

Child/Youth Health Care Journal



South Okanagan Social Work



Financial Supports and Charities

Variety- The Children's Charity

The Emergency Response Fund was created to address a crucial need for individual family financial support that was not otherwise being met by our medical and social support system. The Fund's primary guiding principle is to relieve families under extreme financial stress and emotional duress as a result of a child's medical condition. These referrals are for such things as feeding tubes, nutrition supplements, prescriptions, emergency dental treatment, accommodation, meal subsidies and travel to out-of-town treatment centers or hospitals. Families are supported at many sponsored housing places, such as the Ronald McDonald House and Easter Seal Houses.

Individual Funding

Each year Variety - The Children's Charity of BC receives more than 500 applications from individual families with children with special needs. Grants to Individuals subsidize the extraordinary costs of medical supplies, therapies and assessments, wheelchair lifts, modifications for accessibility, medical travel expenses and special equipment, such as orthotics, hearing aids, computerized assistive devices and STAR Walkers.

The I Can Program.

The Heart of Variety Fund is the arm of Variety - The Children's Charity that provides crucial support to British Columbia's families who have a child with special needs. By helping to provide children in need with specialized equipment, we are helping them to grow intellectually, develop self-esteem and confidence, enhance their physical skills and become socialized into society- thereby improving their quality of life and enhancing their opportunities for achieving their life goals.

I Can Talk Too" Program

Variety - The BC Children's Charity in conjunction with Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children in Vancouver provides talking computers or "Speech Generating Devices" (SGD) and access equipment to children who are unable to rely solely on their natural ability to speak or write. This inability to communicate occurs for a variety of reasons such as neurological (e.g. Cerebral Palsy), congenital (e.g. Autism) or acquired disorders (e.g. motor vehicle accident).

STAR Walker Program (Steps Toward Ambulation and Reciprocation)

The STAR Walker Program provides ambulation training orthoses for children with significant physical disabilities. Validated by a clinical study, it combines a technologically advanced ambulation-training device with a program monitored by a team of trained certified professionals.

Wheelchairs and Hydraulic Wheelchair Lifts

Variety provides individual children with wheelchairs and other specialized mobility equipment that provides these children with the freedom and opportunity to actively



move about, develop their communication and social skills, and enhance their overall quality of life.

All enquiries and requests for applications should be directed to the Manager of the Heart of Variety Fund at 604-268-3884, 1-800-381-2040 in BC, or heart.fund@variety.bc.ca.

Adapted from: http://www.variety.bc.ca/our_beneficiaries.php

Cops for Kids: Eligibility Criteria

The Cops for Kids Charitable Foundation was established by members of the Kelowna Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in 2001 as a means of raising money to benefit children in our community. The mandate of the Foundation is to provide financial support to children in medical, physical or traumatic crisis within the Southern Interior Region of British Columbia.

The Foundation provides grants to individuals whose needs meet the following criteria: are under the age of 20; the child has sustained serious trauma, illness or disability or have other needs; reside in the area outlined as the BC R.C.M.P Southeast District jurisdiction; whose family is in need of funding for expenses related to medical treatments and/or funds to purchase specialized equipment (other needs may also be considered). The Foundation may also provide grants to second-party groups and organizations whose primary focus is the well being of the children who meet the above criteria.

Requirements

The Cops for Kids foundation requires each recipient to have established a trust account with a financial institution and have named at least one trustee for all cash grants. For grants relating to the purchase of equipment a trust is not required however the recipient family will be required to pre-purchase the equipment and submit the invoice to Cops for Kids or arrange for the company where the equipment was purchased to invoice Cops for Kids directly. Applicants will be notified, regardless of outcome, within 4 weeks of receipt of application.

If you have questions about the Grant Request Application process, please contact the Cops for Kids Foundation office at: Telephone: (250) 860-5125 Fax: (250) 860-5128 Email: info@copsforkids.ca

Adapted from: <http://copsforkids.org/index.htm>

Sunshine Fund

The Sunshine funds assists financially disadvantaged families with medical expenses, travel costs, equipment and accommodations for children that require a higher level of care not available in the South Okanagan. In order to qualify for funding, families must demonstrate a need for assistance and their combined income has to be less than \$40,000/year. Please contact Pam McCluskey for an application at 250-770-3420.



Presidents Choice Children's Charity

The goal of PCCC is to remove obstacles that make everyday life extremely difficult for children with disabilities and their families. By providing direct financial assistance in the form of mobility equipment, environmental modifications and more, the charity is able to supply much needed resources and help provide a renewed sense of independence, dignity and freedom for children with special needs.

PCCC provides direct financial assistance in the purchase of expensive mobility equipment, environmental modifications, and physical therapy and more to Canadian children 18 years old and under. Parents combined income has to be less than \$70,000/year.

To obtain an application go to:

http://www.presidentschoice.ca/DocDownloads/EN/PC_Childrens_Charity_form.pdf

If you have any questions about the application or whether we fund certain items or services, please do not hesitate to contact us at **1-866-996-9918** or by email at

pccharity@loblaw.ca

Adapted from: <http://www.presidentschoice.ca/ChildrensCharity/HowToApply.aspx>

Make A Wish® British Columbia & Yukon

Our mission is to grant wishes to create hope and happiness for children with life-threatening illnesses across Canada.

Eligibility

Any child, between the ages of 3 and 17 with life-threatening illnesses may be referred. Once the referral has been made, Make-A-Wish® will contact the child's doctor to determine if the child meets the medical criteria for a wish. Once a child's medical condition has been verified and the child deemed eligible, the child's wish will be granted. Make-A-Wish® Canada takes into consideration all factors as they relate to the wish and the wish child, and then plans the wish accordingly.

Contact: #112-2025 W. Broadway, Vancouver BC V6J 1Z6

Toll free number: 1-866-277-9474

Local number: 604-688-7944

Fax: 604-688-7990

bcchapter@makeawish.ca

Adapted from: http://www2.makeawish.ca/contact_us/contact_form



The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada British Columbia & Yukon Chapter

The Children's Wish Foundation is about dignity, about dreams come true, about quality of life in situations where life is, by virtue of its finite terms, so much more precious.

Who is eligible for a Wish?

Children are eligible from 3 years of age and over, but under the age of 18 years when the request is received. They must be legal residents of Canada and have an illness, which is categorized as a high-risk, life threatening condition.

Contact: #119 - 4240 Manor Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 1B2

Tel: (604) 299-2241 Fax: (604) 299-1228

Toll free: 1-800-267-WISH

E mail: bc@childrenswish.ca

Adapted from: http://www.childrenswish.ca/index_2007.php/en/welcome

Government Programs

Fair Pharmacare

If you are a B.C. resident and enrolled with the Medical Services Plan (MSP), register your family to receive your maximum assistance under Fair PharmaCare. To be eligible for Fair PharmaCare you must: be actively enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP) of British Columbia; and have filed an income tax return for the relevant taxation year (that is, two years ago).

To register your family with Fair PharmaCare, you will need for all family members: Personal Health Number (found on your B.C. Care Card) and birth dates. For you and your spouse: Social Insurance numbers, net income from Line 236 of your income tax return from two years ago, the amount on any Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) payments you received two years ago (these will be deducted from your income when calculating your assistance).

Your family pays your full prescription costs until you reach a level known as your deductible. Once you reach your deductible, PharmaCare begins assisting you with your eligible costs for the rest of the year. British Columbians with the lowest incomes do not need to meet a deductible and receive immediate assistance. PharmaCare will pay 70% of your family's eligible costs for the rest of the year after you reach your deductible and until you reach your family maximum. If you or your spouse was born in 1939 or earlier, PharmaCare will pay 75% of your eligible costs for the rest of the year, after you reach your deductible.



To ensure your annual drug costs do not exceed your ability to pay, your family will also be assigned a family maximum. If you reach your family maximum, PharmaCare covers

100% of your eligible drug costs for the rest of the year. PharmaCare sets a maximum cost that it will recognize for eligible prescription drugs and medical supplies and for a dispensing fee. If there is a difference between this amount and the amount charged by a pharmacy, you will be responsible for the difference. If an item is not a benefit of PharmaCare, you will be responsible for the full cost. Only eligible costs count towards your deductible and family maximum.

To Register call toll-free: **1-800-663-7100**

Customer Service Representatives are available: Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m

Register online at: <https://pharmacare.moh.hnet.bc.ca/>

Adapted from: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/plani/planiindex.html>

At Home Program

The At Home Program was developed to assist parents with some of the extraordinary costs of caring for a child with severe disabilities at home. Children may be eligible for full program benefits or for a choice of respite or medical benefits. Eligibility is regularly reassessed.

Respite Benefits

The At Home Program provides respite care for eligible children either in their home or at another location. Families may choose the type of respite services that best suit their needs. The program does not cover respite services provided by any person who is a dependent of the family and lives in the same household, or who is a parent of the child. Benefits are typically \$2400 - \$2800 per year, depending on family income. In some cases At Home Program respite is enhanced to meet extraordinary need. Respite funding may not be available immediately. Families may be wait listed for benefits.

Medical Benefits

The At Home Program provides the following basic medical benefits for children age 17 or younger:

Biomedical Equipment

Dental/Orthodontic and Optical Benefits

Hearing Aids

Medical Equipment

Medical Services Plan coverage

Medical Transportation

Medications & Pharmacare

School-Aged Extended Therapies

Incontinence Supplies

Medical Supplies



Qualifying for Benefits

To qualify for At Home Program Benefits (AHP) a child must be: age 18 or younger for respite benefits, age 17 or younger for medical benefits, a resident of BC, living at home with a parent or guardian and assessed as dependent in at least three of four areas of daily living (i.e., the functional skills related to washing, toileting, feeding and dressing)

As well, in order to qualify for At Home Program medical benefits a child must also be enrolled with the [BC Medical Services Plan](#). Children who require direct nursing care through Nursing Support Services are eligible for At Home Program medical benefits. An At Home Program assessment is not required. Children who have a palliative condition qualify for full At Home Program benefits. An assessment is not required. Children with Indian Status, who are also eligible for the At Home Program, may receive the AHP benefits not duplicated by First Nation and Inuit Health, Government of Canada, or by the Band or Aboriginal Agency. Children or parents who are in receipt of an insurance settlement or court award are not eligible for At Home Program benefits. Eligibility is reassessed on a regular basis.

Contact: Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)
#103 - 1873 Main Street, Penticton, BC V2A 5H2
Phone: 250-770-7475
Manager: Lisa Bourget 250-712-3609

Medical Benefits Program

Ministry of Children & Family Development
PO Box 9763 - STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9S5
Toll-free: 1-888-613-3232 or Phone: 1-250-387-9649
Adapted from: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/index.htm
[http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/what we do/support for children/at home.htm](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/what_we_do/support_for_children/at_home.htm)

Ministry of Housing and Social Development (HSD)

Provides the following services for eligible clients.

Medical Transportation Supplement

The BC Employment and Assistance Program assists qualified clients who face extraordinary costs travelling for essential medical treatment or for approved alcohol or drug residential treatment facility licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act or that are funded by a health authority. Assistance may be provided to clients travelling within their own community or to another community when treatment is unavailable locally. The medical transportation rate is 20 cents per kilometre for clients using private vehicles to travel to essential medical treatment. Where possible, clients are expected to use the most cost-effective means of transportation (e.g. bus) to travel to their medical appointments or treatments. In extraordinary cases (e.g. trips lasting several days), meal allowances of up to \$12 per full day are provided. To be eligible for the medical transportation supplement, clients must provide written proof of medical



need from a physician and a list of the expected travel costs for the requested transportation.

Medical Services Only (MSO)

Through Medical Services Only, the Ministry of Housing and Social Development may provide specific health supplements to certain categories of former BC Employment and Assistance recipients to meet their health needs. In addition to Medical Services Plan and Pharmacare coverage, supplementary assistance through Medical Services Only may include prescribed medical supplies and equipment (e.g. orthotics, wheelchairs), basic dental and optical services, and extended medical therapies.

Monthly Natal Supplement

The BC Employment and Assistance Program's monthly Natal Supplement is \$45 per month. The Natal Supplement is provided to expectant women on income assistance and families with infants up to seven months old. The supplement is intended to provide better pre- and post-natal nutrition for healthier mothers and their babies. It may be used to purchase items such as nutritious food as well as clothing and baby equipment. The BC Employment and Assistance Program also provides enriched infant formula for dependent children under 12 months of age where a medical condition requires the use of specialized formula or there is a risk of disease being transmitted through the mother's breast milk.

For more information on the above benefits available through HSD please call 1-866-866-0800. Press 33 for your local office.

Website: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm>

Adapted from: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm>

Healthy Kids Program

The Healthy Kids Program helps low-income families with costs associated with basic dental care and prescription glasses for their children. Dependant children under 19 years of age, in families approved for premium assistance by the Medical Services Plan (MSP) through the Ministry of Health Services, are automatically registered with the Healthy Kids Program. Before any dental or optical services begin, families need to show their child's BC Care Card to their dentist or eye specialist who will confirm the child's eligibility under the Healthy Kids Program. The Province pays dentists and eye specialists directly for the services children receive. Additional charges over and above what the Healthy Kids Program will cover are the responsibility of the family.

More information on the BC Healthy Kids Program

1-866-866-0800 press 4, then 2

BC Healthy Kids Program

9950 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria V8W 9R3

Adapted from: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm>



Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit

The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program is Health Canada's national, needs-based health benefit program that funds benefit claims for a specified range of drugs, dental care, vision care, medical supplies and equipment, short-term crisis intervention mental health counselling and medical transportation for eligible First Nations people and Inuit.

Contact: Suite 405, Winch Building Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 1A1

Telephone: (604) 666-2083 Fax: (604) 666-2258

Adapted from: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php>

What is the Child Disability Benefit?

The Child Disability Benefit (CDB) is a tax-free benefit of up to \$2,395 per year (\$199.58 per month) for families who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. The CDB is paid monthly to the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) eligible individuals and also as a supplement to the Children's Special Allowances (CSA). Families who are eligible for the CCTB for a child will receive the CDB only if the child is also eligible for the disability amount, also known as the Disability Tax Credit. Not all children with disabilities are eligible for the disability amount. To be eligible a child must have a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. An impairment is prolonged if it has lasted, or is expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 12 months. A qualified practitioner must certify on Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate, that the child's impairment meets certain conditions. Once we receive a completed Form T2201, we will advise you if the child is eligible for the disability amount and the CDB.

For more information about the disability amount, and other amounts you may be able to claim, see Guide RC4064, Medical and Disability-Related Information - Includes Form T2201. Call the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-387-1193

Website: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/fq_cdb-eng.html#q1

Adapted from: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/fq_cdb-eng.html#q1

Registered Disability Savings Plan

A registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a savings plan that is intended to help parents and others save for the long-term financial security of a person who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.

Contributions to an RDSP are not tax deductible and can be made until the end of the year in which the beneficiary turns 59 years of age. Contributions that are withdrawn are not to be included as income for the beneficiary when paid out of a RDSP. However, the Canada disability savings grant, Canada disability savings bond and investment income



earned in the plan will be included in the beneficiary's income for tax purposes when paid out of the RDSP.

Canada Disability Savings Bond

The government will pay income-tested bonds of up to \$1,000 a year to low-income Canadians with disabilities, regardless of the amount contributed. The lifetime bond limit is \$20,000. A bond can be paid into an RDSP until the year in which the beneficiary turns 49 years old.

All grants and bonds paid into the plan in the **ten years** preceding one of the following events must be repaid to the Government of Canada: the RDSP is terminated (voluntary closure); the plan is deregistered; a disability assistance payment is made from the plan; the beneficiary ceases to be eligible for the disability amount; or the beneficiary dies.

Provincial Implications

British Columbia Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory have exempted the RDSP as assets when determining a person's eligibility for provincial disability benefits. In these provinces/territories, a person who is eligible for provincial disability benefits may receive disbursements from an RDSP without fear of disqualification from the provincial benefits. This will allow people with disabilities and their families to use the plan in whatever way they see fit to secure the future and improve their lives.

For more information visit the Canada Revenue Agency website at:

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

Adapted from: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/menu-eng.html>

Transportation

What is the Travel Assistance Plan?

The Medical Services Plan of the BC Ministry of Health Services has a program called the Travel Assistance Program which helps to defray the cost of travel within BC for medical treatment. Anyone registered with a BC Care Card is eligible, but they require an initial form to be filled out by their physician. Please note that travel arrangements and MSP approval must be obtained (phone 1-800 -661-2668, or 250--387-8277 in Victoria) prior to travel!

Adapted from: www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca./rural/tap_physicians.html



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Adapted from: <http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/bcea.htm>

What is HOPE AIR?

Hope Air (formerly Mission Air) is a not-for-profit charitable organization which helps provide air transportation for financially burdened Canadians to and from specialized medical treatment or diagnostic centres. They do this by utilizing empty or donated seats on existing corporate, government, personal and commercial flights. Anyone, patient or professional, can call the office to see if a flight is available. In general, one should call 2-3 weeks in advance, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm EST. They will require information about the physicians/centres involved, the date of the appointment, and the patient's illness and need for follow-up. There is a processing fee if a flight is arranged.

Address: Proctor & Gamble Building, 4711 Yonge St., North York, ON M2N 6K8

Phone: 416-222-6335 FAX: 416-222-6930

e-mail: mail@hopeair.org

website: www.hopeair.org

Adapted from:

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/SocialWork/Forfamilies/Travel.htm>

What is Angel Flight of British Columbia?

Angel Flight of British Columbia is a charitable organization that provides air transportation for people with serious illnesses who must travel long distances to and from hospitals or treatment centers in Victoria and Vancouver. Utilizing a network of volunteer pilots, aircraft owners, and ground support, Angel Flight transports ambulatory patients whose medical conditions or financial circumstances make it difficult or impossible for them to travel by other means. They fly whenever needed and as often



as their capacity allows. Their services are supported through corporate and private donations, as well as fundraising events.

To arrange a flight: (1) Download and print out the [Liability Waiver Form](#) from their website. (2) Fill in the form and sign it. (3) Fax it to Angel Flight's number below, or mail it to the address below. (4) You will be contacted by Angel Flight to further arrange your flight.

Address: Angel Flight of British Columbia, P.O. Box 2623, Sidney, BC V8L 4C1

Phone: 250-514-3867 e-mail: angel@angelflight.ca

FAX: 250-655-0247 website: www.angelflight.ca

Adapted from:

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/SocialWork/Forfamilies/Travel.htm>

What is the Shriner's Care Cruiser Program?

Today the Shrine Care Cruiser program, which is one of a kind in North America, includes five modern highway coaches that travel throughout the province of British Columbia. Any BC child and their parents, or care givers who are receiving treatment at any Shriner's Hospitals for Children, BC Children's Hospital, BC Women's Hospital and Sunny Hill Hospital. Any other travel requests must be pre-approved by the Shriner's of BC & Yukon Board of Directors. Like the care given at our 22 Shriner's Hospitals for Children the transportation service is free of charge. Patients, other than the Shriner's Hospital for Children patients, are however responsible for their own accommodations and meals. Pre-booking is a must. Drivers are not allowed to transport persons who are not listed on their manifest. Pre-book your travel request as soon as you know the date of your hospital appointment.

Contact: Virginia McMahon, Patient Co-Ordinator

Vancouver: 604-291-7707 or Toll-free:1-800-661-KIDS

Fax: 604-291-9147

In Case of Emergency Phone: (604) 619-7389

E-mail: shrinekids@shawcable.com

website: www.shriners.bc.ca/news/shrine_bus.shtml

Adapted from: <http://www.shriners.bc.ca/bus/index.shtml>

For other related information please contact your program Social Worker.