

# **A Transition Planning Checklist and Resource Guide**

for Youth with Special Needs and their Families  
who live in Abbotsford

This resource is for the families with special needs children in Abbotsford.

It was created as the final project for Disability and Community Studies 5133: Advanced Issues, in the Employment Supports Specialty Program at Douglas College. The purpose of this project was to find a gap in services in the community where we live and create a tool to help close that gap. I had an opportunity to listen to some parents and service providers discussing the challenges of the transition process from school to adult services. Parents couldn't find the information that they needed to support their children – in some cases parents didn't know what they didn't know about this process.

This Planning Checklist and Resource Guide is intended as a starting place for the information that parents want. It has information on local resources, service providers and support groups, as well as information from the Provincial and Federal government.

This resource is not intended as an exhaustive list of resources – other handbooks and websites have much more specific information. I would encourage you explore all the resources located in the Resource Guide under Other Parent Handbooks and Online Resources.

I gratefully acknowledge the help and support from the Family Support Institute for the use of their planning checklists for ages 7 to 13 and to the Simon Fraser Society for Community Living for allowing me to use their planning checklists for ages 14 to 19. Both of these resources are excellent and I am thankful to have the use of them.

Bonnie Hayward

July 27, 2016

# Transition Planning Checklists:

## Age: 7

- Apply for Social Insurance Number.  
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sin/apply/someoneelse.shtml>
- Inform yourselves about eligibility for funding: At Home Program or Autism Funding Unit.  
[www.actcommunity.ca/manual-ch6](http://www.actcommunity.ca/manual-ch6)  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/pdf/autism\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/pdf/autism_handbook_web.pdf)
- Contact Ministry of Child and Family Development, to see if you qualify for funding and supports from a Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Worker:  
**Ministry of Child and Family Development: Child and Family Services:** Child and Youth with Special Needs Worker: 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.
- Determine your child's eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC): <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html>
- If eligible, open a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for your youth: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/rdsp/>
- Familiarize yourself with Individual Education Plans:  
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils: <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/resources/individual-education-plans-guide-parents>  
Abbotsford School District #34: <http://lss.sd34.bc.ca/faq>
- Network with other families and build your circle of support.  
Family Support Institute: [www.familysupportbc.com/](http://www.familysupportbc.com/)
- Start to work on your child's social network as soon as possible
- Consider joining an association or support group.  
There is a list of support groups in the Resource section.
- Research the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). Start one if it is a good fit for your youth and family: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/resp-reeee/menu-eng.html>
- Makes copies of the most recent reports and assessments for your child's school.
- In the month of August, confirm that your requests for the beginning of the school year are in place.

## **Age: 8 - 10**

- Ensure all funding available to you is in place.
- Contact Ministry of Child and Family Development, to see if you qualify for funding and supports from a Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Worker:  
**Ministry of Child and Family Development: Child and Family Services:** Child and Youth with Special Needs Worker: 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.
- Determine your child's eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC): <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html>
- If eligible, open a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for your youth: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/rdsp/>
- Develop a system- electronic or other- to help keep your information organized. Keep a checklist handy and consult it frequently.
- Network with other families and build your circle of support. Family Support Institute: [www.familysupportbc.com](http://www.familysupportbc.com)
- Grow your youth's social network.
- Research the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). Start one if it is a good fit for your youth and family: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/resp-reee/menu-eng.html>.
- In the month of August, confirm that your requests for the beginning of the school year are in place.
- At age 10, Begin to explore the transition to Middle School resources:

**Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and School District 43 (Coquitlam):** Transition to Middle School: A Handbook for Parents (revised January 2012):  
<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Documents/Transition%20to%20Middle%20School%20Handbook%20for%20Parents%20-%20Revised%20Jan2012.pdf>

## **Age: 11 - 13**

Contact Ministry of Child and Family Development, to see if you qualify for funding and supports from a Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Worker:

**Ministry of Child and Family Development: Child and Family Services:** Child and Youth with Special Needs Worker: 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.

Determine your child's eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC): <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html>

If eligible, open a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) for your youth: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/rdsp/>.

Research the Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). Start one if it is a good fit for your youth and family: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/resp-reee/menu-eng.html>.

Consider long term financial planning tools such as will & estate planning, trusts, insurance products, as well as, RDSPs and RESPs.

Identify the strengths, qualities, likes and dislikes of your youth to create a profile. This is the start of creating a profile of your child for transition planning.

If appropriate, begin to talk to your youth about puberty and sexuality.

In the month of August, confirm that your requests for the beginning of the school year are in place.

Network with others who have experienced transition or are currently in transition planning. There is a list of support groups in the Resource section.

You may need to request a Psycho-educational Assessment from your child's school to determine eligibility for Adult CLBC services. Look into this process now.

Begin to explore the resources for the transition to Secondary School:

**Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and School District 43 (Coquitlam):** Transition to Secondary School: A Handbook for Parents (revised January 2012):

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Documents/Transition%20to%20Secondary%20School%20Handbook%20for%20Parents%20-%20Revised%20Jan2012.pdf>

Look at the tasks that need to be completed once your child enters Grade 9.

Begin to explore the resources listed for the next age groups.

## **AGE: 14 - 16**

Contact Ministry of Child and Family Development, to see if you qualify for funding and supports from a Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Worker:

**Ministry of Child and Family Development: Child and Family Services:** Child and Youth with Special Needs Worker: 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.

Develop a vision for life after high school - college, employment options, community inclusion, life skills, leisure, recreation, social networks, housing, etc.

**Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and School District 43 (Coquitlam):** Transition to Adulthood: Planning, Information and Resources (revised December 2010):

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Documents/Transition%20to%20Adulthood%20handbk%20Dec10.pdf>

Network with others who have experienced transition or are currently in transition planning. There is a list of support groups in the Resource section.

Build goals into IEP that link to the future vision - focus on skill building and experiences that will be important in adult years (e.g. employability skills, social skills and connections, functional academic skills, etc.).

Review Post Secondary Programs & eligibility and entrance criteria – use this info when planning IEP goals

**Chilliwack:** University of the Fraser Valley – TASK Program: <http://www.ufv.ca/uup/task/>

**Langley:** Kwantlen Polytechnic University – Access Program: <http://www.kpu.ca/aca/appd>

Learn life, banking & bus skills at home and in community. If others support your youth consider where they can also help with building these skills.

Learn and gather information - talk with others, read stories, ask for examples and ideas about what other young adults are doing in their lives.

**Family Support Institute:** Online Transition Planning: <http://findsupportbc.com/timeline/>

**Inclusion BC:** Transition planning for Families: <http://www.inclusionbc.org/our-priority-areas/supports-children-and-families/transition-planning-families>

Use Planning tools to help in vision building.

An example: Your Future Now: A Transition Planning and Resource Guide for Youth with Special Needs and Their Families <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social->

[supports/children-teens-with-special-needs/supporting-healthy-transitions/teens-special-needs-entering-adulthood](#)

- Team building and community connecting. Discover who else can help as part of the team.
  - At age 14, if needed, request a Psycho-educational Assessment from your child's school to determine eligibility for Adult CLBC services. This waitlist may mean that it will take a couple of years until your child is scheduled for an assessment.
  - If your youth is accessing Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) supports/services - contact social worker for assistance with transition planning and required assessment documentation for eligibility.
  - At age 16 Community Living BC (CLBC) will review documents to confirm your child's eligibility for possible adult services.  
<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/individuals-families/youth-in-transition/> and  
<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/individuals-families/how-to-apply-for-services/>
- CLBC Abbotsford Office:** #201- 2777 Gladwin Road. Phone: 604-870-5900
- Birth certificate / proof of Citizenship for future service applications.

## **AGE: 17**

- Apply for BCID card. <http://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/getting-licensed/Pages/Apply-for-an-enhanced-licence-ID-or-BCID.aspx>
  - 17½ - Apply for Persons With a Disability (PWD) Benefits with Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/disability-assistance>
- For a copy of PWD brochure go to: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/PUBLICAT/pdf/PWD.pdf>  
For a sample of application form go to: Printable PDF Version  
<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/forms/pdf/HR2883.pdf>
- If your child is on the At Home Program, medical coverage ends at 18 & PWD medical coverage begins at 18. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/pwd-designation-and-application/designation-application>
  - Open a bank account for monthly direct deposits of PWD Benefits at age 18.
  - Review Post Secondary Programs; clarify college entry requirements and eligibility criteria. Consider this info when planning IEP goals.
- Chilliwack:** University of the Fraser Valley – TASK Program: <http://www.ufv.ca/uup/task/>

**Langley:** Kwantlen Polytechnic University – Access Program: <http://www.kpu.ca/aca/appd>

Consider work &/or volunteer possibilities. Grow experience and connections in community.

Confirm eligibility for Adult Community Living BC Services.

<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/individuals-families/how-to-apply-for-services/>

Once eligibility confirmed for Adult CLBC services, work with a CLBC Facilitator to develop a Person Centered Plan (PATH) for life after high school and any supports/services.

<http://www.inclusionbc.org/parent-s-handbook-inclusive-education/planning-your-child-s-education/person-centred-planning-tools> and

<http://www.inclusion.com/path.html>

**CLBC Abbotsford Office:** #201- 2777 Gladwin Road. Phone: 604-870-5900

Explore Community Living Service agencies and other service agencies in your community (supported employment, volunteer programs, support services, etc.).

**Abbotsford Community Services:** Discovery and Focus on Friends Program

<http://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/programs/developmental-disabilities/adults>

2539 Montvue Avenue, Abbotsford, 604-870-8725

**Bethesda BC:** <http://www.bethesdabc.com> 2975 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford. 604-850-6604

**Communitas Supportive Care:** Community Living Program: Life Skills

<http://www.communitascare.com/services/life-skills/357-clp> 103-2776 Bourquin Crescent West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6608

**Communitas Supportive Care:** Community Living Program: Transitions:

<http://www.communitascare.com/services/life-skills/369-clp-transitions> 103-2776 Bourquin Crescent West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6608

**HOME Society:** <http://homesociety.com> 31581 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, 604-852-7888

**MSA Society:** <http://www.msasociety.com> 2391 Crescent Way, Abbotsford. Phone: 604-852-6800

Continue: Will & Estate Planning & Registered Disability Savings Plan's (RDSP).

<http://plan.ca/>

<http://www.rdspresource.ca/>

## **AGE: 18**

Ensure PWD Disability Benefit eligibility has been confirmed. One month before 18th birthday, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation should confirm eligibility.



**Note:** At Home Program - medical coverage ends & Persons with a Disability Benefits medical coverage begins at 18.

Apply for bus pass for persons with disabilities by email: [SDSIBUSPA@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SDSIBUSPA@gov.bc.ca) or by calling 1-866-866-0800, follow prompts or in person: 2684 Trinity St, Abbotsford.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/passenger-travel/buses-taxis-limos/bus-pass/people-with-disabilities>

Develop a personal portfolio / resume on work, volunteer experience, skills, interests and experiences.

Celebrate school graduation!

Make a decision on an additional school year if not age 19 by July 1st.

**Abbotsford:** Community Access Program at Yale Secondary School

Review Post Secondary Programs; clarify college entry requirements and eligibility criteria. Consider this info when planning IEP goals

**Chilliwack:** University of the Fraser Valley – TASK Program: <http://www.ufv.ca/uup/task/>

**Langley:** Kwantlen Polytechnic University – Access Program: <http://www.kpu.ca/aca/appd>

You may also want to consider:

**Coquitlam and New Westminster:** Douglas College Adult Special Education:

<http://www.douglascollege.ca/programs-courses/faculties/child-family-community-studies/adult-special-education>

**If eligible** (significant physical disability), connect with the Fraser Health Authority re: CSIL Program at 18 ½ years. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/home-community-care/care-options-and-cost/choice-in-supports-for-independent-living>

Continue to build community connections – volunteering; work; social networks; leisure and recreation activities, etc.

18 ½ – learn about doing a “Representation Agreement” for when your son/daughter turns 19. (at age 19 parents are no longer their child’s legal guardians).

**Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry:** <http://www.nidus.ca/>

Research Employment Programs

**Abbotsford Community Services:** Employing People In Community (Epic):

<http://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/programs/developmental-disabilities/employment> 2420 Montrose Avenue, Abbotsford, 604-850-7681 ext 284.

**Communitas Supportive Care:** Community Living Program: Employment:

<http://www.communitascare.com/services/vocational/361-clp-employment> 103-2776

Bourquin Crescent West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6088.

**Work BC:** Abbotsford Works: <https://www.abbotsfordworks.com/en/services/case-management/specialized> 103-33255 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, 604-859-4500.

## **AGE: 19 and beyond**

While some things (like school) come to an end, many new opportunities will continue to unfold. As adulthood is full of life transitions, planning will continue.

- Note:** At Home Program – Respite ends at 19.
- Continue to build social networks; pursue interests and opportunities for leisure and recreation.
- Explore self advocacy opportunities. <http://www.inclusionbc.org/self-advocates>
- Representation Agreement in place.
- Continued review of Will & Estate planning. [www.plan.ca](http://www.plan.ca)
- Continued long term financial planning and RDSP. <http://www.rdspresource.ca>
- Ongoing discovery and development of a life plan and future steps (e.g. housing, employment, etc.).
- Access post-secondary and vocational training, employment and adult supports and services.

## **Resource Guide:**

### **Advocacy**

**Disability Alliance of British Columbia:**

<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/programs/advocacy.htm>

**Inclusion BC:** <http://www.inclusionbc.org/advocacy-support>

### **Social and Community Inclusion Programs**

**Abbotsford Community Services:** Discovery and Focus on Friends Program

<http://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/programs/developmental-disabilities/adults>

2539 Montvue Avenue, Abbotsford, 604-870-8725

**Bethesda BC:** <http://www.bethesdabc.com> 2975 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford. 604-850-6604

**Communitas Supportive Care:** Community Living Program: Life Skills

<http://www.comunitascare.com/services/life-skills/357-clp> 103-2776 Bourquin Crescent

West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6608

**Communitas Supportive Care:** Community Living Program: Transitions:

<http://www.comunitascare.com/services/life-skills/369-clp-transitions> 103-2776 Bourquin

Crescent West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6608

**HOME Society:** <http://homesociety.com> 31581 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, 604-852-7888

**MSA Society:** <http://www.msasociety.com> 2391 Crescent Way, Abbotsford. Phone: 604-852-6800

### **Education**

**Ministry of Advanced Education:** Adult Special Education:

<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/adultspcialled/welcome.htm>

List of Post Secondary Schools in BC that provide Adult Special Education programs:

[http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/adultspcialled/docs/bc\\_public\\_post-secondary\\_institutions\\_that\\_provide\\_adult\\_special\\_education.pdf](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/adultspcialled/docs/bc_public_post-secondary_institutions_that_provide_adult_special_education.pdf)

Adult Upgrading Grant: <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/abe/abesap.htm>

Students enrolled in an adult special education program at a post secondary institution may be eligible for financial assistance through the Adult Upgrading Grant.

**Assistive Technology BC:** <http://www.at-bc.ca>

"Assistive Technology BC (ATBC) provides assistive technology resources to make learning and working environments usable for people with disabilities throughout British Columbia." (taken from website)

Service programs for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.at-bc.ca/programs/student.html>

List of Assistive Technologies: <http://www.at-bc.ca/skills/index.html>

**STEPS Forward:** BC Initiative for Inclusive Post Secondary Education: [www.steps-forward.org](http://www.steps-forward.org)

"STEPS Forward supports students with developmental disabilities to access post secondary education inclusively across BC". Partnership Institutions: Emily Carr, UBC, UBC- Okanogan, SFU, UVic and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. Contact STEPS to ask about how they can support you to access other vocational and post secondary institutions.

**University of the Fraser Valley :** TASK Program: <http://www.ufv.ca/uup/task/>

"The TASK pre-employment program is for adult students with disabilities who want to explore employment opportunities and prepare for a job. TASK is an eight-month full-time program. Students attend classes four days a week at the Chilliwack Canadian Education Park campus." (taken from website)

**Kwantlen Polytechnic University:** Access Program: <http://www.kpu.ca/aca/appd>

"Access Programs for People with Disabilities (APPD) programs and services provide post-secondary education for adults with various disabilities. These programs and services work together to prepare students for employment, volunteer work or further education." (taken from website)

**Douglas College:** Adult Special Education: <http://www.douglascollege.ca/programs-courses/faculties/child-family-community-studies/adult-special-education>

"Douglas College offers Adult Special Education (ASE) programs to people with disabilities or barriers to education and employment. Programs help students identify career paths, develop work skills, or move on to additional education or employment." (taken from website)

## **Employment**

**Abbotsford Community Services:** Employing People In Community (Epic):

<http://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/programs/developmental-disabilities/employment> 2420 Montrose Avenue, Abbotsford, 604-850-7681 ext 284.

“The EPIC program (Employing People In Community) is committed to assisting jobseekers with unique abilities find work that helps them fulfill their financial, personal and social goals. Individualized programming includes counselling, assessment, work placement, on the job support and pre-vocational training.” (taken from website)

**Communitas Supportive Care:** Community Living Program: Employment:

<http://www.communitascare.com/services/vocational/361-clp-employment> 103-2776

Bourquin Crescent West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6088.

“CLP Employment Services offers classes and coaching, giving individuals skills and experience with the goal of finding meaningful paid employment. At CLP Employment, we believe that all people have gifts, skills and abilities that can enhance and benefit the community. We are committed to finding meaningful, paid employment for the people we serve.” (taken from website)

**Work BC:** Abbotsford Works: <https://www.abbotsfordworks.com/en/services/case-management/specialized> 103-33255 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, 604-859-4500.

As part of the Employment Program of BC, Abbotsford Works is open to all members of the community who are looking for employment, including people who identify as having a disability.

## **Financial Assistance**

### **Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Benefits:**

**Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation:** Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefits: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/disability-assistance>

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/disability-assistance/on-disability-assistance>

Before you apply for Persons with Disabilities designation, you need to show that you meet the financial eligibility requirement: **Online Self Assessment and Application:**

<https://www.iaselfserve.gov.bc.ca/HomePage.aspx>

**If you are eligible**, you will need to pick up an application form from the Income Assistance office at 2684 Trinity St, Abbotsford.

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Disability Benefits FAQs:

<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/advocacyfaqs.htm>

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Person with Disabilities (PWD) application: Help Sheet #2:  
[http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/docs/hs2\\_-\\_2016.pdf?LanguageID=EN-US](http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/docs/hs2_-_2016.pdf?LanguageID=EN-US)

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Income Assistance Application Process for Person with Disabilities:  
Help Sheet #12: [http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/docs/hs12\\_-\\_2016635895912286697673.pdf?LanguageID=EN-US](http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/docs/hs12_-_2016635895912286697673.pdf?LanguageID=EN-US)

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Rate Amounts for PWD and PPMB Benefits: Help Sheet #13:  
<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/docs/hs13.pdf?LanguageID=EN-US>

**Newton Resource Centre:** Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Quick Reference Guide (revised April 2013): [http://inclusionpr.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/persons\\_with\\_disabilities\\_reference\\_guide.pdf](http://inclusionpr.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/persons_with_disabilities_reference_guide.pdf).

Good information in one place.

### **Disability Tax Credit Information:**

**Canada Revenue Agency:** Disability Tax Credit (Federal): <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html>

**Canada Revenue Agency:** Disability Tax Credit: Fillable and saveable application form:  
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/t2201-fill-15e.pdf>

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Disability Tax Credit information:  
<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/rdspgd2.htm>.

### **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) Information:**

**Canada Revenue Agency:** Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP): <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/rdsp/>

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Registered Disability Savings Plan information:  
<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/rdspgd1.htm>

**Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation:** How to Start and Manage a Registered Disability Savings Plan in British Columbia: [http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/supports-services/registered\\_disability\\_savings\\_plan\\_guide.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/supports-services/registered_disability_savings_plan_guide.pdf).

### **Other Resources and Information:**

**Ministry of Finance:** Tax Information for persons with disabilities:

[http://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)

Includes information on: Home Owner Grant, Motor Fuel Tax Refund, Property Tax Deferral Program and Personal Income Tax

**Disability Alliance of BC:** Money and Income Supports:

<http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/money.htm>

Includes information on: BC Disability Benefits, CPP Disability, Registered Disability Savings Plan and Disability Tax Credit.

## **Funding and Supports**

**Ministry of Child and Family Development: Child and Family Services:** Child and Youth with Special Needs Worker: 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.

Children and youth who have special needs **may be eligible to have support** from a Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) Worker.

The key MCFD contact person for a family who has a child with special needs is the Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) worker. In addition to the Autism Funding Program, the CYSN worker supports families to access other MCFD-funded services as other supports in the community. See the CYSN brochure more information: <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/transition-to-adult-care/Documents/ChildandYouthwithSpecialNeedsCYSNSupportServices.pdf>.

**At Home Funding:** To be eligible for the At Home Program, a child must be:

- 18 years or younger for Respite Benefits; 17 years or younger for Medical Benefits
- A resident of British Columbia
- Enrolled with British Columbia Medical Services Plan
- Living at home with a parent or guardian
- Assessed as dependent in at least three of the four activities of daily living (eating, dressing, toileting and washing)

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/healthy-women-children/child-behaviour-development/special-needs/complex-health-needs/at-home-program>

**Medical Benefits:** <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/healthy-women-children/child-behaviour-development/special-needs/complex-health-needs/at-home-program/medical-benefits>

**Respite Benefits:** <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/healthy-women-children/child-behaviour-development/special-needs/complex-health-needs/at-home-program/at-home-program-respite-benefits>

**At Home Program guide:** [http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/children-teens-with-special-needs/at\\_home\\_program\\_guide.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/children-teens-with-special-needs/at_home_program_guide.pdf)

If your child is diagnosed with **autism**, make an appointment with a children and youth special needs worker (CYSN) at the local office – they can help you apply for funding and support.

**Child and Youth Services:** 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.

**Autism Funding Unit:** <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/healthy-women-children/child-behaviour-development/special-needs/autism-spectrum-disorder/autism-funding>

Two types of funding available: 1) The Under Age 6 program provides families with access to \$22,000/year. 2) The Ages 6-18 program provides families with access to \$6,000/year.

Children and youth with **ASD and other developmental disabilities** are also eligible for other services and supports through MCFD, such as Early Intervention Therapies, School-Aged Therapies, Infant Development, Supported Child Development and Family Support Services, including respite. Contact Child & Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) staff to discuss whether these services might be available to you and provide other useful information or support.

**Child and Youth Services:** 304-32463 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, 604-870-5986.

## **Housing**

**Bethesda BC:** <http://www.bethesdabc.com/services.html> 2975 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford. 604-850-6604.

Residential options include: Supported Independent Living, Home Share, and staffed Residential Care.

**Communitas Supportive Care:** <http://www.communitascare.com/services> 103-2776 Bourquin Crescent West, Abbotsford, 604-850-6608.

Residential options include: Home Share and staffed Residential Care.

**HOME Society:** <http://homesociety.com> 31581 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, 604-852-7888

**MSA Society:** <http://www.msasociety.com/service/> 2391 Crescent Way, Abbotsford. Phone: 604-852-6800.

Residential options include: Home Share and staffed Residential Care.

**BC Housing:** Individuals with disabilities: <http://www.bchousing.org/Find/Disabled>



Information on financial assistance for home modifications and subsidized housing.

## **Leisure:**

**Abbotsford Angels Hardball Association:** Challenger Baseball:

<http://www.abbotsfordbaseball.ca/challenger/>

**Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture:** PRC Subsidy Program Application Form:

[www.abbotsford.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=18776](http://www.abbotsford.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=18776) . For complete details, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Culture Office at 604.859.3134.

Full access to ARC and MRC and 25% discount on specified programs for eligible low-income residents.

**Abbotsford Parks, Recreation and Culture:** PRC Special Needs Access Program Application Form: [https://www.abbotsford.ca/Assets/2014+Abbotsford/Parks+Recreation+and+Culture/Recreation/special\\_needs\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://www.abbotsford.ca/Assets/2014+Abbotsford/Parks+Recreation+and+Culture/Recreation/special_needs_application_form.pdf). For complete details, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Culture Office at 604.859.3134.

50% discount on ARC and MRC drop-in admissions and memberships for residents with permanent disabilities.

**BC Ferries:** Disabled Status Identification card:

[http://www.bcferries.com/travel\\_planning/disabilities.html](http://www.bcferries.com/travel_planning/disabilities.html)

Discount fares are available for residents of British Columbia who have a permanent disability (this applies to passenger fares only)

**BC Parks:** Camping Fees for Persons with Disabilities:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fees/disability.html>

Free camping at BC Provincial campgrounds for eligible families. **Eligibility:** a family member has PWD designation, or a family member is registered with the "At Home Program" through MCFD, or a family member is a person living on-reserve and receiving Persons with Disabilities assistance through AANDC.

**Easter Seals:** Access 2 Card: <http://www.access2card.ca/>

<http://easterseals.ca/english/access-2-entertainment-card>

"The Access 2 card allows persons with a disability to receive either free admission or a significant discount for their support person at member movie theatres and attractions across Canada." (taken from website)

**Special Olympics:** <http://www.sobcabbotsford.ca/>

**Twisters Gymnastics Club:** Adapted Dynamos (ages 4-12) class:

<http://www.twistersgymbc.com/Class%20Descriptions%206-18%20Years>, 32470 Haida Drive, Abbotsford, 604-850-8500.

## **Respite:**

**Abbotsford Community Services:** Special Training and Recognition (STAR) club:

[www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/](http://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/) 2420 Montrose Avenue, Abbotsford, 604-850-7681.  
Program referrals through MCFD.

**Communitas Supportive Care: Matthew's House:** Respite Care for children age 4-18 with complex needs. <https://www.mattshouse.ca/for-parents/eligibility/>

## **Support Groups:**

**Abbotsford Special Needs Advisory Committee:** <https://abbotsfordspecialneeds.com/>

**BC Parents of Special Needs Children, Action for Equitable Access to Education:**

<https://equitableaccesstoeducation.wordpress.com/>

**Champions for Mental Wellness:** <https://www.facebook.com/championsformentalwellness>

**Family Support Institute:** <http://www.familysupportbc.com/family-support> and

<http://findsupportbc.com/>

**Fraser Valley Autism Society:** [www.fraservalleyautism.com/](http://www.fraservalleyautism.com/) Email: [fraservalleyautism@gmail.com](mailto:fraservalleyautism@gmail.com), 604-302-0503.

**Fraser Valley Child Development Centre:** <https://www.fvcdc.org> 102 - 32885 Ventura Ave, Abbotsford, 604-852-2686

**Fraser Valley Down Syndrome Society:** [www.fvdss.org/](http://www.fvdss.org/)

**Fraser Valley Special Ed Home school Support** (closed group, request to join):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/597027403689814>

**Inclusion BC:** <http://www.inclusionbc.org/how-inclusionbc-supports-families>

**Learning Disabilities Association of British Columbia:** Fraser South Chapter: [www.ldafs.org/](http://www.ldafs.org/) 201 – 13766 72 Avenue, Surrey, -604-591-5156.

**Pacific Autism Family Centre:** <http://pacificautismfamily.com/> 409 – 1015 Burrard Street, Vancouver, 604-697-5323.

## **Transportation**

**Parking permits:** SPARC BC: <http://www.sparc.bc.ca/parking-permit>

Application form: <http://www.sparc.bc.ca/parking-permit-forms> .

Download and print. Once completed (2 parts: the applicant and the Doctor), signed with payment enclosed, it can be mailed or hand delivered to:

4445 Norfolk Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 0A7, 604-718-7744

**Handy DART:** Central Fraser Valley Transit System: <http://bctransit.com/central-fraser-valley/riderinfo/handydart>

Registration Form: <http://bctransit.com/servlet/documents/1403641026416>.

“Handy DART is an accessible, door-to-door shared transit service for people with permanent or temporary disabilities that prevent them from using fixed-route transit without assistance from another person.” (taken from website)

**Subsidized Bus Pass:** There have been recent changes to the Annual Subsidized Buss Pass program. These changes take effect September 1, 2016. You no longer need to pay a \$45 administrative fee. You will receive a Compass card. \$52/month will be withheld from your monthly PWD benefits and used to pay for the pass.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/passenger-travel/buses-taxis-limos/bus-pass/people-with-disabilities>

Three methods to apply for bus pass for persons with disabilities: By email: [SDSIBUSPA@gov.bc.ca](mailto:SDSIBUSPA@gov.bc.ca) .  
By calling 1-866-866-0800, and follow prompts. In person at 2684 Trinity St, Abbotsford.

**One Person, One Fare Policy:** This policy, which accommodates, at no extra cost, people meeting certain requirements who need an extra seat due to a disability pertains only to domestic flights on WestJet and Air Canada.

**Air Canada:** <http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/before/specialneeds/attendant.html>

**Westjet:** <http://www.westjet.com/en-ca/travel-info/special-needs/seating>

**Easter Seals:** Disability Travel Card: <http://easterseals.ca/english/disability-travel-card>

This card is intended for people with disabilities who require assistance from a support person while traveling. When traveling on Via Rail, Greyhound or Coach Canada, the support person’s fares are available at a discount.

## **Websites**

**Abbotsford Special Needs Advisory Committee:** <https://abbotsfordspecialneeds.com/>

**Abbotsford Resource Guide:** <http://abbotsfordresources.ca/index.php>

**Autism BC:** <https://www.autismbc.ca/>

**Autism Community Training:** <http://www.actcommunity.ca/>

**Community Living BC:** [www.communitylivingbc.ca/](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/)

**Disability Alliance of BC:** <http://www.disabilityalliancebc.org/default.htm>

**Family Support Institute:** <http://www.familysupportbc.com/>

**Inclusion BC:** <http://www.inclusionbc.org/>

**Learning Disabilities Association of British Columbia:** <http://www.ldabc.ca>

## **Other Parent Handbooks and Online Resources:**

**Abbotsford:** Community Connections, Directory of Services for Abbotsford, Mission and the Fraser Valley (revised April 2011): <http://www.focusdisability.ca/members/focus-disability-network-society-resources>.

This directory has many good resources for families in Abbotsford. Some of the contact people are out of date, but the information about the services that service providers offer are still accurate.

**Chilliwack:** Community Connections (revised April 2014):

<http://ssc.sd33.bc.ca/sites/default/files/Community%20Connections%20-%20April%202014.pdf>

**Autism Community Training:** ACT's Autism Manual for BC: Living and Working with Children and Adults with ASD: <http://www.actcommunity.ca/information/autism-manual-for-bc/>

**BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils:** Individual Education Plans: A Guide for Parents: <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/resources/individual-education-plans-guide-parents>

**BC Ministry of Education:** Individual Education Planning for Students with Special Needs: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/docs/iepssn.pdf>

**Community Living BC:** Self Advocate Planning Workbook:

<http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Plain-Language-Planning-Workbook.pdf>

**Family Support Institute:** Find Support BC: <http://www.findsupportbc.com/timeline/>..

An excellent resource, includes an online transition planning tool for ages 0-25.

**Focus Disability Network:** Resources: <http://www.focusdisability.ca/members/focus-disability-network-society-resources>

**Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association:** Information and Resource Package (revised April 2015):  
[www.fvbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Resource-Manual-2015-final.pdf](http://www.fvbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Resource-Manual-2015-final.pdf)

**Inclusion BC:** Everyone Belongs in Our Schools: A Parent's Handbook to Inclusive Education  
[http://inclusionbc.org/sites/default/files/WEBEducation\\_parent\\_manual\\_2014\\_0.pdf](http://inclusionbc.org/sites/default/files/WEBEducation_parent_manual_2014_0.pdf)

**Ministry of Child and Family Development:** A Parent's Handbook: Your Guide to Autism Programs:  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/pdf/autism\\_handbook\\_web.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/pdf/autism_handbook_web.pdf)

**Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and School District 43 (Coquitlam):** Transition to Middle School: A Handbook for Parents (revised January 2012):  
<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Documents/Transition%20to%20Middle%20School%20Handbook%20for%20Parents%20-%20Revised%20Jan2012.pdf>

**Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and School District 43 (Coquitlam):** Transition to Secondary School: A Handbook for Parents (revised January 2012):  
<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Documents/Transition%20to%20Secondary%20School%20Handbook%20for%20Parents%20-%20Revised%20Jan2012.pdf>

**Simon Fraser Society for Community Living and School District 43 (Coquitlam):** Transition to Adulthood: Planning, Information and Resources (revised December 2010):  
<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Documents/Transition%20to%20Adulthood%20handbk%20Dec10.pdf>

**Ministry of Child and Family Development:** Your Future Now: A Transition Planning and Resource Guide for Youth with Special Needs and Their Families  
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/children-teens-with-special-needs/supporting-healthy-transitions/teens-special-needs-entering-adulthood> And:  
[www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/your\\_future\\_now.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/your_future_now.pdf)