



**BC Cancer Agency**

CARE + RESEARCH

*An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority*

# Financial Information for Cancer Patients

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# Introduction

Cancer can have an impact on many aspects of our lives, including our finances. This booklet is meant as a guide to assist you in finding financial support.

Generally, if you receive *income assistance* through the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (formally known as Employment & Income Assistance) or are eligible for assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs or Health Canada First Nations Branch, contact your Financial Aid Worker or Counsellor at these organizations for more information.

***Information contained in this booklet can become quickly outdated.***

***Please check directly with the Programs listed to ensure you have current information on eligibility criteria and benefits provided.***

# Need to Stop Working?

If you are unable to work due to cancer or cancer treatment, the following programs may provide you with income replacement options.

## Employer Benefits

- Ask your employer about optional benefits that may be available at your work, such as Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, Sick Leave and Vacation Days.

## Employment Insurance (EI)

**Sickness Benefits** - Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC)

- If you are employed, but not able to work for medical reasons, you may be eligible for benefits through EI sickness benefits.

### Eligibility and Coverage:

- For people who are unable to work because of sickness or whose income has decreased by more than 40 percent. In BC, 1st time applicants need 600 insured hours (call office or contact website for more details) in the last 52 weeks or since last claim.
- Sick benefits can be paid for up to 15 weeks. Duration of regular benefits may depend on unemployment rate of the region. Pay is 55 percent of average earnings.
- Payment usually is made within 28 days. A medical certificate telling how long the illness is expected to last must be provided.
- Apply at the nearby Service Canada office in your area or Service Canada online at: [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca).
- **Toll Free 1-800-206-7218**

*For detailed information on sickness benefits, check out the following website:*

[www.sdc.gc.ca/en/ei/types/special.shtml](http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/ei/types/special.shtml)

# Need to Stop Working?

## Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPP Disability)

### Eligibility & Coverage:

- Between the ages of 18 and 65 and have enough Canada Pension Plan contributions at the time of disability (i.e. have contributed to CPP in the last four out of six years, or for 25+ years). Phone Toll free number with Social Insurance Number handy to inquire about status.
- Experiencing severe and prolonged disability according to the Canada Pension definitions:
  - Must have acquired disability before, or within, six months after your Canada Pension Plan retirement pension started if you are between 60 and 65 years of age
  - The disability must be a physical or mental impairment that is both severe and prolonged simultaneously. “Severe” means that you are unable to regularly carry out any gainful employment. “Prolonged” means that the disability is likely to be of indefinite duration or is likely to result in death.
  - Children could be eligible for a disabled contributor’s Child Benefit if you receive a disability benefit (children must be under 18, or if age 18-25, in full-time school attendance).
  - Pension may start four months after CPP has approved disability status.
  - Some payments may be available to cover delay period in application processing time.
  - If disability benefits are denied, applicants have 90 days (from the receipt of letter) to notify CPP of intent to appeal.
  - Applications from people with a terminal illness can be processed in 48 hours.

# Need to Stop Working?

- Application needs to be made in writing. Contact Service Canada or visit their website for an application kit.

Application may be back-dated for up to a year.

## **Canada Pension Plan Disability**

Human Resources Social Development Canada  
1260 Government Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 3M4

English 1-800-277-9914

French 1-800-277-9915

[www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca)

*For detailed information on CPP Disability benefits, check out the following website:*

[www.1.servicecanada.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/isp/ccp/program.shtml&=cdp](http://www.1.servicecanada.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/isp/ccp/program.shtml&=cdp)

## **Compassionate Care Benefits**

### **Employment Insurance (EI) for Family Members**

#### **Human Resources & Social Development Canada**

- **Eligibility and Coverage:** Individuals, who meet eligibility requirements for EI special benefits and have served a two-week long waiting period, may be entitled to an eight-week EI Compassionate Leave Benefit to care for a gravely ill “family member” with a significant risk of death within 26 weeks.

A family member is defined as:

- Your spouse or common-law partner.
- You or your spouse’s children or wards.
- You or your spouse’s parents (including current and former foster parents and/or guardians).
- You or your spouse’s siblings.
- You or your spouse’s grandparents.

# Need to Stop Working?

- You or your spouse's aunts/uncles.
- You or your spouse's nieces/nephews.
- A person you are caring for that considers you to be like a family member (e.g. close friend or neighbour). In this situation a completed "Compassionate Care Benefits Attestation" form is required.
- The leave can be shared amongst caregivers (e.g. two family members each have four weeks of benefits with only the first person having to wait the qualifying period).

Toll free                      1-800-206-7218  
[www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/ei/menu/eihome.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/ei/menu/eihome.shtml)

***For detailed information on Compassionate Care Benefits, check out the following website:***

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/ei/types/compassionate\\_care.shtml](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/ei/types/compassionate_care.shtml)

## **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)**

Eligibility is dependent on your income. If you only receive the Old Age Pension, you may qualify.

***For more information, phone:***

English                      1-800-277-9914  
French                        1-800-277-9915

***For detailed information on GIS, check out the following website:***

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)



# Need to Stop Working?

## Ministry of Housing & Social Development

### Regular Benefits

- People who have little or no means of paying living expenses.
- Benefits include monthly support, shelter allowance, medical and prescription costs, and travel and accommodation costs for medical treatment.
- Need to be financially independent for two years prior to claim (those who are receiving Persons with Disability benefits are excluded from these criteria).

Contact your local Ministry of Housing & Social Development office to book an appointment.

Your monthly family income, assets, job readiness and/or disability level will determine for your eligibility for assistance.

### Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMD)

- Person must have received income assistance for twelve out of the last fifteen months.
- Have severe multiple personal barriers to employment.
- Have a medical condition that has lasted for at least one year and likely to continue or reoccur frequently for at least two years.

### Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

- Includes persons with prolonged disability (e.g. deemed by physician and assessor).
- The disability must be severe (i.e. difficulties with activities in day-to-day life affected).
- The person needs to be on regular income assistance beforehand to be eligible.

# Need to Stop Working?

If your medical condition is considered severe enough that you will no longer be able to work (as determined by your physician/oncologist), notify the Employment and Assistance Worker of this and request a Persons with Disability application package to begin this application process.

**For further information, call Ministry of Housing and Social Development at:**

Phone Enquiry BC	604-660-2421
Phone Victoria	250-387-6121
Phone Toll Free	1-800-663-7867

[www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm](http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm)

## To apply for income assistance

Regular benefits, PPMD, or PWD

Call 1-866-866-0800

(Press option #3, then option #1 for the “Pre-application” process)

If you have no money for food, are at risk of being evicted, or need medication for life-threatening circumstances, you may be eligible for immediate assistance.

## Life Insurance Policies

Contact your insurance company. It may be possible to have your premiums waived without affecting the policy. Some policies may allow terminally ill persons to withdraw monies while living.

## Veterans Affairs Canada

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for financial help for care and equipment depending on your coverage.

**For more information, contact:**

English	1-866-522-2122
French	1-866-522-2022

[www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca)

Review – Bureau of Pension Advocates

1-877-228-2250

# Getting Medical Costs Covered

Your cancer treatment (e.g. surgery, chemotherapy or radiation therapy) is covered through the BC health care system. However, sometimes you will need additional items like wigs or symptom-management drugs that may not be covered. Here are some options that may cover additional prescription and general medical costs.

## Prescription Costs

### Pharmacare

Partial reimbursement (e.g. up to 70%) above an annual deductible is available for individuals registered with Health Insurance BC (formerly MSP) through Pharmacare. Benefits include most medications and designated permanent prosthetic appliances.

All applicants must be registered with Fair Pharmacare Program. One may apply for income review if income has decreased by more than 10 percent in past year. A monthly deductible payment option is available if you have a deductible and find it difficult to pay prescription costs early in the year.

*For further information about Pharmacare drug coverage call:*

Toll free                    1-800-663-7100

Lower Mainland    604-683-7151

[www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme)

### Extended Health Plan

This is optional coverage that may be offered by your employer. Your extended health plan may cover some expenses such as ambulance, prescription medication, equipment or home oxygen costs.

### Ministry of Housing and Social Development

If you receive income assistance, your prescriptions will likely be covered through Pharmacare “Plan C”. Speak to your Financial Aid Worker for further information.

# Getting Medical Costs Covered

## **Palliative Benefits Program**

If you need help for end of life care (i.e. with a projected life-expectancy of six months or less by your physician), you can ask your doctor to assess your eligibility for this program (e.g. medication, medical supplies and equipment).

## **BC Palliative Benefits Program**

BC Ministry of Health

**Toll Free** 1-800-663-7100

[www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme/outgoing/palliative.html](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharme/outgoing/palliative.html)

- Person must be covered by Health Insurance BC (formerly MSP)

## **Canadian Cancer Society (CCS)**

Financial Support Program may provide limited, short-term financial assistance for treatment-related items (transportation, accommodation, and symptom management drugs). Applicants' incomes are assessed for eligibility.

- Assistance for drug coverage is re-assessed yearly.

Contact your local Canadian Cancer Society for the services they provide in your community. Look in your phone book for the local number, or call

**Toll free** 1-888-939-3333 or check their website [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)

## **Special Authority Drugs**

There are certain drugs that may be covered through special programs through the drug companies, or through "special authorization" from your cancer doctor. Ask your cancer care team about these drugs.

# Getting Medical Costs Covered

## General Medical Costs

- Health Insurance BC offers medical coverage to all residents of BC for a fee. Coverage is subject to application and the payment of any required premiums.
- Health Insurance BC pays for medically required services of physicians and surgeons, for dental surgery (when performed in a hospital) and cost of hospital stay.

## Premium Assistance

Persons eligible for Health Insurance BC premium assistance are Canadian citizens or Landed Immigrants with low incomes that have lived in Canada for the last 12 months.

## Regular Premium Assistance

This is based on net income for the previous year, less deductions for family size, age and disability.

## Temporary Premium Assistance

This may be available to persons who are unable to pay their premiums because of unexpected financial hardship and who do not qualify for Regular Premium Assistance based on their previous year's income. Temporary Premium Assistance is granted for six months only.

If you are eligible for premium assistance, your Pharmacare deductible may change to give 100% reimbursement for prescription drugs after deductible providing Pharmacare is notified.

# Getting Medical Costs Covered

## Medical Services Plan

PO Box 9035, Stn. Prov. Govt.

Victoria, BC V8W 9E3

Vancouver 604-683-7151

**Toll Free** 1-800-663-7100

[www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca](http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca)

## Extended Health Plan

This is optional coverage that may be offered by your employer. Your extended health plan may cover some expenses such as ambulance, prescription medication, equipment or home oxygen costs.

## Tax Deductions for Medical Costs

Some medical expenses may be claimed as a tax deduction, (e.g. prescription, accommodation and travel costs). Disability tax credits are also available for those eligible. Check with your tax office for a copy of Medical Expenses and Disability Tax Credits.

## Canada Customs and Revenue Agency

English 1-800-959-8281

French 1-800-959-7383

[www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

## Royal Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund

You may be eligible for financial assistance if you served in one of the following capacities:

- Naval Forces prior to 1968
- Canadian Merchant Navy during WWII
- A member with Canadian Forces with service in the Maritime Command
- Had a Navy or Sea Element rank designation
- Are the dependent of someone who served in one of the above areas

# Getting Medical Costs Covered

This fund can provide an interest free loan or grant, but does not provide ongoing financial support. Contact Veterans Affairs initially who will re-refer to RCNBF.

**Toll Free**                    1-613-996-5087  
   1-888-5578777

[www.rcnbf.ca](http://www.rcnbf.ca)

## **Community Associations & Groups**

As a member of various associations and community groups, you may be able to access financial support during illness, (e.g. service groups, churches, Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund).

## **First Nations Health**

If you are a First Nations person, you may be eligible for help for medical expenses. Contact your band's Community Health Office.

You may also call Health Canada First Nations Branch 1-800-317-7878 or in Vancouver at 604-666-3331 to clarify whether a drug is covered, but you need the Drug Information Number (DIN) for the prescription.

For exceptional drugs, your pharmacist can contact the First Nations Drug Exception Centre 1-800-580-0950 (Ottawa) to discuss what drugs are covered.

## **Ostomy Supplies & Prosthetic Appliances**

Check with Pharmacare and extended health benefit plans re: eligibility for reimbursement. Prosthetic appliances must be permanent and designated.

## **Nutritional Supplements (e.g. Boost, Ensure)**

Assistance may be available through your extended health benefit plan. If you are on income assistance, ask your worker about available benefits.

# Getting Medical Costs Covered

## Wigs

Donated wigs and hats are available at no cost through the Canadian Cancer Society.

Toll Free	1-888-939-3333
Vancouver	604-879-9131
Victoria	250-592-2662
Nanaimo	250-729-8182
Port Alberni	250-724-2912
Qualicum Beach	250-752-3222
Courtenay	250-338-5454
Campbell River	250-286-1955
Cranbrook	250-426-8916
Kelowna	250-712-2203

[www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)

If you wish to purchase a wig, check with your extended health benefit plan for reimbursement. A prescription from your physician will help document your claim. Health Insurance BC does not cover the cost of wigs.

## Ambulance Costs

Flat fee of \$80 per trip ground/air ambulance. Inter-hospital transfer fees have been eliminated for patients. Non-Health Insurance BC clients should contact ambulance services for costs.

Check with your extended health benefit plan for assistance.

Ambulance charges may be waived if you are on “**Premium Assistance**” through Health Insurance BC. Indicate on your bill that you are on Premium Assistance and return it to the address provided.

## Contact Ambulance Billing Enquiries

Victoria	250-952-1921
Toll Free	1-800-665-7199

[www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/bcas/index.html](http://www.hlth.gov.bc.ca/bcas/index.html)



# Getting Medical Costs Covered

## Home Aids

Contact the Red Cross Loans Cupboard in your community. Medical equipment loans for up to three months are available. A note by your physician may be needed. [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

## Regional Red Cross offices:

Lower Mainland	1-800-565-8000
East Kootenay	1-888-229-4232
Vancouver Island	1-800-661-9055
West Kootenay	1-800-761-0099
Okanagan	1-800-661-3308
Northern BC/Yukon	1-800-278-7177
Thompson	1-877-372-2334

Hospice Programs in your community may loan medical equipment to palliative care patients.

If you are registered with the Palliative Benefits Program, cost of home aids may be covered.

# Covering Other Costs

## **Mortgage, Car Insurance & Credit Card Insurance**

Check with the lending institution to explore whether you have disability coverage with your creditor and/or seek advice from financial institutions.

Credit Counselling Society

1-888-527-8999

## **Tax Deductions for Medical Costs**

Some medical expenses may be claimed as a tax deduction, (i.e. prescription, accommodation and travel costs). Disability tax credits are also available for those eligible. Check with your tax office for a copy of Medical Expenses and Disability Tax Credits.

## **Canada Customs and Revenue Agency**

English 1-800-959-8281

French 1-800-959-7383

[www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca)

## **Income Tax**

Canada Community Volunteer Income  
Tax Program

1-800-959-8281

(Provides free filing of income tax returns)

# Accommodations

Sometimes the specific cancer treatment you need may not be available in your home town. Here are some options for accommodations when you are away from home for treatment. Also listed are other programs that may provide financial assistance or reduced costs as they apply to housing.

## **Canadian Cancer Society Accommodations**

Cancer Lodges run by the Canadian Cancer Society provide accommodation at a modest rate for out-of-town patients and their families who need to be close to a Cancer Centre for treatment or tests. A 24-hour nurse supervisor is available and meals are included in the cost.

### **Jean C. Barber Lodge**

575 West 10th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C3  
Phone 604-879-9131

### **Southern Interior Rotary Lodge**

2251 Abbott Street  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1E2  
Phone 250-712-2203

### **Vancouver Island Lodge**

2202 Richmond Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8R 4R5  
Phone 250-592-2662

## **Other Accommodations**

For information about other accommodation near the Cancer Centres, contact Patient and Family Counselling Services at the BC Cancer Agency. Contact numbers for the Cancer Centres are at the end of this booklet.

## **Medical Travel Accommodation Listing**

Accommodation at discounted rates for patients and families who are required to travel out of town for non-emergency care. 250-387-7300

[www.pss.gov.bc.ca/csa/categories/accommodation/medical/search/](http://www.pss.gov.bc.ca/csa/categories/accommodation/medical/search/)

# Accommodations

## Accommodation Costs

Assistance may be available through your extended health benefits plan through your employer, or through private insurance coverage. If you receive income assistance through Ministry of Housing and Social Development, contact your Financial Assistance worker for more information.

First Nations' people living on a reserve should contact your Band's Community Health Office. Those living off a reserve should contact Health Canada First Nations Branch at

1-800-317-7878

Toll Free 1-888-939-3333

## Housing-Related Costs

### SAFER Program

Individuals who are 60+ years old and have resided in BC for one year and pay more than 30% of their income in rent, may be eligible for a rent subsidy.

[www.bchousing.org/programs/SAFER](http://www.bchousing.org/programs/SAFER)

### *Contact the BC Housing Management Commission:*

Toll free 1-800-257-7756

Vancouver 604-433-2218

[www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)

### Rental Assistance Program

Families with at least one dependent child and an annual household income of \$35,000 or less may be eligible for the Rental Assistance Program.

Toll Free 1-800-257-7756

[www.bchousing.org/program/RAP](http://www.bchousing.org/program/RAP)

# Accommodations

## **Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program**

The RRAP program through the Federal government provides financial help for individuals whose home or apartment need modifications to improve accessibility to the disabled.

### ***Contact the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.***

Toll free                    1-800-639-3938

[www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/ab/noho/noho\\_002.cfm](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/ab/noho/noho_002.cfm)

## **Property Tax Deferment Program**

People with disabilities as defined by the Disability benefits Program Act (or 60+, or those who are widowed) may be allowed to defer the payment of their property taxes until their home is sold. A preferential interest rate applies to the deferred taxes.

### ***Call Enquiry BC for further information:***

Vancouver                604-660-2421

Victoria                    250-387-0555

Elsewhere in BC    1-800-663-7867

[www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property\\_tax\\_deferment.htm](http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/rpt/property_tax_deferment.htm)

## **Low Cost Rental Housing**

Subsidized housing may be available for families, individuals with disabilities and senior citizens.

Check in your community to see what is available (ie. BC Housing, Capital Region Housing Corporation, Societies and Churches may be sources of housing contacts). There may be waiting lists.

## **Home Owner Grants**

If you are a property owner and are physically disabled or have a handicapped relative residing permanently with you, you may be eligible for a Provincial Home Owner Grant. Contact your municipal hall or Home Owner Grant Administration Branch (BC Ministry of Provincial Revenue).

Toll Free                    1-888-355-2700

[www.rev.gov.bc.ca/hog/physical.htm](http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/hog/physical.htm)

# Getting Support

Sometimes people are no longer able to take care of their daily living tasks, like bathing or caring for children. Here are some options that may be useful in this area.

## Home Care & Continuing Care

Check with your extended health benefit plan to see what services are covered. Contact your Regional Health Authority or closest Public Health Unit to speak to someone about the Home and Community Care Program. You will likely have a financial assessment to determine costs. The cost of homemakers providing personal care (e.g. bathing, grooming, etc) may be subsidized. Housekeeping tasks, such as cooking and cleaning, are not covered.

### Fraser Health Authority

[www.fraserhealth.ca](http://www.fraserhealth.ca)

1-877-935-5669

### Interior Health Authority

[www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)

250-862-4200

### Northern Health Authority

[www.northernhealth.ca](http://www.northernhealth.ca)

1-866-565-2999

### Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

[www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

1-866-884-0888

### Vancouver Island Health Authority

[www.viha.ca](http://www.viha.ca)

1-888-533-2273

Home Care Nursing is subsidized by government. A doctor's authorization will be needed.

# Getting Support

## Child Care

A daycare subsidy is available on a sliding income scale. Further details and applications are available through Ministry of Housing and Social Development.

### *Ask about the Child Care Subsidy Program:*

Victoria                      250-356-6501

Toll Free in BC            1-800-338-6622

[www.eia.gov.bc.ca/ccs.htm](http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/ccs.htm)

# Getting to Treatment

Sometimes you might not feel well enough to drive to your cancer-related treatment appointment, and your friends and family may not be available. Here are some options on how to get to your appointments and information on coverage for transportation costs.

## Volunteer Drivers

Canadian Cancer Society in partnership with Free Masons Cancer Care Program provides volunteer drivers for some people (depending on location and available space) receiving treatment or attending medical appointments with a minimum of 24 hours notice. Contact your local Canadian Cancer Society office or call:

Toll Free	1-800-299-0188 (BC Interior)
Toll Free	1-800-663-2524 (Vancouver)
Toll Free	1-800-663-7892 (Vancouver Island)

Free Masons Cancer Care Program provides free transportation for patients in outlying areas. Contact your local Canadian Cancer Society for more information. Community volunteer groups may also provide drivers.

## Bus Passes

Passes are available for seniors receiving Guaranteed Income Supplement, or may be available to people with disabilities receiving income assistance.

Clients must call the office to apply. An application will be sent if applicant is determined to be eligible.

Bus Passes cost \$45 for the year beginning in January. The cost is the same, no matter how many months have passed.

### *Contact Ministry of Housing & Social Development*

Toll Free 1-866-866-0800 (press 4, then 3)  
[www.eia.gov.bhc.ca/programs/other.htm#bp](http://www.eia.gov.bhc.ca/programs/other.htm#bp)



# Getting to Treatment

## Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority – Translink

If you are a resident of Greater Vancouver and have palliative care needs, you may qualify for one of several public transit assistance programs.

*For more information, contact Translink*

Handydart                      1-604-575-6600

[www.translink.ca/en/ride\\_info/handydart.aspx](http://www.translink.ca/en/ride_info/handydart.aspx)

## Travel Assistance Program (TAP)

This program through the Ministry of Health offers travel discounts to eligible BC residents who must travel for non-emergency medical service not available in their own community and whose travel expenses are not covered by third party insurance or other government programs.

To be eligible, you must be a BC resident enrolled in Health Insurance BC, and have a physician's referral for medical services that are not available locally. Escorts are also eligible if traveling with those incapable of independent travel.

TAP forms are available from your family doctor, or specialist's office, or a cancer centre.

Toll Free                      1-800-661-2668

[www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/mtapp/tap\\_patient.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/mtapp/tap_patient.html)



# Getting to Treatment

**HawkAir:** Special medical fares are special fares that do not require advance booking, allow change of travel dates without change fee, are refundable, and can be booked for an open return. Serves Smithers, Prince Rupert and Terrace-Kitimat to Vancouver.

[www.hawkair.ca](http://www.hawkair.ca)

**Helijet:** 30% discount on full economy fare for flights between Victoria and Vancouver Harbour or Vancouver Airport.

Toll Free 1-800-665-4354

[www.helijet.com/n/](http://www.helijet.com/n/)

**Westcoast Air:** 30% discount on scheduled flights between Vancouver and Victoria, Nanaimo, Comox and Sunshine Coast.

Toll Free 1-800-347-2222

[www.westcoastair.com](http://www.westcoastair.com)

**Health Connections:** A regional travel assistance program implemented by BC Health Authorities to provide transportation options for rural residents who must travel to obtain non-emergency medical care away from home.

[www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/mtapp/connections/html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/mtapp/connections/html)

# Getting to Treatment

## Other Sources of Help for Travel

Individuals (and spouses if required as medical escort) may be eligible for assistance with treatment travel costs through their private extended health benefit plans.

If finances are a concern, contact your local Canadian Cancer Society to enquire about their Financial Support Program. If you are eligible, you may receive financial help for your mileage costs for treatment if you live out of town.

First Nations' people living on reserve should contact their local Band's Health Office while those living off reserve can contact Health Canada 1st Nations Branch at 1-800-317-7818.

## Car Expenses

### Car Insurance Discounts

People who are the registered vehicle owner (or if you lease the vehicle), have a permanent disability and are considered handicapped under the Motor Fuel Tax Act, may be eligible for a 25% discount on basic Autoplan coverage.

Applicants must have a Motor Fuel Tax claim number when applying for insurance discount.

Fuel Tax Rebate for Persons with Disabilities – Ministry of Small Business & Revenue. Must own or lease a motor vehicle.

You may apply if you are a person who has been certified by a qualified medical practitioner as experiencing a permanent impairment of locomotion to such an extent that the use of public transportation would be hazardous.

Limit of \$500 refund per year could be claimed.

# Getting to Treatment

## *Contact the Consumer Taxation Branch of the Ministry of Small Business & Revenue:*

Vancouver 604-660-4524

Toll Free 1-877-388-4440

[www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/information\\_groups/persons\\_with\\_disabilities/index.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/information_groups/persons_with_disabilities/index.htm)

Call for eligibility criteria and request for application Form XE-8.

## **Parking Permits for People with Disabilities**

Handicap parking signs allowing people with disabilities to use designated accessible parking spaces are available. Applications must be filled out and signed by a physician.

Permits are available to people with permanent or temporary disabilities that impair mobility, visitors with mobility impairments, and organizations that provide transportation to persons with mobility impairment.

Cost for permit: \$18 for temporary, permanent or organization permits. Visitor permits are \$25.

A refund of \$10 is issued upon return of permit.

### **Permits are available through:**

#### **Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)**

Phone 604-718-7744

[www.sparc.bc.ca](http://www.sparc.bc.ca)

#### **Victoria Disability Resource Centre**

814 Broughton Street

Victoria, BC V8W 1E4

Phone 250-595-0044

[www.drevictoria.com](http://www.drevictoria.com)

#### **Peninsula Senior's Hotline**

#103-9717 3rd Street

Sidney, BC

Victoria 250-655-4402 | Colwood 250-478-5373

Duncan 250-746-3930 | Nanaimo 250-758-5547

# Contact Info

## Important Contact Numbers

BC Cancer Agency Patient & Family Counselling Services

Vancouver 1-800-663-3333 or  
604-877-6000, local 672194

Fraser Valley 1-800-523-2885  
or 604-930-2098

Abbotsford 1-877-547-3777  
or 604-851-4733

Victoria 1-800-670-3322  
or 250-519-5525

Kelowna 1-888-563-7773  
or 250-712-3963

BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)

## Canadian Cancer Society 1-888-939-3333

Fraser Valley Region 1-888-222-2240  
or 604-533-1668

Greater Vancouver 1-888-229-8288  
or 604-253-8470

Interior Region 1-800-403-8222  
or 250-762-6381

Kootenay Region 1-800-656-6426  
or 250-426-8916

Northern Region 1-800-811-5666  
or 250-564-0885

Vancouver Island 1-800-663-7892  
or 250-592-2244

Yukon Territory 1-867-668-6440  
(call collect outside of Whitehorse)

Canadian Cancer Society website [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)

# Contact Info

## **Enquiry BC (Provincial Government Programs):**

Victoria 250-387-6121

Vancouver 604-660-2421

Outside Vancouver 1-800-663-7867

Provincial Government website [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

## **Government of Canada (Federal) Programs:**

Toll Free 1-800-622-6232

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)

## **Other:**

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities  
[www.bccpd.bc.ca](http://www.bccpd.bc.ca)

PovNet  
[www.povnet.org](http://www.povnet.org) / 604-876-8638

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Supporting research & care at BC Cancer Agency

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