



Transition Manual



**Supporting Parents and Caregivers in Successfully
Transitioning Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities from
Children's Services to Adult Services**

Funding Generously Provided by:





Suite 245, 720 - 28th Street N.E Calgary, Alta. T2A 6R3
Phone: 230-9158/ Fax: 230-3252/ E-mail: child@nucleus.com
Website: www.childrenslink.ca

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FOUNDATION

The Children’s Link Society neither endorses nor recommends any programs, services, supports, therapies, treatments, etc. but provides impartial and, to the best of our knowledge, factual information for families of children with special needs and service providers in the Calgary Rocky View Region. 09.08.

Manual updated June 2010



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The Children's Link Society's History

The Children's Link Society is a family-centered, community-based, central access point of information for families of children with special needs in Calgary and Area. Our service - unique to this area and Alberta - was formed in response to the question posed by parents when their child is diagnosed with special needs ... where do I start?

Calgary and Area is rich with resources, supports, programs and services for children including those with special needs. But in the past, there was little coordination of information across health, education and social services. Often families were left to negotiate their own way through the maze resulting in frustration, anger and increased stress [Key Risk Factors].

As a result, families of children with special needs have long-identified a "need for a community-based, single-entry resource service to parents that would assist with needs identification, provide information about resources and referrals, support parents in meeting the needs of their child, and advocate for the child and family".

Transition Services

The transition from children's services to adult services for youth with special needs and/or a developmental disability often presents significant challenges and barriers. Parents, caregivers and individuals with special needs often have questions along the transition journey and Children's Link Transition Services provides information and supports to individuals with disabilities and their families who are currently in the process of transitioning from children's services to adult services. Transitional Supports include:

- Transition Planning
- Assistance in the coordination of services
- Assistance in applying for **AISH** (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) & **PDD** (Persons with Developmental Disabilities)
- Supporting individuals in filling out service application forms
- Providing unbiased and current information on adult Service Providers
- Other supports and information which may be required to provide an individual the opportunity to remain as independent as possible



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In addition to the Transitional Services mentioned above, the Children's Link Society has also created a **Transition Grid** including information on agencies, organizations and associations that provide services and programs to adults with special needs. The Transition Grid was created for parents and caregivers to access information quickly in order to contact programs which families or individuals seeking services may find beneficial.

This template includes an abundance of information on services and resources in the Calgary Rocky View Area such as:

- Vocational, Access and Residential Programs
- Family Support and Advocacy Services
- Recreation and Social Opportunities
- Post-Secondary and Education Opportunities
- Transportation Services
- Housing Services
- Health Services
- Specialty Vendors
- Mental Health Programs and Services

If you have any questions regarding any of the services being offered by The Children's Link Society, please call or email Amy Davidson, **Transitional Support Worker** at 403-230-9158 or amy.davidson@childrenslink.ca.



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Quick Reference List: Address and Phone Number Look Up

Children's Link Society

Address: Suite 245, 720-28th St NE,
Calgary, AB, T2A 6R3
Phone: 403-230-9158
Website: www.childrenslink.ca
Email: info@childrenslink.ca or amy.davidson@childrenslink.ca

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH):

Address: TGS Place
500, 1520 4th St SW, Calgary, AB, T2R 1H5
Phone: 403- 297-8511
Fax: 403-297-6221
Website: www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AISH

Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD):

Address: TGS Place
600, 1520 4th St SW, Calgary, AB, T2R 1H5
Phone: 403-297-5011
Website: www.pdd.org or www.calgarypdd.org
Email: pdd.calgaryboard@gov.ab.ca

Office of the Public Guardian:

Address: Rocky Mountain Plaza
Suite 1500, 615 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB T2G 2M1
Phone: 403-297-3364
Web: www.lpdd.org/central/resources/transplanning.shtml

Calgary Office of the Public Trusteeship

Address: 2100 Telus Tower
411 - 1 Street SE, Calgary, AB, T2G 4Y5
Phone: 403-297-6541 Fax: 403-297-2823



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Preparing to Transition: A Check List

- Identification**
 - Photo ID is important when approaching adult programs and will make accessing information easier.
 - Photo ID may be obtained from any Registry Office in Alberta
- Social Insurance Number**
 - An important identification document which is required to access many adult programs and to complete funding applications
 - S.I.N number may be acquired at a Human Resources Development Canada office.
- Bank Account**
 - Opening an account for a young adult is beneficial in receiving funds from a number of programs such as AISH. Many employers and Government programs now rely on Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to deposit funds.
 - Opening a bank account may also ensure that funds are not delayed or mis-directed.
- Documentation**
 - Ensure all documentation is up to date and current including:
 - Birth Certificate
 - School records
 - Medical or psychological assessments
 - Immunization records, ect.
- Contact Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)**
 - Two to One year (depending on severity disability) prior to your child turning 18 contact PDD to determine eligibility
 - Calgary Intake: 297-5139 or website: www.calgarypdd.org
- Contact Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)**
 - Six months prior to your child turning 18 contact AISH to determine eligibility
 - Phone: 297-8511 or website: www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AISH



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Life Planning: Question for Parent/Caregivers to Consider

There are many questions to ask yourself before your child with developmental disabilities turns 18 years old. Many decisions need to be made concerning the youth's future living situation, community access and volunteer or employment endeavors. Here are some questions to start to thinking about as your child grows closer to adulthood.

School and Community Involvement

- How long does your son/daughter want to stay in school?
- What is the plan after graduation?
- Does your child want to continue education endeavors such as post-secondary opportunities or vocational training and is there funding available?
- What type of activities does your son/daughter enjoy participating in? How can this be incorporated to community involvement?
- Have you discussed/explored community access programs with your child or family?
- Does your son/daughter need transportation to access programs? Have you contacted Access Calgary?

Employment Endeavors

- What type of work will your son/daughter enjoy? What jobs are available?
- Does your son/daughter require job supports?
- Is training required for your son/daughter to obtain the job of their choice? Will there be job opportunities in the field that interests them?

Living Situation/Arrangements

- Does your son/daughter want to continue to live with you? If so, what supports will your son/daughter and your family need?
- Does your son/daughter want to live away from your home? Do they want a more independent lifestyle? What type of supports will be required to meet the needs of your young adult while living outside your home?
- Does your son/daughter want to live in a group living arrangement, with peers or a roommate?
- What household tasks can your son/daughter perform without support? Which household tasks require full support? How will his/her needs be met?



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Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD)

600, 1520 – 4th Street SW
Calgary Alberta, T2R 1H5
www.calgarypdd.org

What is PDD?

The Calgary Region Community Board Persons with Developmental Disabilities provides services to adults with developmental disabilities in Calgary and surrounding area. The funding pays for support staff that help people with disabilities live and participate in the community.

PDD Services

Client Services Coordinators (CSC) assist adults with disabilities to enable them to participate in their communities through:

- **Community Living Supports**
 - Overnight Staffed Residences
 - Support Homes
 - Supported Independent Living
 - Respite Supports
- **Employment Supports**
 - Supports in gaining and maintain employment
- **Community Access Supports**
 - Community Activities
 - Volunteering
 - Personal Development
- **Specialized Community Supports**
 - Behavioral Supports
 - Professional Services (eg. Counseling)
 - Assessments



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Eligibility

PDD has 3 areas to determine if an individual meets the criteria to access PDD funding:

1. significant limitation in at least six adaptive life skills such as communication, self-care, home living, social skills, community use, self-direction, health and safety, functional academics, leisure and work
2. significantly below average intellectual ability
3. onset of the disability was prior to the age of 18

Intake Process

- The intake process can begin as early as the age of 16 years old and anyone can make a referral on behalf of the individual.
- Intake forms are available online at www.calgarypdd.org or by calling 403-297-5139
- Supporting documentation is required (psychological assessments, functional and school records)
- The Intake worker will review the submitted information and contact the family in order to determine eligibility.
- Once eligibility requirements are met, a Client Service Coordinator (CSC) will be assigned and meet with the individual to further discuss the PDD program=

Appeals

All decisions made by PDD can be appealed and the Client Service Coordinator can support and guide you through the process. Appeals can be made by the CEO (Administrative Review) or through a Provincial Appeal Hearing.

Funding

Family Managed Service Agreement

- Direct Hire
- Approved Service Provider

If you have further questions or need clarification regarding Family Managed Service Agreements, please contact your Client Services Coordinator for further information.



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Accessing PDD Services and Funding

Step 1: Eligibility Assessment

Step 2: Service Options

Step 3: Service Plan Approval

Step 4: Service Monitoring

Step 1: Eligibility Assessment

- At least 1 to 2 years prior to turning 18, begin the application process
- Complete an Intake Form (available at <http://www.calgary-pdd.org/dnn/Portals/0/webpages/eligibility.pdf>)
- Provide information and assessments relating to the individual's disability

Step 2: Service Options

- After eligibility is determined, a *Client Service Coordinator* will schedule a time to meet the individuals and their support network to provide information about PDD. The meeting will determine the amount of support needed and develop an action plan.

Step 3: Service Plan Approval

- A Client Services Coordinator will help the family connect with service providers who can put together an *Individual Service Plan*.
- Visit programs and agencies, ask questions then decide on the program which will best meet the needs of the individual as well as the family

Step 4: Service Monitoring

- The support network of the individual should monitor the services that are being provided to ensure all needs are being met. If there is a concern, discuss services with PDD staff to modify the Individual Funding Agreement (IFA).



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Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

500 TGS Place
1520-4th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta, T2R1H5
Phone (403)297-8511

What is AISH?

The AISH program provides a monthly living allowance and medical benefits for adults with a permanent disability that severely impairs their ability to earn a living.

AISH Services

AISH clients receive monthly living allowance to a maximum of \$1188.00, yet the amount determined will depend on you and your partner's income. Clients and family members receive health benefits. AISH also provided premium-free Alberta Health Care in addition to a health benefit card which provides coverage for medical requirements such as prescription drugs, eyewear, eye exams, dental work, ect.

Eligibility

To qualify each of the following criteria must be met:

- Must have a severe disability and limits your ability to earn a living
- The disability must be permanent
- You cannot refuse to take or look for employment, and can not quit work in which you are capable of performing
- Cannot refuse or neglect training, rehabilitation or medical treatment which would enable you to work
- You and your partner's income and assets must not exceed limits of the program
- You must be 18 years or older
- Must be a permanent resident of Alberta
- You cannot reside in an institution
- You must apply for other income benefits you qualify for first
- You must claim or collect benefits of assets you qualify for



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AISH Continued

AISH Application Process

- To begin the application process, call AISH at 403-297-8511 and request an Application Package to be mailed to your home or go to the AISH office at the above address. Or contact Amy at Children's Link Society 403-230-9158.
- NEW!
Applications are now available online at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aish/forms/>
- If you have further question or concerns regarding AISH Funding or AISH application procedures or if you are needing assistance in this process, contact:

Children's Link Society
Amy Davidson, Transitional Support Worker
Phone: 403-230-9158
Email amy.davidson@childrenslink.ca



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Alberta Aids to Daily Living

10th Floor, Milner Building
10040 - 104 Street
Edmonton, AB, Canada
T5J 0Z2

Phone: 403-943-2100

Website: <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl>

What is Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)?

AADL is a provincial cost share program that helps individuals with a long-term disability, chronic or terminal illness to maintain independence by providing financial assistance to purchase medical supplies and equipment.

Individuals or families who access this program will pay 25% of the cost of equipment or supplies up to a maximum amount of \$500.00 per year. Low-income or Albertans accessing income supports may be eligible for a subsidy to eliminate the cost-share portion.

How to Apply:

Albertans must be assessed by a health care professional to determine your basic medical needs and eligibility before receiving the benefits of this program. Please refer to the website above for more information.

The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program manual includes information on eligibility, cost-share exemption, quantity and frequency review requests and vendor, authorizer and specialty supplier roles and responsibilities. The program manual also includes policies and procedures for each benefit area and approved product lists. You can access this manual by linking to <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aadl/av/manual/index.asp>



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What is Medical Transition?

Medical Transition is all about preparing to move, making the move and adjusting to the move from pediatric to adult medical services. As you enter your teens, you will learn to be more independent in managing your own health needs, speaking up for yourself and making your own decisions. Knowing that your health care service is going to change helps you prepare. If you know what you're getting into, it is much easier on you and your family. Starting early is so important. Don't wait until you are 18 to begin. You can practice getting ready in the pediatric clinics.

Did you know?

- When you **turn 18** in Alberta you are an adult, which means you can vote, go to the bar and make your own decisions. It also means that you will be transferred to adult medical services.
- You need a **family physician** since your pediatrician is a doctor for children and youth up to 18 years of age.
- You can ask your doctor and medical team what your **future health care needs** might be and how health care services will be **different** when you transfer to the adult program. This will give everyone a better chance to prepare ahead of time.
- Before your transfer, you can ask to **meet** the health care providers that will takeover your care and ask to have a **tour** or visit their facility.
- You need to have a good **understanding** of your medical condition and treatment, and have your medical information handy.
- Like in the pediatric clinics you have the **right to privacy**. You choose who knows your information.
- You have **the freedom to decide** what's important to you regarding your treatment. You can make decisions long before you are 18 but you should know that you are not alone - your medical team, family and/or personal supports are there to support, inform and guide you.
- You will no longer be eligible for children's services and **funding** so will need to give yourself time to decide what you need and to complete the applications for adult services.
- You will **say good bye** to your pediatric team but you can still come to visit. Maybe in the future you will want to help other young people get ready!

Questions: If you have questions about how medical transition affects you speak with your health care team or contact **Catherine Dunseith, Adolescent Transition Coordinator, Alberta Children's Hospital, 403-955-7252.**



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General Guardianship Information

What is Guardianship?

Guardianship is a legal process which allows an individual the authority to make non-financial decisions on behalf of, or with, a dependent adult pertaining to personal matters.

Who can be appointed as a Guardian?

Typically, guardians are relatives or close friends of a dependent adult who are in the individual's support network who understand the needs and who has an invested interest in the overall well-being of the dependent adult.

The Court can appoint an individual to be a guardian if the potential guardian:

- is 18 years or older
- agrees to act in the best interest of the dependent adult
- will not allow personal interest to conflict with the role of guardianship
- will support the dependent adult to be as independent as possible

Guardian Responsibilities

Guardianship responsibilities will depend on the needs of the person with developmental disabilities and the level of support required. Guardians have the decision-making authority to choose:

- where the adult with disabilities will live
- social activities to access
- employment
- education and training that the individual will receive
- legal matters with the exception of financial affairs
- health care
- daily living routines



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Guardianship Continued

Becoming a Private Guardian

Once you have made an informed decision and a commitment to become a Private Guardian, to apply for guardianship either the dependent adult or potential guardian must live in Alberta and the potential guardian must have a relationship with the dependent adult for six months or more.

To begin the application process, forms can be obtained by accessing the Guardianship Self-Help Kit on-line at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/opg/guardianship/forms/>

Capacity Assessment Report (CAR)

The following information was retrieved directly from the Office of the Public Guardian website at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/opg/guardianship/forms/help/SeniorsForms.htm>

- “Capacity” means in respect of the making of a decision about a matter, the ability to understand the information that is relevant to the decision and to appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of a decision and a failure to make a decision.
- An adult has the right to refuse to undergo or to continue with a capacity assessment and has the right to have a person present to assist in feeling comfortable during the capacity assessment.
- **Persons designated** as capacity assessors are:
 1. Registered Medical Practitioners
 2. Regulated member of the College of Alberta Psychologists.

Other health professions may be designated as capacity assessors if the person:

1. Is a regulated member of a college of a health profession (registered nurses, registered psychiatric and mental deficiency nurses, occupational therapists, and social workers.
2. Has successfully completed a course for capacity assessors.
3. Meets any other requirements set by the Minister.



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- **Date of capacity assessment form.** Unless an application contains a request for the Court to accept a capacity assessment report that was conducted earlier, a capacity assessment report submitted in respect of an application must be dated not more than 6 months before the date the application is started.
- **FEES:** A capacity assessor may charge a fee for a capacity assessment including the capacity assessment report up to a maximum of:
 1. \$500 if the capacity assessment relates exclusively to the adult’s capacity to make decisions about either personal matters or financial matters. Ex. Applying for guardianship only.
 2. \$700 if the capacity assessment relates to the adult’s capacity to make decisions about personal matters and financial matters. Ex. Applying for Guardianship and Trusteeship jointly.
 3. The Court may, on application, allow a higher fee for a capacity assessment on the basis of the complexity.
 4. The applicant may request the Crown to pay the fees for a capacity assessment. The Public Guardian must be satisfied that it would be a financial hardship for the applicant and the adult and would recommend to the Minister that the Crown pay the fees. The Minister may pay the fees for only one capacity assessment of an adult in a calendar year.

Additional Information:

Calgary Office:

Office of the Public Guardian
Rocky Mountain Plaza
Suite 1500, 615 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB T2G 2M1
Phone: 403-297-3364
Fax: 403-297-3427

Application Support:

The Volunteer Centre of Calgary
Suite 1170 Kahanoff Centre
1202 Centre Street S.E.
Calgary, AB T2G 5A5
Voice Mail: 403-231-1447 (Joanna New)
Phone: 403-265-5633

Provincial Office:

Office of the Public Guardian
Room 330, Standard Life Centre
10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton AB T5J 4R7
Phone: 780-422-1868
Fax: 780-422-6051

Additional resources available online: <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/opg/>



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Guardianship Legislation: Understanding the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act (AGTA)*

In October 2009, to focus on providing more choices for adult Albertans and to balance autonomy and protection of Adults who are unable to make decisions independently, the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act (AGTA)* is replacing the 30 year old the *Dependent Adults Act (DAA)*.

Some highlights of the new legislation (AGTA):

- Application to the Office of the Public Guardian will be streamlined and applicants will go to court less frequently.
- Renewing the Guardianship Order will be based on a timeline in accordance to the needs of the represented adult.
- Capacity Assessments will be standardized and completed for Court-Ordered applications which will focus on cognitive *and* functional abilities. This process will ensure the individual's rights are being maintained as set out by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Act and help in determining which Guardianship Order is right for each individual represented adult.
- Guardianship application can be submitted at 17 years old to be in place when the individual turns 18.
- For more changes to the Act please visit the Office of the Public Guardian's Fact Sheet at http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/services_resources/opg/guardianship/AGTAfactsheet.asp

4 Guiding Principles of the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act (AGTA)*

Retrieved directly online at <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/opg/guardianship/>

1. the adult is presumed to have capacity and able to make decisions until the contrary is determined;
2. the ability to communicate verbally is not a determination of capacity, the adult is entitled to communicate by any means that enables them to be understood;
3. focus on the autonomy of the adult with a less intrusive and less restrictive approach
4. decision making that focuses on the best interests of the adult and how the adult would have made the decision if capable.



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Guardianship Continued

In addition to the changes above, the new legislation will include Guardianship Options for families to choose from depending on the capacity level the represented adult. The following is a brief overview of the options available to Albertans:

- Supported Decision-Making Authorization: Level 1
 - An option for families and individuals who may need limited support in making decisions
 - Simple to prepare and no Court application process

- Co-Decision Making Order: Level 2
 - An option for Albertans with significant capacity impairment
 - Represented Adult makes decisions with the help of a Guardian
 - Less-intrusive
 - Court Order Process

- Guardianship: Level 3
 - An option for Adults who lack capacity (capacity assessment required)
 - Essential components of the AGTA remain the same
 - Court-Ordered Process

- Specific Decision Making
 - This option is in the case that an Adult lacks capacity temporary, a Health Care Provider can select a relative or Public Guardian to help in receiving medical care and treatment (decisions are restricted to health care).

Access Forms online: <http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/opg/guardianship/forms/>

If you are interested in learning more about the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* (AGTA), please contact the Office of the Public Guardian's toll-free information line Monday to Friday, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-877-427-4525 or visit their website at: http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/services_resources/opg/guardianship/



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Trusteeship

What is Trusteeship?

Trusteeship may be required if an adult with a disability does not have the ability to manage his or her estate independently. In this situation, the Court may appoint an adult Albertan, a trust company, or a Public Trustee to manage the dependent adult's personal property, realty, money, investments and income.

The appointed Trustee will be responsible for the dependent adult's financial and legal affairs. The Trustee does not make personal choices or decisions for the individual with a disability, rather is in charge of managing the individual's legal and financial decisions.

There are two types of Trustees:

1. Informal Trustee or Small "t" Trusteeship

An informal trustee does not need to be appointed by a Court to manage the dependent adults income, expenses and his/hers allotted benefits from programs such as Canadian Pension Plan, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), Old Age Security and other government funded programs.

Informal trusteeship is typically chosen when the dependent adult has no property to manage, yet requires assistance in accessing managing their finances. Informal trusteeship can be arranged with the government department issuing the cheque.

2. Formal Trustee

A formal trustee must apply through the Court under the *Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act* (AGTA). In this situation, the trustee controls all property, finances, benefits and expenses and must report to the Court at least every two years.

The formal trustee also manages and arranges tax returns, rent and loan payments. The formal trustee arranges wills and estate planning and any other aspects pertaining to property, income and government benefits.

Forms are available online at <http://seniors.alberta.ca/opg/guardianship/forms/#Trustee>

The choice to become a Dependent Adult's trustee should be explored during the same time that AISH, guardianship and other adult services are being accessed.



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Trusteeship Continued

Additional information regarding Trusteeship may be obtained at:

Calgary Office of the Public Trusteeship

2100 Telus Tower
411 - 1 Street SE
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2G 4Y5
Phone 403-297-6541
Fax 403-297-2823

- More information about Trusteeship is available through the Office of the Public Trustee at http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/public_trustee/default.aspx
- General information about trusteeship may also be obtained through Dial-A-Law at 1-800-332-1091



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Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

What is a RDSP?

The Registered Disability Savings Plan is a new plan that will allow funds to be invested tax-free until withdrawal. It is intended to help parents and others to save for the long-term financial security of a child with a disability (www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/bdgt/2007/rdsp-eng.html)

Who is Eligible?

There are four main eligibility criteria:

1. Individual qualifies for the Federal Disability Tax Credit. Form available at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/>
2. Canadian Resident
3. A Social Insurance Number (SIN) <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/sin/index.shtml>
4. Under the age of 60

Elements of the RDSP

- RDSP
- Disability Savings Bond
- Disability Savings Grant

How does the RDSP work?

A RDSP can be set up for a child with a disability or an adult. The RDSP is made up of contributions, grants and bonds. The family, individual or guardian can contribute maximum lifetime amount of \$200,000 (over time or lump sum) and the federal government will contribute grants and bonds based on the amount the family/individual contribute. For further details please see the RDSP Fact Sheet:

http://www.rdsp.com/documents/RDSP_Factsheet.pdf



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RDSP Continued

Five Steps in Opening an RDSP

1. Apply for a Social Insurance Number
2. Apply for the Disability Tax Credit (if not already receiving credit)
3. If beneficiary is a child, apply for the Canadian Child Tax Benefit
4. Contact Financial Institutions who are offering the RDSP.

Additional Information available at:

Register Disability Savings Plan:

<http://www.rdsp.com/>

Canada Revenues Agency:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/rdsp-reei/menu-eng.html>

RDSP Calculator:

<http://www.plan.ca/RDSPCalculator.php>

Ability Tax Group

1-877-690-0330

www.abilitytax.ca



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Post-Secondary Planning Information Resources

Alberta Learning and Information Services (ALIS)

Website: <http://alis.alberta.ca/ec/ep/pps/planning/disability.html>

This provincial government website provides great information and links directly related to students with a permanent disability. Information such as:

- Funding options for students with a disability
<http://alis.alberta.ca/pdf/disabilities/September%202008%20%20Disability%20info%20sheet.pdf>
- Post-Secondary Transition guides for parents and students
- Success stories
- Occupation Profiles
<http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/Content/RequestAction.asp?format=html&aspAction=GetHomePage&Page=Home>
- Post-Secondary Institution Profiles and related information

The Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities

Website: www.accd.net/ Toll Free: 1-800-387-2514

Here you will find a *Resource Guide for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities* including information, frequently asked questions and resource that you may find helpful:

http://www.accd.net/publications/Projects_and_Research/2002_Resource_Guide.pdf

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students

Website: www.neads.ca

NEADS provides Online Resource Centre and publication to aid in researching post-secondary options for students with a disability. The website also has information on accessing Campus Groups and student-run disability organizations across the country.



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Post-Secondary Education: Funding for Students with Disabilities

Grants, Bursaries and Scholarships

The following funding programs are for individuals who are funded through Canada Student Loans. If you are not funded through Canada Student Loans, please see Disability Related Employment Supports (DRES) funding on page 25 of this manual.

Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities- Federal Funding

Website: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/access_grant_disabilities.shtml

The [Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities](#) is awarded to high-need students with permanent disabilities who must cover the cost of educational and living expenses (up to \$2000.00/year) that exceeds the amount covered by [Canada Student Loan](#) and provincial financial assistance. This grant *does not* have to be repaid, but the funds are considered taxable income.

Eligibility criteria:

- have a permanent disability (supported by appropriate medical documentation)
- be eligible for a full-time or part-time [Canada Student Loan](#)
- other criteria may apply

Application process:

Eligibility is determined by the information provided on the Student Loan Application. Full time students can apply for a Government Student Loan by following the link:

<https://extranet.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/SFLearnerEnrolment/Enrolment.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fSFS%2fStudent%2fMain.aspx>



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Post-Secondary Funding Continued

Canada Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities – Federal Funding

The Canada Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities can provide up to \$8,000 per loan year to help pay for exceptional education-related costs associated with your disability. These costs may include tutors, oral or sign interpreters, attendant care for studies, specialized transportation (to and from school only), 75% of the cost of a learning disability assessment up to a maximum of \$1,200, note takers, readers and brailers.

Application Process:

Student must prove financial need by qualifying for student loans, then fill out the application form for the Canada Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities accessible through the preferred education institution.

Alberta Grants for Disabled Students (GFD) – Provincial Funding

Up to \$3,000 per year for students not eligible for federal funding

For more information contact:

Student Funding Contact Centre

Tel.: 780-427-3722 (Edmonton)

Toll-free: 1-800-222-6485 (in Canada)

www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance/main.asp



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Disability Related Employment Supports (DRES)

Information in this section retrieved from <http://employment.alberta.ca/CES/3159.html>

If education endeavors are not funded through Canada Student Loans, funding for assistive services may be accessed (depending on eligibility) through Disability Related Employment Supports (DRES) funding.

What is DRES?

Disability related employment supports (DRES) provide assistance to Albertans in overcoming the barriers to employment created by their disability. This program is access through Alberta Employment and Immigration.

Eligibility Criteria:

- have a documented permanent or long term disability that creates a barrier to employment
- be work destined in the competitive labour market and have a client investment plan
- be an Alberta resident
- be outside the K-12 education system

Disability related employment supports (DRES) provide support in 4 areas:

1. Educational Supports:
Educational support involves assistance to learners preparing for employment through post-secondary education, basic skill training, academic upgrading, or labour market programs. Support can include sign language interpreters, tutors, note takers, readers and student assistants.
2. Assistive technology:
Assistive technology includes the purchase and set-up of technology supports required to alleviate, reduce or remove a barrier to education, training or employment. This can include software programs.
3. Work Place Supports:
Workplace supports assist Albertans to make a successful transition to the workplace or to maintain employment during a disability-related job crisis. The supports may include a job coach, worksite modification or assistive technology.



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DRES Continued

4. Job Search Supports:

DRES covers goods and services that are disability related and over and above those provided by mainstream services. This could include, for example, a sign language interpreter so that a client with a hearing impairment can attend a job search workshop.

Steps to access the DRES program

1. Call 1-800-661-3753 or visit an Alberta Service Centre.
2. Meet with an AHRE representative to determine your needs.
3. Write an employment action plan with help from an AHRE representative.
4. Complete an application form and provide the necessary documents

For information further information:

Website: www.gov.ab.ca/hre/dres
phone: 1-800-661-3753 toll-free in Alberta
(780) 422-4266 in Edmonton

TTD/TTY: 1-800-232-7215 toll-free in Alberta
(780) 422-5283 in Edmonton



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Helpful Websites

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

- www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/AISH/

Family and Community Resource Centre

Well on Your Way - Youth in Transition Resource list

- www.fcrc.sacyhn.ca/pdfs/Transition_Resources.pdf

Guidelines for Supporting Successful Transitions for Children and Youth

Children and Youth In Transition: An Alberta Children and Youth Initiative

- www.child.gov.ab.ca/whatwedo/youthstrategies/youthintransition/page.cfm?pg=Youth%20in%20Transition%20Resources

Persons with Developmental Disabilities

- www.calgary-pdd.org/dnn/

Government of Canada

Persons with Disabilities Online

- www.pwd-online.ca/pwdhome.jsp?lang=en

Canada Revenue Agency

- www.cra-arc.gc.ca/menu-e.html

Homeowner Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

- www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/prfinas/prfinas_001.cfm

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- www.childrenslink.ca



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Alberta Senior and Community Supports. (2008). *Person with Developmental Disabilities*. Retrieved from <http://www.pdd.org/default.shtml>.



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