

The Alberta Supports Webpage

Alberta Supports is a new service designed to make the search for programs and services easier for Albertans. Through its webpage, Alberta Supports acts as a single point of contact that allows people to quickly find information they need and to help them determine their eligibility for an array of provincial and federal social programs for people with disabilities.



Financial Help

Many people require assistance paying for daily needs or a one-time purchase. Others are looking for advice about managing finances. Alberta Support's Financial Help section puts people with disabilities in touch with income support services, and provides information on important decisions such as guardianship and trusteeship.

Housing & Rent

Finding accessible or affordable housing isn't easy. But sometimes it doesn't take much to make a place physically or financially accessible. This section of the website links people with disabilities to important services like RAMP (Residential Access Modification Program) and special-needs housing programs.

Working & Keeping Active

Whether you are already working, looking for work or just wanting to keep active, services and resources in this section will help you address issues related to your disability.

Alberta Supports also offers a wealth of information regarding services specifically for developmental, hearing, mobility, visual, and other disabilities,

as well as resources for professionals who work with people with disabilities.

For more information, visit <http://www.programs.alberta.ca> or call 310-0000 toll-free in Alberta.



Bill 17 Passed

On November 30, Bill 17 – the Alberta Health Act 2010 – was passed by the Legislative Assembly. This important piece of legislation contains principles that will guide the health system, as well as a commitment to gather input from Albertans. The Alberta Health Act 2010 also outlines requirements to establish a health charter that sets out expectations and responsibilities within the health system, and a health advocate, whose role will be to address citizen concerns with the health system as they relate to the health charter.

The Alberta Health Act 2010 will come into force upon proclamation. To read or obtain a copy of the Alberta Health Act 2010, visit the Legislative Assembly of Alberta website at www.assembly.ab.ca.

ADF Update

The Alberta Disabilities Forum recently released its bi-annual report for 2010-11. Thus far, the year has been one of success and accomplishment. ADF's working groups have produced position papers on the government's pharmaceutical strategy, access to employment and support services, and hiring people with disabilities. ADF's work continues to impact government decisions that are important to Albertans with disabilities. To read the full report, please visit www.adforum.ca.



What's new for the Registered Disability Savings Plan in 2011?

Starting next year, people will be able to carry forward unused Canada disability savings grant and bond entitlement to future years. The carry forward period can only start at 2008 or later and is for a period of 10 years.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada will base the amount of the grants and bonds that will be available from any particular year on the beneficiary's family income for that year and matching rates, based on the current rules.

For example, consider a person with a disability who has a low-income and has been eligible for the Disability Tax Credit his or her entire life. In 2011, that person decides to open an RDSP.

In each of 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, the person will have accumulated:

- \$500 in matching grant entitlements at a 300% matching rate (for a total of \$2,000);
- \$1,000 in matching grant entitlements at the 200% rate (for a total of \$4,000); and
- \$1,000 in bond entitlements (for a total of \$4,000).

To benefit from the government's matching grant entitlements, the required sums of money must first be contributed to the RDSP; however, the person's RDSP will automatically receive \$4,000 of free bond entitlement money.

Rollover of RRSPs to RDSPs

As of July 1, 2011, a deceased individual's RRSP proceeds will be allowed to roll over to the RDSP of the deceased person's financially dependent child or grandchild. These rules will also apply for amounts transferred to an RDSP

from registered retirement income funds (RRIF) and certain lump-sum amounts paid from registered pension plans (RPP). It must be noted that these changes only apply to deaths occurring after March 3, 2010.

Additionally, where the death of an RRSP holder occurs after 2007 and before 2011, special transitional rules will allow a contribution to be made to the RDSP of that person's financially dependent child or grandchild. In order to be eligible, the contribution to an RDSP can only be made after June 30, 2011 and, where the death of the RDSP holder occurs after 2007 and before 2011, the contribution must be made before 2012. In other words, individuals will have six months in which to make the contribution to an RDSP.

For more information on the RDSP or these changes, please contact Trudy at 780-488-9088 or 1-800-387-2514 or visit <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/rdsp-reei/menu-eng.html>.



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