



## Financial Assistance

*Information on pensions, supplements, benefits, allowances, and taxes.*

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### **Automobile Insurance Discounts**

**Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) 1-800-663-3051**

If you are 65 or older, and use your motor vehicle for pleasure only, you may be eligible for a discount of 25 % off your basic AUTOPLAN insurance premium. Disabled seniors may qualify for both Seniors' rate and the Disability Discount.

[www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com)

**Provincial Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Consumer Taxation Branch 250-387-1500**

PO Box 9442 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V4

Offers rebate to Handicapped Persons.

[www.rev.gov.bc.ca/ctb](http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/ctb)

### **Compassionate Care Benefits**

Benefits are available to Employment Insurance eligible workers who must be absent from work to provide support to a family member who is gravely ill with a serious risk of death. Six weeks of benefits are available to those who are eligible and provide the required medical certificate. The benefit can be used by one individual or shared with eligible family members to care for a child,

parent, spouse or common-law partner. More information is available at **Service Canada** at **1-800-206-7218**.

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)

### **Disability Tax Credit**

**Enabled Financial Solutions Ltd. 250-514-2699**

550-2950 Douglas Street

Victoria, BC V8T 4N4

Fee based service to secure a disability tax credit for eligible persons.

[www.enabledfinancial.ca](http://www.enabledfinancial.ca)

### **Health Benefits & Subsidies**

**Medical Services Plan (MSP) 1-800-663-7100**

**Out of province claims 250-952-1334**

The Medical Services Plan provides basic health services for BC residents. For information regarding eligibility and services refer to the "BC Seniors' Guide" available at **BC Seniors' Line** at

**1-800-465-4911**

[www.hibc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.hibc.gov.bc.ca)

**Pharmacare 1-800-663-7100**

Ministry of Health

PO Box 9655 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9P2

Pharmacare is the program that provides assistance for prescription drug costs. Call for information and eligibility.

[www.hibc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.hibc.gov.bc.ca)

## Housing Benefits & Subsidies

### **BC Home Owner's Grant** 1-888-355-2700

If you are a permanent resident in BC, a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, and own and occupy your residence, you may be eligible for the Provincial Home Owner Grant. The grant reduces the amount of property taxes you have to pay. To apply for the Home Owner Grant, complete the application form on the back of the property tax notice, which is sent to you in May of each year.

[www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/hog)

### **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation** 250-363-8040

Information on Home Owners' grants, including Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program & Home Adaptation for Seniors Independence. Information on home security, home inspection checklists, and avoiding renovations problems.

[www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca)

### **Deferment of Property Taxes** **Ministry of Finance** 250-387-0555

Real Property Taxation Branch

Tax Deferment Section

Ministry of Finance & Corporate Relations

PO Box 9446 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9V6

Homeowners aged 55 years and over may defer the payment of annual property taxes on their principal residence. The program is also available to homeowners of any age who are widowed spouses, or who meet the definition of a person with disabilities, in the Disability Benefits Program Act.

[www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/rpt](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/rpt)

### **Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters Program (SAFER)** 1-800-257-7756

BC Housing

101 - 4555 Kingsway

Burnaby, BC V5H 4V8

Provides direct cash assistance to eligible residents of British Columbia who are age 60 or over and who pay rent for their homes. Seniors may be eligible if they: pay more than 30% of their total income toward rent for their homes or pad rental; are age 65 or over, and are entitled to Old Age Security from the Government of Canada; are age 60-64 and a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant; have resided in BC for the full 12 months immediately preceding application; applicant or spouse must have lived in Canada for 10 continuous years as an adult.

[www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)

## Provincial Programs

If you are 65 or over and are not eligible for the Old Age Security Pension and its supplement – Guaranteed Income Supplement. - you may be eligible for assistance from the Ministry of Human Resources. Eligibility is based on your income, assets, and shelter costs. For more information contact your local Ministry of Human Resources office listed under “Governments - British Columbia” in the blue pages of the TELUS Phone Directory or phone **Service BC** at **250-387-6121**.

## Federal Programs

### **Service Canada**                      **1-800-277-9914**

PO Box 1177

Victoria, BC V8W 2V2

Service Canada is responsible for administering the federal benefits listed below. Call the number above to book an appointment. If you have a hearing or speech impairment and you use a TDD/TTY device, call **1-800-255-4786**.

[www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)

**Canada Pension Plan (CPP)** provides retirement pension and other benefits for those people who have contributed to the Plan through paid employment in Canada. The amount of CPP benefit is determined by the contribution you made during the time you were employed. Canada Pension Plan retirement benefits may begin as early as age 60. Applications for Canada Pension Plan benefits are available from any Service Canada office.

**Old Age Security Pension (OAS)** is a federally-funded basic monthly pension that is paid to you if you have reached the age of 65, if you are a Canadian citizen or a legal resident of Canada and if you meet the residence requirements. To receive OAS, you should apply at least six months before your 65th birthday or the date of your eligibility.

**Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** may be available to you depending on your income and your marital status. To receive GIS, you must apply by providing an application, which can be obtained from Service Canada. GIS is based on your annual income, or the combined income of you and your spouse.

**Allowance for the Survivor** may be available for the spouse of someone receiving OAS and GIS. You must be between 60 and 65 years of age and meet residence requirements. You may receive an Allowance for the Survivor until you reach age 65 depending on your income.



# Health Services

*A listing of public and private agencies providing health care.*

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## **Aboriginal Health Services**

### **Aboriginal Diabetes Team and Health Nutritionist**    **250-370-8258**

Nutrition counselling available in the home or community.

### **Saanich First Nations Adult Care Society**                      **250-544-1627**

Offers home care nursing, home support, and medical transportation in the Saanich Peninsula.

### **Victoria Native Friendship Centre**                      **250-384-3211**

231 Regina Avenue

Victoria, BC V8Z 1J6

Services include a Mental Health Liaison, Outreach workers, and a Health Clinic with a Physician and Nurse Practitioner.

## **Clinics – Health Centres**

### **Arthritis Centre**                                      **250-598-2277**

2680 Richmond Road

Victoria, BC V8R 4S9

Treatment available on referral from a doctor. Treatment includes physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, and social work counselling. The Centre offers various programs including osteoporosis rehabilitation, fibromyalgia self-management, pain and stress management, and a variety of education classes.

[www.arthritis.ca](http://www.arthritis.ca)