

You have been approved for the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation. This letter contains information about services and programs for which you may be eligible.

Consent to Disclosure of Information:

If you wish to have a friend, family member or advocate speak with the ministry on your behalf, please complete and submit the Consent to Disclosure of Information form:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/master-lists/forms-and-letters-master-list. To have the consent for faxed or mailed to you, please call 1-866-866-0800.

Direct deposit:

If you need a direct deposit application form, or help in opening a bank account, please let us know. To download a direct deposit application form, please visit:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/master-lists/forms-and-letters-master-list

Reporting Income and Changes:

Note: For information about basic asset limits that apply to clients in receipt of Income Assistance or Disability Assistance, see www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/bc-employment-and-assistance-rate-tables/assets-rate-table

Under ministry legislation, you are only required to complete the Monthly Report (HR0081) if you have any income and/or changes in information or circumstances. The Monthly Report is often referred to as a “stub.” If you have no income or changes to report, the stub does not need to be completed.

Please complete the Monthly Report (HR0081) and submit it by the 5th of the month if you have any changes to declare such as selling a car, receiving money or getting married. You can submit the stub by mail, in person or electronically through My Self Serve. For detailed information on how to complete or print the Monthly Report, please visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/master-lists/forms-and-letters-master-list. You can also phone or visit an office to obtain monthly reports (stubs).

Your monthly payment details are available by phone and online, through My Self Serve, so you can access the information you want, when you want it.

My Self Serve offers a secure, simple, convenient way to access services.
Registered clients can:

- Access file information 24/7, including direct deposit amount, annual exemption amount remaining and monthly report (stub) status,
- Submit a monthly report (stub) online,
- Review important reminders and messages from the ministry, and
- Access other ministry information including forms and policy information.

If you have not yet registered, please visit myselfserve.gov.bc.ca.

Transportation Support

The ministry provides transportation support to all PWD clients receiving disability assistance. You will receive \$52 transportation support included in your monthly payment, or you may choose to receive your transportation support in the form of a bus pass.

Earnings Exemption:

All PWD receive an annual earnings exemption on qualifying income. The yearly annual earnings exemption limits are:

- \$12,000 for a single individual who has the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation
- \$14,400 for families with two adults, only one of which has the PWD designation
- \$24,000 for families where both adults have the PWD designation

If you leave disability assistance because you earned more than your Annual Earnings Exemption, you should continue to submit a Monthly Report form each month. This allows us to reassess your eligibility for assistance without you having to reapply.

Waiting for other income:

If you are waiting for Employment Insurance, WorkSafe BC, Canada Pension Plan or other income, you may need to sign an Assignment of Benefits or a Repayment Agreement form before receiving assistance. Signing these forms allows the ministry to recover money we issued to you for any time period that you were eligible to receive income from another agency. Please contact us at 1-866-866-0800.

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and Trusts:

BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) legislation states that a person receiving disability assistance can have assets held in a trust or RDSP, under certain conditions, without those assets affecting eligibility for assistance.

- For further information on trusts, please visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities
- For information on how to apply for a RDSP, please visit Service Canada's website: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/rdsp.shtml

Medical Services Only:

Individuals who leave assistance for employment, or who receive regular income that surpasses the maximum allowable income for people receiving disability assistance will maintain their PWD designation and their eligibility for medical assistance. You are not required to reapply for the PWD designation if you reapply for disability assistance in the future.

Ministry Support:

The ministry offers a number of supports and services for which you may be eligible. These include:

- **Dental and Orthodontic Services:**
Basic dental services, such as restorations, extractions, and preventative services are provided up to a maximum of \$1000 within two consecutive calendar years. For more information, please visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/supplements
- **Optical Services:**
The ministry may cover routine eye examinations, basic eyewear and repairs. For more information, please visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/supplements
- **Health Supplements:**
Health supplements may be provided to assist with specific health needs. Health supplements may include: diet supplements, medical equipment and devices, ongoing medical supplies and medical transportation. For more information, please visit: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/supplements

- **Employment Program of British Columbia:**
Provides one-stop access to a range of employment services available to all unemployed British Columbians. For information on this employment program and how to access services, please visit:
www.WorkBCCentres.ca.

Other Programs: Other ministries and agencies offer help to persons with disabilities.

- **Child Care:** The Ministry of Children and Family Development is responsible for child care subsidies. If you need help paying for child care, please call 1-888-338-6622 for more information.
- **Home Care:** If you need home care, please call Home and Community Care at the Ministry of Health at 1-888-533-2273.
- **Canada Revenue Agency** provides various services and programs for persons with disabilities, such as the .disability tax credit. For more information, please visit: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability/

Other programs included are:

- Fishing license – reduced fee
- Camping in provincial parks – reduced fee
- Public transit – reduced fee for some services
- Consumer Fuel Tax Rebate – refund of fuel tax paid
- Vehicle insurance – reduced fee
- Homeowners Grant – reduced tax rate
- Recreation programs – reduced fee for some services

Some programs may require proof of your disability designation. Please contact your local ministry office if you require written confirmation of your PWD designation.

If you require further information, please contact the ministry at 1-866-866-0800.

Enclosures: [Persons with Disabilities brochure]
[Direct Deposit brochure]
[How to Complete the “Monthly Report” Form brochure]
[My Self Serve Client Information Sheet]