

Editorial by the Honourable  
Shane Simpson

Community Advocates  
Review the New Strategy

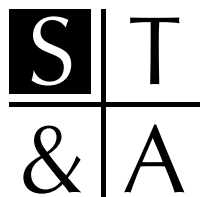
DABC in the  
Community

# transition

The Magazine of Disability Alliance BC

## Bringing Poverty Reduction Into Focus

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**A+**

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# editorial

by The Honourable Shane Simpson  
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Growing up in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, I saw that everybody was poor and facing serious obstacles. It was a challenging time for my family. My dad was abusive to my mom and she decided that we had to escape the situation. The only way we could do that was to move into safe and secure public housing. I'm not sure what my mom, sister and I would have done without a safe place we could call home – it was an important part of our success and a turning point for me and for our family.

There are more than a half a million people struggling with poverty in BC right now who need something to go their way. These are people who need opportunities so that they can move forward and have the lives they want for themselves and their families.

Poverty is not simple. It is a web of circumstances, barriers and exclusion. If you don't have your basic needs met, if you don't have a safe place to go home to at the end of the day, it's practically impossible to put together all those other pieces around health, education and employment. It's about the fundamentals – a roof over your head, food and the hope of opportunity.

It's our job as a government to create opportunities for people who

have dreams and goals they want to accomplish, but are being held back by poverty. The challenge is giving people the confidence to push through, putting in place the supports and resources they need, and helping them to start rebuilding their lives.

## THE NEW STRATEGY

That's part of the work we are trying to do with the Poverty Reduction Strategy. We're improving services and supports for people living in poverty. We want to make sure opportunities are available – whether they are skills training for a job, secure housing, income assistance, childcare or increasing the minimum wage.

When we passed the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* in November of 2018, we committed government to making poverty reduction a priority with a specific scope, legal obligation and reporting structure. Poverty is a problem that has been ignored by government for too many years. It isn't going to be solved overnight, but we are serious about making real progress.

We'll be releasing our first five-year Poverty Reduction Strategy this spring. Our initial targets are to reduce overall poverty by 25% and reduce child poverty by 50% (based on 2016 numbers) in the first five

years. And we are making sure that progress will be publicly accounted for and transparent.

This work will only be successful if everyone comes to the table. It will take all of government and industry, First Nations and Indigenous representatives, the business community, non-profits, faith groups, educators, healthcare providers, advocates and individuals – with and without lived experience – to work together to find solutions that support true reconciliation and reduce poverty, both in theory and in practice.

## THE WORK HAS BEGUN

We've been implementing policies and allotting funding to key poverty reduction initiatives since taking office in July of 2017. We immediately raised income and disability rates by \$100 a month and helped people on assistance keep more of what they earn, with an additional \$200 a month in earnings exemptions. We restored the BC Bus Pass Program for people on disability assistance, so that they could be better connected to their communities.

We increased the minimum wage and are on track to reach \$15 per hour by 2021. Effective January 1st of this year, we eliminated Pharmacare deductibles for low income families and cut MSP premiums in half for everyone.

If you don't have your basic needs met, if you don't have a safe place to go home to at the end of the day, it's practically impossible to put together all those other pieces around health, education and employment.

We've taken bold steps to tackle poverty by addressing the housing crisis in BC. We've been building new affordable housing for people and families, and modular homes for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. We've also designed a made-in-BC child care plan that sets us on the path to universal child care, saving parents hundreds of dollars a month and creating more spaces in their neighbourhoods. And we've invested in training and education to ensure that people have the knowledge they need to get the jobs that will help support their families.

### WE MUST BREAK THE CYCLE

This government's biggest priority is to make life better and more affordable for people. That means developing a poverty reduction plan that will help break the cycle of poverty. It means re-imagining what inclusive communities look like, breaking down barriers for people with disabilities and laying the groundwork for accessibility legislation. We want everyone in BC to have access

to the resources they need, to feel empowered to make choices, and to feel hopeful about their future and their family's future.

Over the past year, I've spent a lot of time with people discussing their experiences with poverty and ideas they have for solving those problems. Through our poverty reduction consultation last year, we heard from thousands of people about how housing costs have affected them, the impacts of the stigma of poverty, and the physical and emotional pain of food insecurity.

These things should not be happening in a province as wealthy as ours. Hearing these stories has reinforced how necessary this work is and how it can change lives, if done right. We've made a good start. We have taken important first steps, and we know that we still have more to do. Together, we can build a better BC for everyone.

**SHANE SIMPSON IS BC'S MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION. **

## 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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FROM THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

# Key Targets for the New Strategy



British Columbia's first Poverty Reduction Strategy, guided by legislation introduced October 2, 2018, will lift thousands of people out of poverty, create more opportunities to break the cycle of poverty and make it easier for people to participate in their community.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act will define the scope of the strategy, which will be released in early 2019, and sets poverty reduction targets and timelines that government must meet.

"A strong province is built on a foundation of equity, inclusion and opportunity for everyone," said Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. "We know that poverty is a serious issue in our province. That was driven home throughout the consultation as thousands of people told us about the impossible challenges they face each day. Social issues have been ignored for too long and that is why we are committing this government, and future governments, to break the cycle of poverty and improve people's lives."

The legislation is shaped by the experiences, voices and hopes of more than 8,500 people who took part in a broad public engagement on poverty from November 2017 to March 2018.

The commitment to a poverty reduction strategy, in addition to addressing liveable wages under BC's new Fair Wages Commission and exploring basic income, is a component of the Confidence and Supply Agreement with the BC Green Party caucus. The work of the Fair Wages Commission and the basic income expert panel will inform future updates to the poverty reduction strategy.

## Here are the strategy's key targets:

- ✓ Commits government to reduce BC's overall poverty rate by 25% and child poverty rate by 50% in the next five years.
- ✓ Establishes an independent advisory committee that will represent the breadth and depth of personal and professional experiences of poverty in BC, and advise the Minister on matters relating to poverty reduction and prevention.
- ✓ Requires government to report annually on its progress to reduce poverty.
- ✓ Requires government to release its first poverty reduction strategy by March 31, 2019. The strategy must focus on the key issues faced by people living in poverty including housing, education, employment, income supports and social inclusion. **T**

PLEASE FIND MORE DETAILS ON THE PROCESS, INCLUDING MORE ON PUBLIC INPUT INTO THE ACT AND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLANS AT:  
[HTTPS://ENGAGE.GOV.BC.CA/BCPOVERTYREDUCTION](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcpovertyreduction). **T**



## BC Budget Update

| BY JUSTINA LOH

We're proud that BC has now joined other Canadian provinces with this commitment to poverty reduction. We look forward to hearing more details about Minister Simpson's poverty reduction plan which will be released in March.

There's much for people with disabilities to celebrate in the BC 2019 budget, announced February 19.

The budget includes some changes that tell us the government is on the right track: a \$50 raise to disability and regular income assistance rates, and a \$26 million investment in the BC Employment Assistance program to remove some of the barriers to disability assistance and social assistance.

The continued strong investment in public health care is a boost to the quality of life for people with disabilities.

These investments include funding for hospitals, urgent primary care centres, diagnostic services like MRIs, mental health addiction services, health care providers in training, more supports for parents

of children with special needs, improvements to PharmaCare, and the elimination of MSP premiums.

DABC also applauds the government's considerable investment in affordable housing. Tying rent control to the unit, rather than the tenant, would be another key step forward in tackling poverty and homelessness among people with disabilities.

Other positive investments in the budget improve access to education, training and employment, such as the elimination of all interest from student loans effective immediately, improvements to WorkBC employment training programs, and additional funding to the Employment Standards Branch to update employment standards.

We're proud that BC has now joined other Canadian provinces with this commitment to poverty reduction. We look forward to hearing more details about Minister Simpson's poverty reduction plan which will be released in March.

Bringing people with disabilities out of poverty will require considerable investment and we anticipate seeing more significant changes in the near future. **T**

## Sam Turcott to Lead New Legislation

It is bittersweet for DABC to say farewell to Sam Turcott, our Executive Director of Programs and Policy. We wish him all the best in his new position and thank him for all his work. He will be greatly missed. Sam wrote this message to Transition readers:

"Beginning January 2019, I will be leaving DABC to work on the development of provincial accessibility legislation and other accessibility initiatives. I am thrilled and honoured to have been invited to undertake this important work. I hope that it will contribute to making BC more inclusive and accessible.

Federal accessibility legislation is nearly a reality in Canada, with the *Accessible Canada Act* now before the Senate. I am optimistic that the development of accompanying provincial legislation will help to further promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in BC.

I want to thank my dear friends and colleagues at DABC. I am immensely proud of the work we have done together. While I am excited to take this next step, I also feel wistful about stepping away from my role at DABC. My time here has helped shape who I am today, and I will be forever grateful for the lessons I have learned and the friends I have made. With thanks, Sam. " **T**





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Centre de services à l'emploi

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Tel 604.434.0367

**VANCOUVER MIDTOWN**

110 E 3rd Avenue  
Tel 604.829.2300

**DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE**

112 West Hastings Street  
Tel 604.872.0770

**VANCOUVER NORTHEAST**

312 - 2555 Commercial Drive  
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# Tackling Poverty in BC

Celebrating How Far We've Come and Looking Ahead | BY TRISH GARNER

**"It is harder to build good, long-lasting public services than it is to destroy them."**

As I flipped my calendar over to a new year, I thought about the work the provincial government has done – 2018 was a year where many initiatives were introduced, initiatives that provide steps along the path to an accountable, bold and comprehensive poverty reduction plan. This is something to celebrate!

Given the depth of the hole the government inherited, there is still some way to go to lift people out of poverty, but the government is starting to re-build in a significant way.

So I welcome the steps government is taking to strengthen community through progressive policy change and I urge them not to stop until everyone is out of the hole and fully included in our communities.

Looking back, one of the highlights of 2018 was witnessing unanimous support for the first ever poverty reduction legislation in British Columbia in November. The legislation embedded targets and timelines to reduce poverty in law. The legislation also promises action to prevent and reduce the depth and breadth of poverty, and entrenches Indigenous human rights as a foundation.

Earlier last year, Budget 2018 brought significant investments in

housing and child care as priorities and British Columbians are already feeling the impact.

## HOUSING AND CHILD CARE

The first steps in housing focused on those most marginalized and the government has now completed or is developing over 2,000 modular housing units in 22 communities. However, the first ever provincial homelessness count launched by the government indicated there were 7,655 homeless people in BC, highlighting the continued and sustained effort needed. Further investment has been made in affordable rental housing from the overall \$6.6 billion committed over 10 years.

We also welcome the targeted action to provide housing for women and children escaping domestic violence, as well as for Indigenous people, both on and off reserve.

Through a commitment of \$1 billion over three years, child care fees for families have been reduced through the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative and the Affordable Child Care Benefit. More quality spaces are being built and wages have gone up for early childhood educators.

Now parents of 2,000 children throughout BC are experiencing the joy of \$10 a day child care through the recently launched prototype program.

## PRIMARY CARE

The Ministry of Health has also taken proactive measures over the last year with urgent primary care centres launching in multiple communities, improved care for seniors in residential care and home support, and the elimination and reduction of prescription drug deductibles for 240,000 low income families. MSP payments have now been cut in half and will be eliminated in 2020. In November 2018, landmark legislation was introduced to end contract flipping and restore stability and fairness to health care workers.

As community health care centres start rolling out, there is a significant opportunity to connect services and supports to address the social determinants of health.

## EDUCATION

Early steps in access to education included restoring tuition-free Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning programs, and removing tuition fees for all former youth in care. More recently, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training has announced investments in skills training and employment services for survivors of violence and abuse, and older workers. These investments include the necessary wrap-around supports such as child care, transportation, disability supports, and counselling.

## MINIMUM WAGE

For the working poor, which is, in fact, most of those in poverty in BC, news of the minimum wage increase last year was welcome. Now at \$12.65 per hour, there will be annual increases to the minimum wage until we reach \$15.20 per hour in 2021.

## TAXES ON HOUSING

As well as tackling poverty, the government has taken measures to address the increasing and damaging inequality in BC. The speculation and vacancy tax, targeting those using housing as a commodity rather than a home, and the additional School Tax on properties valued at over \$3 million, are important initiatives to provide necessary redistribution of wealth.

## THE WORK AHEAD

Despite significant movement on comprehensive measures to reduce the breadth of poverty, there are big gaps to be filled. The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has identified two bold measures to fill them.

First, we need to see an immediate increase to income and disability assistance rates in Budget 2019, and a longer term commitment to provide adequate rates that match the basic cost of living. The increase of \$100 to welfare and disability rates back in September 2017 was a much-needed first step, after the rates had been frozen for a decade; but basic welfare remains less than half the poverty line, maintaining deep poverty for those who find themselves in need.

Enhancing income supports for families is also necessary. It is little

known that BC is the only province in Canada that cuts off our child benefit at age 6 instead of age 18, thus providing far less support over a child's lifetime than other provinces. The federal government can attribute much of their poverty reduction success to their improvements to the federal child benefit. The provincial government should follow suit and take up this opportunity.

The second critical bold initiative is tying rent control to the unit rather than the tenant. As I have said elsewhere, "[w]ithout rent control tied to the unit, many of the government's policy changes will not have the beneficial impact expected or hoped for." The living wage calculation last year demonstrated this clearly, as the cost of living went up because decreases to child care and MSP costs were surpassed by increasing rents.

It is disappointing that the recent recommendations from the government's Rental Housing Task Force explicitly recommend against this and I urge the government to reconsider.

As I look forward, I celebrate the rebuilding efforts of this government over the last year, and I hope for strong action to tackle deep poverty in BC in Budget 2019.

**TRISH GARNER IS THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER WITH THE BC POVERTY REDUCTION COALITION (BCPRC).**

**TO EMAIL THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION TO SUPPORT BOLD MEASURES IN THE STRATEGY, PLEASE VISIT [ABCPLAN.CA](http://ABCPLAN.CA). **

## BC BUDGET UPDATE

Trish Garner, BCPRC

With the 2019 BC Budget, we can see the investments in BC's first-ever poverty reduction strategy.

This is a family budget which builds on last year's significant and continued investments in child care. We're pleased to see BC join other provinces in providing a child benefit that extends up to age 18.

However, there needs to be far more for individuals in poverty in this budget. The increase to welfare and disability rates of \$50 per month, and the addition of only 200 modular houses in this budget, is a drop in the ocean in tackling deep poverty for individuals. This is a critical gap given that one in three singles live in poverty in BC.

Along with many of our members, including DABC, we have been advocating for a shift to a more supportive social assistance system. We therefore welcome these significant steps, including:

- changing the definition of spouse to be in line with other programs to ensure fairness
- increasing the assets threshold
- allowing people to keep their car
- extending the shelter rate to those paying room and board to a family member

We are looking forward to seeing additional significant measures in the full poverty reduction strategy to be released shortly.

For BCPRC's full analysis of the budget, please see: <http://bcpov-ertyreduction.ca/2019/02/budget-2019-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly>.

# A Timeline of Poverty Reduction in Canada

BC JOINS THE REST OF CANADA IN A COMMITMENT TO POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCOME EQUALITY.

**2002**

## Québec

*Act to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion*

- Improve the lives of people living in poverty
- Prevent poverty and social exclusion
- Involve society as a whole
- Ensure consistent, coherent action

**2006**

## Newfoundland and Labrador

*Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador*

- To become the province with the lowest poverty rate by 2014
- Improve access and coordination of services for households with low incomes
- A stronger social safety net
- Improve earned incomes
- Increase emphasis on early childhood development

**2007**

## Labrador

*Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador*

- Improve infrastructure
- Advance social programming

**2008**

## Ontario

*Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy*

- Reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25% over the next five years

**2009**

## Nova Scotia

*Preventing Poverty, Promoting Prosperity*

- Enable and reward work
- Invest in households in need
- Focus on children
- Coordinate and collaborate

## New Brunswick

*Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Housing Plan*

- Reduce income poverty in the province by 25% and deep income poverty by 50% by 2015
- Opportunities for well-being: reform social assistance
- Opportunities for becoming: early learning, literacy, childcare
- Opportunities for belonging: affordable housing, social enterprise, employment, education

**2012****Prince Edward Island**

*Social Action Plan to Reduce Poverty*

- Increase access to affordable housing
- Continue enhancing services for persons with disabilities
- Strengthen mental health and addiction services

**Manitoba**

*All Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy*

- Food security
- Housing
- Closing the gap for Aboriginal Peoples

**Yukon**

*A Better Yukon for All*

- Improve access to services
- Strengthen community vitality

**Nunavut**

*The Maklimaniq Plan - A Shared Approach to Poverty Reduction*

- Well-being
- Food security
- Housing and income support

**2013****Alberta**

*Together we raise tomorrow: An Alberta Approach to Early Childhood Development*

- Establish governance to guide the development of integrated Early Childhood Development
- Develop a community engagement strategy
- Develop an outcomes based measurement and measures of success framework
- Develop a research and innovation strategy

**Northwest Territories**

*Building on the Strength of Northerners*

- Children and family support
- Healthy living and reaching our potential
- Safe and affordable housing
- Sustainable communities
- Integrated continuum of services

**2014****New Brunswick**

*Overcoming Poverty Together: The New Brunswick Economic and Social Housing Plan 2014-2019*

**2015****Ontario**

*Realizing Our Potential: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy 2015-2019*

**2016****Québec**

*Poverty Reduction Strategy Summary*

**Saskatchewan**

*Taking Action on Poverty*

- Income security
- Housing and homelessness
- Education and skills training
- Employment
- Health and food security

**Alberta**

*Poverty Reduction Strategy Summary*

**2019****British Columbia**

*The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act. The Act will define the scope of the strategy which will be released in early 2019.*

- Commit government to reduce BC's overall poverty rate by 25% and child poverty rate by 50% in the next five years
- Establish an independent advisory committee to advise the minister on matters relating to poverty reduction and prevention
- Require government to report annually on its progress
- Require government to release its first poverty reduction strategy by March 31, 2019



PAT DANFORTH, VICTORIA  
*December 4-5, 2018. Ottawa  
Conference hosted by Centre on  
Research Work Disability Policy  
(CRWPD) and partners, "A Partner-  
ing Strategy for Moving Forward."*

I attended this conference on devel-  
oping a vision and strategy for in-  
creasing the employment of people  
with disabilities. The focus was on  
building partnerships and reviewing  
a proposed pan-Canadian strategy  
for disability and employment.

In 2017, the Centre for Research  
on Work Disability Policy (CRWDP)  
partnered with the Canadian  
Council on Rehabilitation and Work,  
Inclusion Newfoundland and the  
Ontario Network of Injured Work-  
ers' Groups to form the Disability  
and Work in Canada (DWC) initia-  
tive.

CRWPD is seeking input from a  
broader range of organizations and  
individuals, focusing on those stake-  
holders who could not attend this

conference. They will be collecting  
feedback on the proposed strategy  
through email, an online survey and  
in person.

For more information and the draft  
of the strategy "Moving Forward  
Together: A Canadian Strategy for  
Disability and Work," visit [https://  
www.crwdp.ca](https://www.crwdp.ca).

Please share information about the  
draft strategy with your community  
and encourage them to provide  
feedback to [feedback@DWCstrat-  
egy.ca](mailto:feedback@DWCstrategy.ca)

**PAT DANFORTH IS PRESIDENT OF DABC'S  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

JILL STAINSBY, LILLOOET  
*Providing shelter and housing for  
the homeless*

Early in the new year, I had the  
opportunity to do some real one-  
to-one advocacy. A person I have  
known for a while here in Lillooet  
was camping around town this past  
summer and fall. He had been my  
neighbour but, once he lost his  
partner, he was unable to keep his  
housing. He had lost a lot of weight  
and became quite unwell.

He tried camping near the river, but  
we had a monsoon-type heavy rain

and his tent went into the river! He  
then camped near the hospital, but  
his tent was on someone's land, so  
he couldn't stay.

Shortly after this, my friend gave  
up on camping and was living on  
the street. I gave him a room, some  
food and medical support for about  
10 weeks. Several social services  
were involved as well. After Christ-  
mas, he was deteriorating due to  
pneumonia, so I took him to the  
hospital. After a short stay there, he  
found a temporary place to live.

Later Myung Lee from DABC's Tax  
AID DABC program, myself and my  
friend brought his income taxes up  
to date and found he has a refund  
coming. His situation is looking  
much brighter and he has promised  
me dinner!

*Providing food bank support*

In January, as a member of the  
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society  
(LFCS) Board, I volunteered for the  
bi-weekly Food Bank to fill in for an  
employee who was ill. We feed ap-  
proximately 100 people or families  
once a month each. It is an excellent  
program. I also had the opportunity  
to attend the Food Bank at a local  
church and I was impressed with  
their system. Both food banks are,  
of course, open to all.

*Providing support to victims*

Last fall, the Victim Assistance Program of the Lillooet Friendship Centre Society held a training session for 18 people to help with the work that a few women had been doing. The training was excellent. We now have a roster of people who are on call to the two local police detachments. I have not been called out yet, but am looking forward to my first shift.

**JILL STAINSBY IS TREASURER ON DABC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SHE ALSO SERVES AS SECRETARY ON THE LILLOOET FRIENDSHIP CENTRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

## VICKIE SMITH, PRINCE GEORGE

I am the advocate with the Tax AID DABC partner Active Support Against Poverty. In this work, I'm responsible for about 600,000 square kilometers of service area.

Our program has reached out to Northern Health services and programs, legal advocates, transition houses, probation offices, band offices, friendship centres, community centres, ministry offices, Native courtworkers, halfway houses and the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre.

We have completed taxes for clients in Fort St. James, Bella Bella, Smithers, Dunster and Hixon. Local social workers and outreach workers are beginning to bring their clients to us. We've helped several people with multiple years of tax filing.

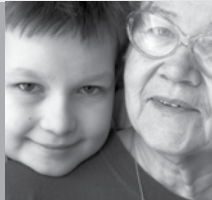
We are about two months away from completing our first year of providing Tax AID DABC services and have helped 161 unique clients file 281 years of taxes—resulting in over \$260,000 worth of refunds.

We are now preparing for the 2018 tax season and look forward to meeting our new and repeat clients!

**VICKIE SMITH IS THE TAX AID DABC ADVOCATE WITH ACTIVE SUPPORT AGAINST POVERTY. T**

## DO YOU EXPERIENCE CHRONIC PAIN?

Share Your Experiences, Resources and Supports with Us



The next edition of Transition will be a resource for people living with chronic pain. Do you have stories or experiences you would like to share with us? For example:

- Ways you have found to manage or cope with chronic pain.
- Tips on how to work with a doctor or other health care provider to get the help you need with managing pain (financially or regarding treatments).
- Community groups or other organizations that have provided support.
- Online forums or programs you found helpful.
- Tips on communicating with people who are not as understanding as you would like.
- Or any other ideas you think will help other people living with chronic pain.

If we use your story, we can publish it anonymously, with your first name only or your full name.

## YOU WILL ENTER OUR RAFFLE

When you send your submission to Transition, your name will go in a raffle to win a \$20 gift certificate to London Drugs. Your story should be between 100-300 words.

Please email us at [trans@disabilityalliancebc.org](mailto:trans@disabilityalliancebc.org) by April 15/19 to enter the raffle. Thank you!



# It's Tax Time!

Contact Tax AID DABC Today  
for Free Income Tax Assistance

Program Manager  
Disability Alliance BC  
[taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org](mailto:taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org)  
<https://taxaiddabc.org>

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.



vancoover  
foundation

## CONTACT THE TAX AID DABC REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU

- METRO VANCOUVER & FRASER VALLEY | VANCOUVER | DABC | 604-872-1278 | Toll Free 1-800-663-1278
- 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 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
- Working Income Tax Credits
- 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 | VICTORIA | Together Against Poverty Society | 250-361-3521
- NORTHERN | PRINCE GEORGE | Active Support Against Poverty Society | Toll-Free 1-877-563-6112



## A Parliamentary Secretary with Community Roots

| BY MABLE ELMORE

I have been passionate about human rights and social justice since I was a kid. Social justice has been a determining factor in my trajectory from student, to bus driver, to community organizer, to where I am now—serving as MLA for Vancouver Kensington since 2009 and as Parliamentary Secretary for Poverty Reduction.

I was born in Langley and grew up in The Pas in northern Manitoba. I am the daughter of an immigrant mother, a nurse from the Philippines, who instilled within me an understanding of my heritage and the beauty of Filipino culture. When my mother took me to the Philippines when I was 10, I saw first-hand the injustice of abject poverty—an experience that stayed with me as I grew up.

In grade 11, I joined the anti-apartheid movement. The world was rallying against racial segregation in South Africa and I felt a purpose rise in me as I brought the issue to my fellow high school students.

When my mother took me to the Philippines when I was 10, I saw first-hand the injustice of abject poverty—an experience that stayed with me as I grew up.

I returned to British Columbia to attend UBC and study physical education, and volunteered for the Philippine Women's Centre which ignited the passion that would shape the rest of my life. I fought for Philippine caregivers to be granted permanent residency on arrival to Canada, so that they could be reunited with their families.

This work also gave me the strength and resolve to come out to my friends and family as a lesbian and to advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ issues on campus.

After graduation, I became a community organizer in the Downtown East Side. I worked with racialized youth and promoted economic development, running a catering business, a small loan program, and skills training for new immigrants.

Later, as a bus driver, I became active in my union as a worker's ad-

vocate and helped organize better transit service for Metro Vancouver.

As I look back, I see the skills and experience I collected along the way, and the mentors who taught me what it means to truly listen and understand people, prepared me for my role today. There was no other path for me. Not everyone will have such a clear path or become a community organizer, yet everyone can help create change. You just have to take a stand for something you believe in and make sure your convictions are supported by your actions.

I am part of a government that is making life better for people in our province through affordable hous-

As I look back, I see the skills and experience I collected along the way, and the mentors who taught me what it means to truly listen and understand people, prepared me for my role today.

ing, childcare, investments in public services that people rely on, and developing BC's first Poverty Reduction Strategy.

We are leading with compassion and sound economic policy, guided by the voices of people with lived experience and the advocates who represent them to create a better, more affordable, and more inclusive province for everyone.

This is a journey we are all on together. One that can help people break the cycle of poverty and live with the dignity and security they deserve.

**MABLE ELMORE IS MLA FOR VANCOUVER KENSINGTON AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION. **

## MEET OUR LATEST VISIONARIES!

Everyone at DABC would like to thank members of our Visionaries Circle. These generous donors provide monthly support we can depend on to deliver our programs and services.

Bonnie Klein  
Danny Steinberg  
David Torrison  
Margaret Fraser  
Inge Fein  
Kathleen Ferns

Becoming a Visionary is easy:

- Donate online at <http://disabilityalliancebc.org/support-us>, or
- Set up a monthly credit card donation by contacting Terry at 604-875-0188.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

Pat Danforth  
DABC President





# Poverty Reduction Plan Must Include Personal Supports

BY ANNETTE MURRAY

To be accountable, bold and comprehensive, the poverty reduction strategy will need to address BC's long-standing failure to provide adequate support for medically-essential equipment and devices.

Our new *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* in BC is cause for celebration for people with disabilities. Both community advocates and government should be proud of what we've accomplished. However, I would like to draw attention to a particular issue for people with disabilities that doesn't get enough attention in spite of its importance—personal supports.

To be accountable, bold and comprehensive, the poverty reduction strategy will need to address BC's long-standing failure to provide adequate support for medically-essential equipment and devices.

## NEW REGULATION LIMITED COVERAGE

In 2010, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction tightened regulations to eliminate some coverage for eligible Ministry clients (people with Person with Disabilities, Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers or Medical Services Only designations). This cancelled coverage included items such as quality mattresses to alleviate severe chronic pain, lift chairs and numerous medical supplies. For most medical equipment that is still covered, the Ministry has not increased coverage for many years.

## IMPACT ON VENDOR SERVICES

As a result, the profit margin of BC's medical equipment vendors has been negatively affected. Vendors are making changes to reduce their losses and Ministry clients are feeling the pain. For example, a few years ago, if a Ministry client's motorized wheelchair or scooter needed repairs, the Ministry agreement required the vendor to supply loaner equipment to the client until their equipment was repaired. Repairs were done within a reasonable time because vendors kept some replacement parts in their stores.

Now, vendors save money by storing fewer replacement parts on site and ordering them as needed. This extends repair times considerably.

Because Ministry coverage of these devices is so low compared to past years, the Ministry can no longer press vendors as effectively to provide adequate loaner equipment. Clients have told us that loaner equipment is unsafe, for example, wheelchairs breaking down in the middle of busy intersections.

Vendors, in fact, have become very resistant to doing repairs and, in the past several years, we have seen a pattern of vendors trying to blame Ministry clients for not taking care

of their equipment, even when this is clearly false.

Occupational therapists have also been affected. Their stress level has increased as they try their best to meet the needs of Ministry clients with the least expensive appropriate medical equipment. Our advocates hear of many dedicated OTs who have chosen to leave public practice for the private sector.

## PEOPLE NOT RECEIVING BENEFITS ALSO AFFECTED

It's not just Ministry clients who are affected by inadequate funding for personal supports. Many moderate-to-low income BC citizens with disabilities, who are not financially eligible for PWD or PPMB status, cannot afford essential medical equipment, devices and supplies.

For years, people with disabilities with very low incomes have applied to the Ministry for funding. However, access to Ministry support has decreased substantially since April 2010, when the Ministry began requiring that medical professionals confirm that the items are necessary to meet "direct and imminent life threatening health needs."

This language has a chilling effect on medical care providers and creates

an effective bureaucratic barrier to many supports required for daily living.

In tying personal supports funding to employability or eligibility for PWD, PPMB or Medical Services Only (MSO) status, BC distinguishes itself as the only province in Canada that doesn't give significant assistance to people who are not using these programs.

### SOURCES OF FUNDING LIMITED

Most work-related insurance plans cover only one wheelchair or scooter per lifetime—a completely arbitrary and unrealistic limitation. A person can face enormous, uncovered medical expenses if their low-to-moderate income—whether from a pension or a spouse—is too high to get Ministry support. Advanced motorized wheelchairs, for example, can cost upwards of \$20,000.

These types of uncovered medical costs are not accounted for in government poverty measurement schemes.

The only alternative sources of coverage for most people are small grants from the BC Rehabilitation Foundation and, for folks with certain health conditions like multiple sclerosis or muscular dystrophy, small grants from their patient/consumer organizations like the MS Society and Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

The cost of medical equipment is so high that many people purchasing equipment on their own try to save money by trialing equipment from vendors and then purchasing the equipment online from another company at a lower cost. Vendors have suffered significant financial

losses from this “showrooming” because it's costly to them to provide the expertise and service that allows clients to trial medical equipment at home.

In response, BC vendors have formed the Home Medical Equipment Dealers Association of BC (HMEDA) and now charge substantial deposits for in-home equipment trials. I attended an online meeting hosted by HMEDA where showrooming was discussed. One OT asked what happens in response to showrooming in other provinces. HMEDA reported that the problem is unique to BC because we are the only province in Canada that does not assist people with disabilities not on provincial programs with medical equipment.

If these factors were not troubling enough, people with disabilities who access online medical equipment—without the proper professional expertise provided by vendors—risk harming themselves by

purchasing the wrong equipment or poorly functioning equipment.

### WE NEED A PERSONAL SUPPORTS STRATEGY

The absence of adequate BC government help with personal supports has far-reaching consequences for all British Columbians with disabilities. A growing number of people who purchase their equipment on their own have told us they face increasingly poor repair service and poor attitudes from some vendors of medical equipment.

People with disabilities are at the mercy of an unregulated cartel selling something they cannot live without.

It's time for BC to catch up to the rest of Canada with a comprehensive personal supports strategy for British Columbians living with disabilities.

ANNETTE MURRAY IS SENIOR ADVOCATE WITH DABC'S ADVOCACY ACCESS PROGRAM. **T**

LYNDA BENNETT 2019





# Support 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).

## PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

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).

Please return your payment/donation with this form to:  
DABC, 204-456 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1R3.

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

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## KEEP IN TOUCH!



[Disability Alliance BC](#)



[@DisabAllianceBC](#)



<http://tinyurl.com/jbqdm2u>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/4863769/>



Sign up for our Enews at  
[disabilityalliancebc.org](http://disabilityalliancebc.org)

Visit our website often to see our work on behalf of the disability community, and to connect with us through social media.

We hope to see you there.



DABC advocates and staff are often “on the road” presenting workshops, speaking at events and participating on government committees. Here are some of our recent events.

If you would like to book a DABC speaker at your organization or event, please contact Val at 604-875-0188 or [feedback@disability-alliancebc.org](mailto:feedback@disability-alliancebc.org).

#### NOVEMBER 21/18

*Parents Meeting, Rare Diseases Foundation. BC Hospital for Women and Children, Vancouver*

Advocate Salina Dewar made a presentation about the benefits of filing taxes, and the process and benefits of applying for the Disability Tax Credit and the RDSP. Tax AID Program Manager Myung Lee was on hand to provide support for this presentation.



MYUNG LEE (TOP) AND SALINA DEWAR, ARE AVAILABLE TO PRESENT TAX FILING WORKSHOPS

#### JANUARY 8/19

*Step by Step DIY (Do It Yourself) Taxes for People who Use Disability Tax Credits. Guildford Public Library, Surrey*

Tax AID DABC staff, Salina Dewar and Myung Lee presented a step-by-step workshop on how to do your own taxes. Lillian Wong was also on hand to answer PWD-related questions.

#### JANUARY 16/19

*Tax Benefits for People with Disabilities and their Family. Kinsight (formerly Simon Fraser Society for Community Living), Coquitlam*

Myung Lee presented a workshop at Kinsight. The agency works with families and individuals who are at risk for, or have, developmental delays or deformities.

#### FEBRUARY-MARCH/19

*Tax Filing for People with Disabilities. Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver.*

Tax AID DABC began a new partnership with Vancouver Public Library. The team presented “Tax Filing and Tips for People with Disabilities” at the Central Library and “One-To-One Tax Filing Services for People Receiving Disability Tax Benefits” at the Carnegie Branch.

#### FEBRUARY 14/19

*Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver*

Access RDSP was an exhibitor at Abilities Expo 2019.

#### FEBRUARY 21/19

*Pacific Immigrant Resources Society. Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Burnaby. Parenting and Disability: An AEAL Course for parents and caregivers of children and adults with disabilities.*

Access RDSP joined the event to discuss the Disability Tax Credit and Registered Disability Savings Plan.


#### FEBRUARY 26/19

*Surrey Library, Surrey  
Disability Tax Credit Application Assistance*

Access RDSP advocates and Tax AID DABC provided free services to people who wanted to apply for the Disability Tax Credit.

#### FEBRUARY 28/19

*Mission, BC*

Access RDSP was an exhibitor at the Mission Youth Transition Fair. 

# INCOME TAX CONSULTATIONS & SERVICE

FOR PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE DISABILITY BENEFITS



**DROP-IN**  
4:30 – 5:30 PM

Income tax consultations and on-site service for people receiving disability benefits. Families included.

LIMITED SEATING! Call Disability Alliance BC for your appointment.

**604-872-1278**

[taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org](mailto:taxaid@disabilityalliancebc.org)

[taxaiddabc.org](http://taxaiddabc.org)

## TUESDAYS TAX SEASON:

Feb 26	Mar 5
Mar 12	Mar 19
Mar 26	Apr 2
Apr 9	Apr 16
Apr 23	Apr 30

**9:30 AM–5:30 PM**

## AFTER TAX SEASON:

May 14	May 28
Jun 11	Jun 25

**9:30 AM–5:30 PM**

**CITY CENTRE LIBRARY**  
(READ-ABILITY LOUNGE, FIRST FLOOR)



we are all  
connected



Tax Assistance & Information  
For People with Disabilities

**CITY CENTRE**  
**10350 UNIVERSITY DRIVE**  
[surreylibraries.ca](http://surreylibraries.ca)



# Transition Ads and Sponsorships

## Reach Our Readership and Support DABC

COLOUR PAGES			
Ad size   position	Number of editions booked		
	1	2-3	4
COVER PAGES			
Outside back cover	2200	1900	1700
Front inside cover	n/a	n/a	n/a
Back inside cover	n/a	n/a	n/a
INSIDE PAGES			
Full page	1235	1050	850
2 columns	915	770	650
3 column   large	870	740	620
3 column   small	455	375	325
2 column   small	410	350	285
2 column   mini	340	280	245
1 column	455	375	325
1 column   mini	275	235	200

BLACK PAGES			
Ad size   position	Number of editions booked		
	1	2-3	4
COVER PAGES			
Outside back cover	n/a	n/a	n/a
Front inside cover	1200	1020	850
Back inside cover	1000	850	660
INSIDE PAGES			
Full page	950	800	650
2 columns	700	600	510
3 column   large	675	550	485
3 column   small	350	300	250
2 column   small	315	265	225
2 column   mini	260	225	190
1 column	350	300	250
1 column   mini	210	180	150

**Non-profit organizations receive a 35% discount. Prices subject to change without notice.**

## Transition Sponsorships

Sponsors have a unique opportunity to promote their business to our community network. For full details on ads and sponsorships, please contact Ann at 604-875-0188 or [transitionads@gmail.com](mailto:transitionads@gmail.com).

### Premiere Sponsorship

- A 1/2 page, colour banner ad on the back cover
- Two inside colour pages
- A quarterly thank you in our e-newsletter, for one year

### Feature Sponsorship

- A 1/3 page, colour banner ad on the back cover
- One inside page
- Two thank you's in our e-newsletter

### Ad Design

Sponsors may design their own banner ad or we will design it for you at no charge. We can also design interior pages for you from text and graphics you provide.

# 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](mailto:rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org).



Access RDSP  
*Change your tomorrow today*



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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.

# Accessibility Project Winners!

BY JUSTINA LOH

Disability Alliance BC is thrilled to support the following 16 organizations that promote greater accessibility and inclusivity for people with disabilities in BC communities.

We were selected by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) to disburse funding to community-based "Accessibility Projects."

Congratulations to all of you for your great work!

AquaFit for All Association  
 BC Wheelchair Sports Association  
 Blind Beginnings Society  
 Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion  
 Camp Bowen Society for the Visually Impaired  
 Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House  
 L'Arche Comox Valley  
 Nanaimo Food Share Society  
 PacificSport Vancouver Island  
 PosAbilities Association of BC  
 Prince George Brain Injured Group  
 Richmond Centre for Disability  
 The Cridge Centre for the Family  
 UVic School of Public Health and Social Policy  
 viaSport British Columbia  
 Victoria Disability Resource Centre



## THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

Thank you to everyone who helped us with this special Poverty Reduction edition.

A special thank you to:

**The Honourable Shane Simpson**, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

**Mable Elmore**, Parliamentary Secretary, Poverty Reduction

**Trish Garner**, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

**Jennifer Matthews**, Together Against Poverty Society

**Annette Murray**, Senior Advocate, DABC

**Jill Stainsby**, DABC Board Member

**Pat Danforth**, DABC President

**Myung Lee**, Manager, Tax AID DABC



# We couldn't get there without you.

## Programs and Projects

- ♥ BC Rehabilitation Foundation
- ♥ City of Vancouver
- ♥ Council of Canadians with Disabilities
- ♥ Law Foundation of British Columbia
- ♥ Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- ♥ Province of British Columbia
- ♥ Vancouver Coastal Health
- ♥ Vancouver Foundation

## Dedicated Supporters and Friends

- ♥ BC Government and Services Employees' Union
- ♥ BC Hydro Employees Community Services Fund
- ♥ BC Teachers' Federation
- ♥ CUPE Local 1936 (Community Services of Greater Vancouver)
- ♥ CUPE Metropolitan Vancouver District Council
- ♥ Hospital Employees' Union
- ♥ Klein Lawyers LLP
- ♥ Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
- ♥ Sodexo
- ♥ Simpson, Thomas and Associates (Trial Lawyers)
- ♥ TELUS Employees Charitable Giving Program
- ♥ Tompkins Wozny, Chartered Professional Accountants
- ♥ Vancouver Taxi Association

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



And many generous donors like you!

## INVITE DABC TO HOST A WORKSHOP

DABC provides workshops across BC to share information on provincial and federal disability benefits, the Registered Disability Savings Plan, Disability Tax Credit, income tax filing and emergency preparedness.

Most of our workshops are provided free of charge; however, we ask that a minimum of ten participants be confirmed for workshops outside of Metro Vancouver.

For more information or to request a workshop, please go to: [disability-alliancebc.org/programs/workshops](http://disability-alliancebc.org/programs/workshops). Or contact Val at DABC at 604-875-0188 or [feedback@disability-alliancebc.org](mailto:feedback@disability-alliancebc.org).



## Tax Filing

Our Tax AID DABC program provides workshops on simple income tax filing issues for people with disabilities, common tax filing credits, options for dealing with tax debt, and much more. DABC now partners with three organizations across BC to expand the availability of these workshops.

## Disability Benefits

DABC advocates provide workshops on provincial disability benefits (Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and the Persons with Persistent and Multiple Barriers (PPMB) benefits), as well as federal disability benefits (Canadian Pension Plan-Disability). The workshops include information about financial and medical eligibility criteria and the supplementary supports that are attached to PWD and PPMB. The workshop can be tailored to the needs of the organization or group.

## RDSP/DTC

Access RDSP advocates provide workshops on the eligibility criteria for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), strategies for communicating with your doctor, options if your DTC application is denied and eligibility criteria for the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). Other topics include: tips for communicating with your bank, information about Canada Disability Savings grants and bonds, best practices for maximizing RDSP benefits, and accessing the Endowment 150 grant.

## Emergency Planning and Preparedness


DABC offers workshops to businesses, provincial and local governments, and community organizations on how to create emergency plans that include people with disabilities and seniors. These workshops may be provided at no cost, when funding is available.

## CMIST and the Functional Needs Framework

CMIST stands for the following needs: Communication, Medical, Functional Independence, Supervision and Support, and Transportation. This approach to emergency planning and response offers a different way to consider the range of needs of the people in your local community.

The Duty to Accommodate is part of the BC Human Rights Code. You will learn what the law says about providing public services in a way that is accessible to all citizens and how to implement solutions to address accessibility.

The CMIST workshop can make your emergency planning and response more comprehensive and inclusive.

We provide half and full-day workshops (half-day workshops are offered only in Metro Vancouver). Through presentations, table top exercises and group discussions, you will gain an understanding of how disabilities impact a person's ability to respond in emergencies, and you will take away planning and response solutions you can implement to meet those needs. 

# Access RDSP

*Change your tomorrow today*



Access RDSP is a partnership between Disability Alliance BC, Plan Institute and BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society.

## Information and Support on the Registered Disability Savings Plan



### CONTACT OUR PARTNERS



#### BC ABORIGINAL NETWORK ON DISABILITY SOCIETY

For Indigenous people with disabilities, contact BCANDS and we can help you with the RDSP process. We can assist with the DTC application, filing taxes, and opening the RDSP account. Phone: (250) 381-7303 ext. 204 | Toll Free: 1-888-815 -5511 (TTY Accessible) | [rdsp1@bcands.bc.ca](mailto:rdsp1@bcands.bc.ca)



#### DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC

To access DABC's RDSP and DTC services, or to request one of our workshops, please contact us at: Local: 604-872-1278 | Toll Free: 1-800-663-1278 | [rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org](mailto:rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org)



#### PLAN INSTITUTE

We can provide you with information on the RDSP, future planning, and the Endowment 150 (free \$150 for BC residents).

- Call our disability planning hotline at 1-844-311-7526
- Take the RDSP tutorial or apply for Endowment 150 at [www.rdsp.com](http://www.rdsp.com)
- RDSP info sessions and other future planning workshops at [planinstitute.ca](http://planinstitute.ca)

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celebrating  
over

40 years of advocacy

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

