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT INUIT CULTURE AND SUPPORTING MARGINALIZED PEOPLE, HOMELESS POPULATIONS, ELDERNS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BECAUSE HE STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE IS CAPABLE OF BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE TO BUILD A STRONGER WORLD. PIERRE IS A CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR OF THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL, DISABILITY CREATION PROCESS. [T](#)**

## CSIL Program Offers Users Independence

I jumped at the opportunity. I qualified and became responsible for all aspects of hiring and firing my caregivers. | by Monica Gärtner

**H**ave you heard of the Choices in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL) program? Recently, someone asked me how I was able to travel, since I use an electric wheelchair and require personal care. During our conversation, I discovered she had never heard of CSIL!

My case manager told me about CSIL over 30 years ago. They knew I was having difficulty getting consistent care through my homecare agencies.

If you have an agency caregiver, you won't be surprised to hear that mine would send me three or four different caregivers a week. I was lucky if the same person came two weeks in a row! Some just wanted to have tea with me. I had other caregivers come back at night to help me get ready for bed, make me dinner and help me shower a few times a week.

It was exhausting explaining tasks every day.

The agency support was also limited by the times of day they could send a caregiver. It became increasingly difficult to live an independent life.

At the time, I had recently graduated from Career Focus, a government initiative that provided wage subsidies to employers who hired women. I was successful in finding a job which meant working Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. So, I needed someone to help me get up, make breakfast and lunch, dress me and provide personal care. And, I needed assistance

on the weekend. The agency wasn't able to meet these needs.

One day, my case manager told me about a new pilot project for people who were eligible for home support and met the requirements of the program. If you were accepted, the Ministry of Health would provide funding directly into an account for you. Then it was up to you to hire a caregiver you choose to assist with personal care, including getting out of bed, meal preparation, assisting with showers and other general needs.

I jumped at the opportunity. I qualified and became responsible for all aspects of hiring and firing my caregivers.

CSIL enables me to travel—which I love. I took a caregiver to Germany last year, so I could celebrate my uncle's 90th birthday. The program paid for the labour cost, but I paid for transportation and accommodation. I discussed everything with the caregiver beforehand, like paying for meals, and medical and travel interruption insurance.

Managing your own caregivers can be a bit overwhelming and intimidating at first, but you learn. I gained valuable skills in time management, leadership and delegation. The program has allowed me to have more freedom in my life, on more equal ground with that of my able-bodied counterparts. Thanks to my caregivers I have a career, I'm engaged in my community and I have created a more rich and full life.

**MONICA GÄRTNER** WAS BORN WITH THE RARE BONE DISEASE OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA WHICH CAUSES HER BONES TO BREAK EASILY. IN 2024, SHE RECEIVED THE COURAGE TO COME BACK AWARD, SPONSORED BY COAST MENTAL HEALTH. MONICA WAS ALSO NOMINATED FOR THE WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD IN 2025 FOR HER CREATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSISTED TRAVEL SOCIETY. SHE IS AN ACTOR, FREELANCE WRITER, SPEAKER AND PUBLISHED AUTHOR OF 'OVERCOMING THE IMPOSSIBLE: A LIFE OF TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS.' **T**



Visit the [Individualized Funding Resource Centre](#) to learn how to apply for CSIL. You can also see Spinal Cord Injury BC's [comprehensive workbooks](#) on how to manage being a CSIL employer.

# Contact Tax AID DABC for free income tax assistance and other tax-related issues.

We can file multiple years and self-employment taxes.

We offer drop off services and one-on-one appointments in-person, over the phone, through video conference, by email or by mail.

## CONTACT US

- Call or text 236-477-1717
- Email [taxaid@dabc.ca](mailto:taxaid@dabc.ca)
- Book your appointment online <https://www.taxaid.janeapp.com>
- Visit <https://taxaid.dabc.org>



Tax Assistance & InFormation For People with Disabilities



## CONTACT THE TAX AID REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU FOR LOCAL SUPPORT

- LOWER MAINLAND (AND ALL OF BC) | DABC | 236-477-1717 | Toll Free 1-877-940-7797
- INTERIOR | KELOWNA | Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society | 250-763-4905 ext. 215

## **Yes, our income tax services are FREE.**

### Am I eligible for Tax AID DABC services?

We provide free tax-filing support to people receiving disability supports including: Persons with Disabilities (PWD), Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB), Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPP-D), WorkSafeBC (WCB) or the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). We also assist people with disabilities with income below \$35,000 and those with family incomes below \$42,000.

### What if I Haven't Filed Taxes for Years?

We can help people file their taxes for up to 10 previous years.

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

Don't worry! We will help you locate tax slips that the government already has on file.

### My Income is Low. Why Should I File Taxes?

There are many advantages to filing your income taxes! Our clients usually receive \$500 to \$900 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 Credit
- Canada Workers Benefit
- Canada Child Benefit
- 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.

### New Drop Off Service

Have all of your tax slips ready? If you are living in Vancouver and your tax situation is straightforward, you can now drop off your tax information to our advocates for faster support. Bring in your ID and tax slips to our office. You can pick up your package when your taxes are ready.

### 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 REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU FOR LOCAL SUPPORT**

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

# Ongoing Unmet Needs in BC

In consultation with our clients and our networks, DABC has been compiling the following list of unmet needs for people living with a disability. BY HELAINE BOYD

Much of the systemic advocacy work we do at Disability Alliance BC (DABC) is informed by trends we observe through working with our clients. We can only assume that the unmet needs we look at in this article are felt by the disability community across Canada.

As we now expand our support to people with disabilities across provinces and territories through DAC, we will come to better understand the unmet needs from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Our programs continually evolve to find ways to assist with unmet needs, such as adding support with the BC fuel tax refund to our Tax AID BC tax filing support.

It is heartbreaking to know there is a need for a service or support that DABC doesn't offer or have expertise in, that isn't offered by any other non-profit organization or government agency.

It is heartbreaking to know there is a need for a service or support that DABC doesn't offer or have expertise in, that isn't offered by any other non-profit organization or government agency. People with disabilities fall through these cracks in support which too often compromises their health, economic security and full participation.

For us, knowing where the gaps are is the first step in finding a solution. Hopefully, as we expand and evolve as an organization, we will be able to address these gaps by developing more programs that offer much-needed supports. Knowing the gaps is also key to us carrying out systemic advocacy to urge the government to address these gaps themselves.

**Medications and Medical Therapies** Several medications and therapies are not covered by the Medical Services Plan (MSP), our public healthcare system. This means that people with certain medical conditions must pay out of pocket or do without, worsening their health outcomes.

**Counselling** This isn't covered by MSP. People have to rely on extended health benefits, if they have them, or seek low-cost or free counselling which remains a rare resource. DABC hasn't yet identified any free, disability-specific counselling services.

**Medical Equipment and Assistive Devices** Most financial coverage for these devices is available only for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Benefit recipients. Those not on

PWD can apply for certain types of assistive devices, only if they can prove the equipment will meet a "direct and imminent life-threatening need." Many applicants fail to meet this extremely limited criteria. Some people may qualify for assistive devices through WorkBC, if they can establish a work-related barrier due to a disability.

People with disabilities who do not qualify for one of the above options are left to purchase expensive medical equipment on their own or to seek out help from charities, like the Canadian Red Cross.

**Housekeeping, Grocery Shopping** There are some free services available from charities to help with these daily activities, but they are targeted to seniors. Adults with disabilities are excluded.

**Monthly Income** It is well-known that the core gap for people receiving PWD is that it doesn't meet the cost of living with a disability. The meager amount doesn't come close to covering rent and the rising cost of food and disability-related health needs (like medications). The maximum \$200/month of the new Canada Disability Benefit did little to bridge this gap.

**Accessible Housing** The vast majority of accessible units built over the past few decades in BC have been one-bedroom or studio units. The lack of multi-bedroom, accessible units actively excludes families who need accessible housing. Plus, housing providers still commonly lease



The lack of multi-bedroom, accessible units actively excludes families who need accessible housing.

accessible units to tenants that don't need the accessible features.

*Accessible Transportation* While HandyDART exists in some parts of the province, there are still many areas where accessible public transit doesn't exist. The narrow HandyDart eligibility criteria can also create barriers for people who need the service, but aren't deemed eligible. We also have wheelchair-accessible taxis in some areas of BC, but we hear too many reports of attitudinal ableism from taxi drivers who refuse to pick up wheelchair users or customers who use mobility devices.

Meaningful progress in meeting these gaps will require coordinated action between the disability community, charities and government agencies. Beyond services, there is still much more work to be done to address the structural and societal barriers that continue to leave many people with disabilities excluded from fully participating in society.

HELAINE BOYD IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC AND DISABILITY ALLIANCE CANADA 

## transition

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

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### Visit the Transition Library

# ADVANCE Network Strengthening Families' Access Across Canada

| by Brittany Finlay and Dr. Jennifer Zwicker

When a family in Northern BC applies for support, they may wait months longer than a family in Toronto, despite needing the same help. Across Canada, stories like these are common.

**A**cross Canada, young people with disabilities rely on government-funded services and supports to participate fully in school, community life and the workforce. Rehabilitation therapies, financial benefits, educational accommodations and community inclusion initiatives are vital for supporting development, reducing family stress, and offsetting the additional costs of disability.

They are also essential for meeting Canada's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which affirms the right of children and youth to equitable access, inclusion, and full participation.

Yet despite their importance, access to these programs is far from equitable.

Research from our team at the Disability Policy Research Program (DPRP) at the University of Calgary, and from organizations and researchers across the country, shows that many families who qualify for supports are unable to access them.

Nationally, fewer than 40% of eligible individuals receive the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). The DTC is not only a core federal disability program but also a gateway requirement for accessing the new Canada Disability Benefit, as well as other benefits. In some provinces and territories, as few as 25% of eligible families successfully access disability-related services.

Families and advocates consistently point to the same barriers:

- eligibility criteria based more on diagnosis than functional needs, i.e. the practical assistance a person needs due to their disability (see DABC's [CMIST Personal Emergency Planning Checklist](#))

- complex, lengthy application processes
- siloed government programs that do not communicate with one another
- regional differences that leave many rural and remote families behind

Even with strong public support for disability programs and Canada's commitments under the UNCRPD, access still varies widely depending on where a person lives, their specific disability and their family's resources. These inequities cannot be solved through small program modifications alone. They require cross-provincial collaboration and shared learning.

## A Pan-Canadian Response: The ADVANCE Network

Systems-level and policy solutions to address these gaps are long overdue. In response, with the support of Kids Brain Health Network and a growing number of partners, we launched the ADVANCE (Alliance for Disability Voices, Advocacy, and National Community Empowerment)

Network earlier this year with a strong, solutions-oriented focus.

ADVANCE brings together researchers, disability organizations, youth and families, service providers and advocates from across Canada to work collectively on improving access to disability programs at the provincial and territorial levels.

Disability Alliance BC is a proud partner in this effort, contributing vital lived-experience expertise and policy leadership.

At the heart of ADVANCE is co-design—an approach that centres the voices of people with lived experience.

Youth with disabilities and their families know better than anyone where the barriers are and what meaningful solutions look like. Their insights guide the Network's priorities and decision-making, ensuring the work reflects real-world needs rather than assumptions.

ADVANCE focuses on four key areas, each defined with our members:

**1** Program design and efficiency: What programs exist and how well do they support youth and families?

**2** Access and exclusion: Who is and is not accessing programs and why?

**3** Access trajectories across the lifespan: How do families experience support—or gaps—across key life transitions?

**4** Eligibility and assessment: How do provinces and territories define disability and what are the consequences of those differences?

Through community engagement, cross-provincial comparison and using what we've learned, ADVANCE is developing practical, evidence-based recommendations to improve how disability programs are designed and delivered nationwide. We identify promising practices, reduce administrative burdens, strengthen cross-ministry coordination and encourage program designs rooted in functional needs rather than diagnoses.

## Building Toward Systemic Change

ADVANCE is focused not just on producing research, but on driving action.

The Network includes dedicated structures for sharing information, helping partners apply insights in real time to improve policy and practice. By building relationships across sectors and across Canada, ADVANCE is laying the groundwork for meaningful disability policy systems change that will continue long after individual projects end.

Ultimately, ADVANCE aims to help create a Canada where youth with disabilities can access the supports they need, no matter where they live.

By working together, we can build a more equitable system, one designed with, and for, people with disabilities and their families.

■ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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■ ADVANCE, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



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BRITTANY FINLAY (SHE/HER) IS A SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COORDINATOR WITH THE DISABILITY POLICY RESEARCH PROGRAM. HER WORK FOCUSES ON HOW TO DESIGN POLICY AND SOCIAL SUPPORTS TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS CANADA.

### From Community Partners, Parents and Caregivers

“ADVANCE bridges a critical gap, bringing lived experience into policy and pushing for real transformation. I’ve seen partners shifting practices, policymakers listening differently, and community members feeling seen.”

“What excites us most about this opportunity is the possibility of using the research conducted by the DPRP as a way to enrich and empower the lives of people with disabilities. Now that Disability Alliance BC expanded our national service offerings, what is needed more than ever is research to help us understand barriers that people with disabilities face. This research presents an opportunity to connect the policies intended to support people with disabilities, with the lived experience of the people impacted by these policies.”

“The important work that this network does will be a catalyst for solutions that not only are needed by the recipients, but will ultimately demonstrate the broader societal benefits that these changes will provide.”

“I am excited about the information that will be gathered that can help provinces and territories to learn from one another and to inform advocacy.”

### Read DPRP's Policy Reports

[Federal Report](#)  
[Provincial and Territorial Report](#) **T**

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We gratefully acknowledge  
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# Gaps and Challenges in Higher Education

BY MARGARITA JARRÍN

My own journey and life experience led me to focus my Master of Arts in Global Leadership research on how international students with disabilities and neurodiversity navigate higher education in Victoria.



**W**hen I moved to Victoria, BC to begin my graduate studies, I brought three suitcases, my mobility scooter, my ESA dog, my excitement—and some realism about starting a new life without a safety net!

I was proud to begin this chapter, but I knew it would be hard. I had to learn Canadian culture, adapt to new rules and figure out how to return to study in my late 30s, all while managing the added challenge of having a disability.

It didn't take long to see that succeeding in higher education takes more than working hard and being adaptable. It also depends on the attitudes we encounter and whether the environment is designed to include us or unintentionally leaves us out.

My own journey and life experience led me to focus my Master of Arts in Global Leadership research on how international students with disabilities and neurodiversity navigate higher education in Victoria.

## What Students Shared and What I Experienced

My research began with interviews of international students with disabilities and neurodiversity. I heard many stories that echoed my own:

- Students didn't know what supports existed.
- Many were afraid to disclose their disability because of stigma or immigration concerns.
- They were tired of the need to repeatedly prove their disability.
- They were unsure whether they qualified for certain services because of immigration criteria.

But that wasn't all. Student support staff at institutions felt burnt out by policies, heavy workloads and constantly changing or unclear procedures. The problems weren't about people not caring. They were about systems that weren't designed with all students in mind, including people with disabilities and neurodiversity.

## Why These Gaps Happen

I found that many institutions still rely on the very outdated "medical model" of disability. This model has a narrow focus on diagnoses, paperwork and "proof." Understanding what a student actually needs to be "accommodated" is not part of the equation.

On the other hand, the social model of disability and the neurodiversity movement remind us that people are disabled most by the environment around them, not by the disability itself.

Improve the environment, decrease the impacts of disability.

Students I spoke with talked about:

- Teaching styles that didn't fit different learning needs/styles.
- Inaccessible technology, learning platforms and course materials.
- Confusing accommodation processes among the services and faculty.
- Faculty who lacked cultural or disability awareness.
- Subtle ableism, in statements like, "Do you really need that?" or "You don't look disabled."

These issues weren't isolated. They were systemic.

## Why Intersectionality Matters

A core lesson from my research is that none of us experience our disability in isolation. Other parts of our identity—culture, race, gender, language, class and immigration status—shape how we experience disability and how others respond to us.

Here are just a few examples:

- Disability is stigmatized in many cultures.
- Some students learned to hide their disability to avoid judgment.
- Diagnoses as well as accommodations may be unknown, unavailable or unaffordable in some countries.
- 2SLGBTQIA+, BIPOC and multi-lingual students face additional barriers.

A core lesson from my research is that none of us experience our disability in isolation. Other parts of our identity—culture, race, gender, language, class and immigration status—shape how we experience disability and how others respond to us.

Growing up in Ecuador, I deeply understood this. Moving to Canada meant learning new ways of advocating for myself and unlearning years of overcompensating for my disability. Many students I interviewed were going through similar transformations.

## How Institutions Can Move Forward

These realities suggest a set of guiding principles that can improve accessibility in institutions:

- Believe and listen to students. Value lived experience, not just paperwork.
- Communicate clearly and proactively. Make accessibility easy to understand.
- Consider culture and intersectionality. Disability looks different around the world.
- Train faculty regularly. They shape students' daily learning experiences.
- Build community. Students thrive when they feel understood and supported.
- Collaborate across campus and beyond. Accessibility is a shared responsibility.
- Design systems that expect disability. Build accessibility in from the start.

## Why Accessibility Advocacy Matters to Me

Doing this research was personal. As a disabled immigrant Latina woman, I know what it feels like to want to be heard and understood in another language. My goal was to bring these stories forward because I believe that:

Accessibility is not a checklist.

It is a commitment.

It is relationship-building.

It is creating spaces where everyone can learn, belong and thrive with dignity.

Change is possible! I saw compassion from staff, openness from instructors and courage from students who shared their experiences. But we all know good intentions are not enough. We need better systems (not only infrastructure) that welcome diversity, support disclosure, and treat every student as a full member of the community.

MARGARITA JARRÍN IS A COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZING IN ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSIVE PRACTICES AND STUDENT SUPPORT IN HIGHER EDUCATION. YOU CAN READ [MARGARITA'S FULL REPORT HERE.](#) 



# Connect with DABC

**O**ur vision is for people, with all disabilities, to live with dignity, independence, and as equal and full participants in the community. We envision a future where people with disabilities are recognized for their inherent worth as individuals, and as valued members of society.

We're proud to share our [Mission and Vision Statements, and Values.](#)

## Services and Programs

Our **Advocacy Access Program** provides one-on-one assistance with provincial and federal (Canada Pension Plan-Disability) income supports and other benefits. The **Disability Law Clinic** provides free legal advice to people with disabilities about human rights and discrimination. We also offer advice to people having problems with their disability benefits. **Tax AID DABC** helps people with disabilities living on low incomes to file their income

taxes year-round. **Access DTC** helps people with the Disability Tax Credit and with opening a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The **Right Fit Program** helps to match affordable wheelchair-accessible homes in the Vancouver region with people who need them.

Our programs and 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 help sheets in reader-friendly language. Resources are provided free of charge, either by mail or download.

## How to Support Us

You can support our work by:

- becoming a member
- making a one-time or monthly donation
- advertising your business or organization in Transition magazine or our e-newsletter, or
- considering a planned giving legacy to DABC.

Learn more, donate or become a member at [dabc.ca/support-us](https://dabc.ca/support-us). Or, fill out and return the form on the next page. Your support will help us continue our work on behalf of people with disabilities across BC.

## Follow Us

Want to know more about our work? Check us out online.





## Become a Member

Numbers matter. The more members we have, the stronger our voice in the community. Your membership plays a pivotal role in helping us advance our mission.

You can become a Disability Alliance BC member today as a Core (voting) member or an Allied (non-voting) member. Core Members are people with disabilities and self-help groups where at least 50% of members have a disability. We welcome both individual and group members.

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### Membership Fees:

**Individual \$15 | Group \$25**

1. Sign up online at [Become a Member](#), or
2. Return your payment with this form to: DABC, 1450-605 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3.

### Please check the applicable boxes

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Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**

## DABC Calls for Apology from Global News

DABC was shocked and deeply disappointed at Global News which, on December 3, 2025, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, decided to publish an inflammatory and antagonizing piece claiming allegations of fraud conducted by people receiving disability assistance and income assistance (known collectively as social assistance), from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR).

Throughout this video, Global News mentions a lack of “proper verification,” yet fails to provide any information regarding the complex and rigorous application and eligibility verification process that people must undergo in order to receive social assistance.

Read our [full media release](#).

There has been no response from Global by Transition's publication deadline.

## HandyDART Changes 2026

In January, TransLink announced the following service changes:

- HandyDART hours are extended to 2:00 a.m.
- Customers can book late-night trips.
- Dispatch service hours will also be extended and available to answer customer questions until 2:00 a.m.
  - Customers can call 604-575-6600 and select option 1 to book an advance trip, or option 3 to speak with a dispatcher.
  - The window to book trips in advance will remain the same: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a 4 p.m. deadline for next-day service).
- TransLink has partnered with [Spare](#), a Vancouver-based tech company, to deliver software upgrades that could significantly improve the overall customer experience. The software is currently still in development and will likely launch in 2027.
- The current HandyDART phone line will remain as a booking option after the software has been introduced.

DABC is pleased to learn of these positive changes that will provide HandyDART users with more flexibility.

Read [TransLink's media release](#) for more information.

## Self-advocate Award Winner

Congratulations to Noor Shakar on being awarded the [BC People First 2025 Self-Advocate Leadership of the Year Award!](#)

Noor is a strong self-advocate who uses her own life experience to create change. She speaks up about her needs, works through barriers and helps others feel less alone. Noor believes that having a voice matters—especially when systems feel unfair or hard to navigate—and she encourages others to speak up too. Noor's advocacy comes from real life. Her lived experience gives her a powerful and honest voice that people trust and relate to.

Through social media and community connections, Noor reaches thousands of people. She shares disability information, supports newcomers to Canada and speaks out about how systems affect young people. She helps people find resources, build confidence and believe that change is possible.

Noor's leadership, courage and commitment to community make a real difference. BC People First is honoured to recognize her work and celebrate her impact. Congratulations, Noor!

This year's runners-up also deserve special recognition for their outstanding contributions to self-advocacy and the “nothing about us without us” movement.

Emily White • Niki George • Cheryl Knippel • Phaidra Ruck 

# Advertise with DABC

Choose Transition ads, E-news ads or both!

## DABC's Flagship publication since 1977

From its early years in print, to its current form as a digital magazine, Transition has been an integral part of DABC's history and a hub for the disability community for over four decades.

With content ranging from policy news to personal stories, the pages of Transition provide a trusted platform where writers and readers with direct lived experience and other contributors working in the disability sphere share perspectives.

We publish three times a year, with each edition presenting a timely theme relevant to the community. Past editions have focused on topics such as Parenting With Disability, Disability Justice, Respecting Disability Language and Identity, and Healthcare: Navigating an Ableist System.

## Readership

- Over 3,000 magazines emailed to subscribers
- Featured on our website
- Theme articles promoted through our blog and social media
- Distributed to libraries, community centres, MLA offices and other public facilities

## Non-profit Discounts

We're glad to offer all Transition advertising, including ads bundled with our e-newsletter advertising, at a 25% discount to non-profit organizations and a 35% discount for non-profit organizations who are also DABC members (minimum cost per ad \$50).

## Choose Bundled Ads

Combine Transition magazine and Our Voice e-newsletter advertising into a package bundle to amplify your message, while achieving savings for your ongoing support. Our Voice offers readers regular updates including news, events, opportunities and more.

Our current readership includes policy makers, healthcare and housing providers, organizations serving the disability community, and individuals spanning a wide range of lived experiences with all disabilities.

See our Media Kit for rates and details.

[https://dabc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DABC\\_MediaKit.pdf](https://dabc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DABC_MediaKit.pdf)





## Yes, I'd Like to Donate to DABC

Your support will help us continue our advocacy and frontline support of people living with a disability.

- \$50 will contribute toward the cost of matching a disabled family with accessible housing
- \$100 will help fund disability education workshops for doctors and social workers
- \$500 will support legal representation for a person with a disability who has experienced discrimination
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Donate

You can donate by cheque or online by credit card. You can choose to make a one-time or monthly donation. We will send a charitable tax receipt for any donation over \$10.

Cheque donations can be sent to our office, along with this tear off donor form. You can make a secure online credit card donation in seconds through [Keela](#). Or, call us at 604-872-1278 and we will help you make your donation.

You can also support our work with an annual membership fee. Memberships are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for groups. Join at [dabc.ca/support-us](https://dabc.ca/support-us).

**Thank you for your support.**



# Contact DABC Programs and Services

DABC offers in-person and remote appointments. However, please note that in-person services are available by appointment only. Below is the contact information for our core programs—to book your appointment or ask about the services and support we can provide.

## Advocacy Access

If you need help with provincial disability benefits or CPP Disability, contact Advocacy Access:

[advocacy@dabc.ca](mailto:advocacy@dabc.ca)

604-872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278 (Toll-free)

## Tax AID DABC

If you are a person with a disability who needs assistance filing your income taxes, contact Tax AID DABC:

[taxaid@dabc.ca](mailto:taxaid@dabc.ca)

Call or text 236-477-1717 or call toll-free 1-877-940-7797

Book your appointment online at <https://www.taxaid.janeapp.com>

## Access DTC

If you need help with the Disability Tax Credit and related benefits, contact Access DTC:

604-872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278 (Toll-free)

[dtc@dabc.ca](mailto:dtc@dabc.ca)

<https://disabilityalliancebc.org/direct-service/help-with-the-rdsp-and-dtc/>

## Disability Law Clinic

Our Disability Law Clinic can help with legal issues related to disability rights:

236-427-1108

[lawclinic@dabc.ca](mailto:lawclinic@dabc.ca)

## The Right Fit

For questions about the Right Fit Program and for media inquiries, please contact:

Isabelle Groc, Right Fit Program Manager

[rightfit@dabc.ca](mailto:rightfit@dabc.ca) <https://therightfitbc.org>

If you are a wheelchair user looking for wheelchair accessible housing in the Lower Mainland, please contact:

The Right Fit Navigation Team

[navigation@therightfitbc.org](mailto:navigation@therightfitbc.org) 604-777-7576

## Learn More About Us

Programs and Services [dabc.ca/programs/](https://dabc.ca/programs/)

Core Program Brochures [dabc.ca/category/publications/brochures/](https://dabc.ca/category/publications/brochures/) 



# Planned Giving

Make generosity your legacy today.

**B**eing there for people we care about is one of the most gratifying things in life. Regardless of our means, legacy giving is a great way to extend our generosity beyond our lifetime. No matter our age, there's no time like the present to set good intentions in motion.

Wherever you are in your planning, let us know if you're considering a legacy gift to Disability Alliance BC (DABC). We are glad to support your decision every step of the way.

Your Planned Giving support to DABC will protect the dignity and independence of people living with a disability.

## Why Consider a Planned Gift?

There are many benefits to Planned Giving. By writing down your wishes, you will have increased peace of mind and control over your finances. You can also provide a significant future donation without reducing your income today.

A gift in your Will to DABC will help us 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 through your Will to a charity and a tax receipt will be issued.

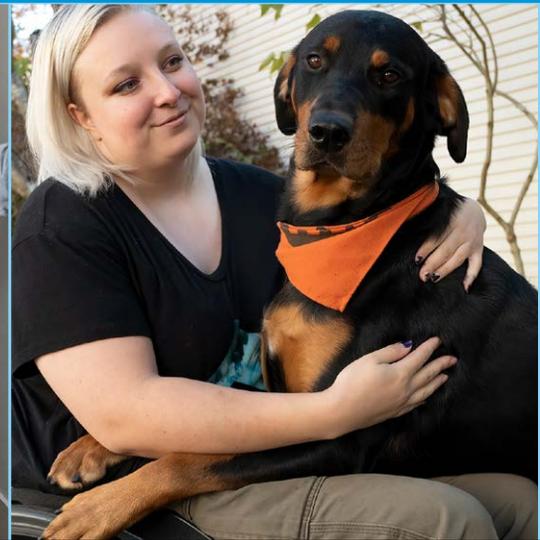
## We're Here to Help

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 us at 604-872-1278 or [feedback@dabc.ca](mailto:feedback@dabc.ca). We will send you DABC's Planned Giving information to review with your financial planner, lawyer, family or friends.

## [Learn More About DABC](#)

## [See our Planned Giving Brochure](#)



The Right Fit is a multi-partner service designed to address the crisis in wheelchair accessible housing. We help match affordable, accessible homes and independent living supports with people who need them in the Vancouver region.

For questions about the program, to learn more about how to be involved, and for media inquiries, please contact:

Isabelle Groc, Right Fit Program Manager  
[rightfit@dabc.ca](mailto:rightfit@dabc.ca) <https://therightfitbc.org>

#### **Need a Vacant Accessible Unit?**

If you are a wheelchair user or an organization representing wheelchair users, please contact:

The Right Fit Navigation Team  
[navigation@therightfitbc.org](mailto:navigation@therightfitbc.org) 604-777-7576

#### **Have a Vacant Accessible Unit?**

If you are a housing provider in the public or private housing market and have an accessible vacant unit, or you would like to learn about our

Accessibility Checklist, please contact:  
Anna Chow, Accessible Housing Coordinator  
[housing@dabc.ca](mailto:housing@dabc.ca)

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Disability Alliance BC (DABC) is the Right Fit's sponsoring organization and oversees the program. The Individualized Funding Resource Centre (IFRC) is responsible for client management.



we are all  
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49

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