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**Province of  
British Columbia**  
Legislative Assembly

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**RE: UBCM follow up Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation**

**Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

Local Government House

525 Government Street

Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8

I hope many of you were able to attend discussions with Minister Stilwell at UBCM on our Governments commitment to make BC the most Accessible Province in Canada by 2024.

It is a lofty goal and will need all British Columbians to participate in some small way. As Leaders in your Communities you are in a position to help the Province move this initiative forward and make your own Communities safer and welcoming for all people with Disabilities through the process.

We are continuing to create inclusive environments and workspaces through the many initiatives and programs, many of them targeted to assist Municipalities that have been developed since the launch of Accessibility 2024.

I challenge all of you to look at your Communities through the eyes of people with any disability, (visual, hearing, mobility or developmental) and envision the challenges those people face every day in moving around the communities they live in.

Meaningful employment for all is also a 2024 goal so I have included an information sheet on Resources and Supports for Employers in addition to a sheet on Resources for Municipalities.

Please share this information with all of your Members and contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,



Linda Larson



## Resources and Supports for Employers – Funding

Resource	Organization	Details	Contact Information
<b>Canada Job Fund</b>	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training	Three streams of eligible programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Canada BC Job Grant</li> <li>2. Employer Sponsored Training</li> <li>3. Employment Services and Supports</li> </ol>	<a href="http://www.jtst.gov.bc.ca/cjfaqreement/">www.jtst.gov.bc.ca/cjfaqreement/</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:cjfinfo@gov.bc.ca">cjfinfo@gov.bc.ca</a>
<b>Canada Job Grant</b>	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training	Employers determine what type of training is required.  Eligible training must lead to an available job in BC.	<a href="http://www.workbc.ca/canadabcjobgrant">www.workbc.ca/canadabcjobgrant</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:cjginfo@gov.bc.ca">cjginfo@gov.bc.ca</a>
<b>The Enabling Accessibility Fund</b>	Government of Canada	A federal Grants and Contributions program that supports capital costs of construction and renovations related to improving physical accessibility and safety for people with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces.	<a href="http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/index.shtml">www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/index.shtml</a>  Phone: 1-800-622-6232 TTY: 1-800-926-9105
<b>Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities</b>	Government of Canada	Helps people with disabilities prepare for, obtain and maintain employment or self-employment.	<a href="http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/of/index.shtml">www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/of/index.shtml</a>  Phone: 1-800-622-6232 Email:
<b>Training Tax Credit For Employers</b>	Government of Canada	The training tax credit provides refundable income tax credits for employers who employ apprentices enrolled in apprenticeship programs administered through the Industry Training Authority.  The enhanced tax credit is	<a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca">www.gov.bc.ca</a>  Phone: 1-877-387-3332 Email: <a href="mailto:ITBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca">ITBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca</a>







		available to employers of persons with disabilities who are entitled to a basic or completion tax credit, or who are entitled to the federal apprenticeship job creation tax credit for the year.	
<b>Disability Supports for Employment Fund (DSEF)</b>	Vancouver Foundation	<p>\$25 million Disability Supports for Employment Fund</p> <p>Provides grants to organizations that support specialized accommodation, tools and services to support people with disabilities in the workplace.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants">www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants</a></p> <p>Phone: 1-604-688-2204</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@vancouverfoundation.ca">info@vancouverfoundation.ca</a></p>





## Resources and Supports for Employers – Programs and Services

Program	Organization	Services and Supports	Contact Information
<b>WorkBC Employment Services Centres</b>	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training	WorkBC provides a flexible range of services and supports related to employment for people with disabilities. Services and supports are delivered through over 100 WorkBC Employment Services Centres across the province, with multiple alternative service delivery locations.	WorkBCCentres.ca  Phone: 1-800-663-7867 TDD: 1-800-661-8773
<b>Disability Services or Disability Resource Centres</b>	Post-secondary institutions throughout BC	<p>The contact area at post-secondary institutions for students identifying as having a disability, and seeking to access disability services.</p> <p>The Disability office provides learning and environmental services and supports to student with disabilities and liaises with the student, faculty and other campus offices in a manner that is supportive of the students' educational needs.</p> <p>Disability Services or Disability Resource Centres are available in 26 post-secondary institutions on more than 80 campuses throughout BC.</p>	<p>Varies by community</p> <p><a href="http://www.workbc.ca/workbc/media/workbc/documents/docs/disability_coordinators.pdf">www.workbc.ca/workbc/media/workbc/documents/docs/disability_coordinators.pdf</a></p>
<b>Technology @ Work</b>	Neil Squire Society	Provides Assistive Technology equipment, products and services to enable British Columbians with disabilities to secure and	<p><a href="http://www.neilsquire.ca">www.neilsquire.ca</a></p> <p>Phone: 1-877-673-4636 Email: <a href="mailto:info@neilsquire.ca">info@neilsquire.ca</a></p>







		obtain work	
<b>Community Action Employment Plan / Employment First</b>	Community Living BC (CLBC)	<p>CLBC released a three-year Community Action Employment Plan to help increase the number of job opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities who wish to work in their communities.</p> <p>One key element is Employment First, which is helping to create a shift in attitude and culture among all stakeholders toward a belief that individuals with developmental disabilities have a valuable contribution to make in inclusive employment situations.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.communitylivingbc.ca">www.communitylivingbc.ca</a></p> <p>Phone: 1-877-660-2522</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@communitylivingbc.ca">info@communitylivingbc.ca</a></p>
<b>Ready, Willing and Able</b>	Inclusion BC	<p>Ready, Willing and Able is an exciting new initiative aimed at increasing the employment rate of British Columbians with a developmental disability and autism spectrum disorder.</p> <p>The initiative connects employers with individuals who are ready, willing and able to work.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.inclusionbc.org">www.inclusionbc.org</a></p> <p>Phone: 1-800-618-1119</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@inclusionbc.org">info@inclusionbc.org</a></p>
	Open Door Group	<p>Open Door Group provides a full range of client-centered services to support British Columbians to achieve employment or community attachment.</p> <p>Open Door Group delivers employment services to over</p>	<p><a href="http://opendoorgroup.org">opendoorgroup.org</a></p> <p>Phone: 1-866-377-3670</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@opendoorgroup.org">info@opendoorgroup.org</a></p>







		20,000 individuals per year across the province and is partnered with over 20 organizations to deliver these services. They offer resources free of charge to support employers who hire persons with disabilities and barriers to employment.	
	British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)	BCANDS is an award winning, provincial, not for profit, charitable Society serving the unique and diverse disability and health resource / support service needs of the Aboriginal population of British Columbia. BCANDS provides a vast array of services to eligible clients and organizations, both within Aboriginal communities and within British Columbia's urban and rural centres.	<a href="http://www.bcands.bc.ca">www.bcands.bc.ca</a> Phone: 1-888-815 -5511 Email: <a href="mailto:bcands@bcands.bc.ca">bcands@bcands.bc.ca</a>
	Canadian Mental Health Association of BC (CMHA-BC)	<p>Promotes the mental health of British Columbians and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness through advocacy, workplace mental health education and training, community-based research, and services.</p> <p>CMHA-BC is hosting the 2016 National Bottom Line Conference, which brings together business leaders, policy-makers, researchers, and workers to improve mental health in Canadian workplaces.</p>	<a href="http://www.cmha.bc.ca">www.cmha.bc.ca</a> Phone: 1-800-555-8222 Email: <a href="mailto:info@cmha.bc.ca">info@cmha.bc.ca</a>







## Accessibility-related Funding Opportunities and Resources for Municipalities, Communities and Groups

Funding	Description	Contact Information
<b>Age-Friendly Communities</b>	The Age-Friendly grant program provides grants of up to \$20,000 to local governments to support age-friendly planning, policy development and implementation. Toolkits are available online.	<a href="http://gov.bc.ca/agefriendly">gov.bc.ca/agefriendly</a>
<b>Job Creation Partnerships/Community and Employer Partnerships (CEP)</b>	This initiative increases employment opportunities for unemployed British Columbians through the use of agency and business partnerships, shared information and technology, and innovative processes and practices. Fact sheets are available online.	<a href="http://workbc.ca/job-seekers">workbc.ca/job-seekers</a>
<b>Healthy Communities Capacity Building Grants for Local Governments</b>	The Healthy Communities Capacity Building Grants support local government learning about the community context for health and well-being, partnership development between sectors, collaborative priority setting for health and well-being in local planning and policy, and innovative action to influence local health outcomes.	<a href="http://planh.ca">planh.ca</a>
<b>Guidelines: Applying for a Community Gaming Grant</b>	A variety of gaming grants are available to communities through the Ministry of Finance Community Gaming Grants program. Guidelines to apply and details regarding applications and timeframes are available on the website.	<a href="http://gaming.gov.bc.ca">gaming.gov.bc.ca</a>
<b>Home Adaptations for Independence (HAFI)</b>	The Home Adaptations for Independence (HAFI) program provides financial assistance to help eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities in British Columbia to continue to live in the comfort of their home.	<a href="http://bchousing.org/hafi">bchousing.org/hafi</a>
<b>Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL)</b>	A self-managed care option for home support services where funds are provided to eligible clients to purchase and manage their own home support services.	<a href="http://www.viha.ca/hcc/services">www.viha.ca/hcc/services</a>
<b>Federal Enabling Accessibility Fund – Community Accessibility Stream</b>	The Community Accessibility Stream of the Enabling Accessibility Fund is designed to provide funding to eligible recipients for projects that improve accessibility in communities across Canada.	<a href="http://esdc.gc.ca">esdc.gc.ca</a>







<b>Quality of Life Program -Rick Hansen Foundation</b>	Grants to help remove barriers to participation in community life.	<a href="http://www.rickhansen.com/What-We-Do/Quality-of-Life">www.rickhansen.com/What-We-Do/Quality-of-Life</a>
<b>Social Development for Disability Programs</b>	The Disability Component of the Social Development Partnerships Program (SDPP-D) supports projects intended to improve the participation and integration of people with disabilities in all aspects of Canadian society.	<a href="http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/index.shtml">www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/index.shtml</a>
<b>Sports-related grant programs</b>	ViaSport administers sport-related grant programs funded by the government of BC that encourage sport participation and healthy living, develop high-performance athletes and improve delivery of sport and recreation programs to benefit all residents.	<a href="http://www.viasport.ca/grant-funding-programs">www.viasport.ca/grant-funding-programs</a>
<b>Resource</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>Planat, an online accessibility tool from the Rick Hansen Foundation</b>	Promote your accessible business – Planat is an online tool that allows communities and users to post and find reviews on the accessibility of shops, restaurants, hotels, and more.	<a href="http://Planat.com">Planat.com</a>
<b>Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities</b>	Includes workshops, online training and downloadable resources to ensure emergency preparedness plans include aspects for all members of the community. Training manual for communities: Prepare to Survive, Prepare to Help.	<a href="http://disabilityalliancebc.org">disabilityalliancebc.org</a>
<b>Planning for the future: Age-friendly and Disability-friendly Official Community Plans</b>	This key document provides an introduction to Official Community Plans and outlines the following 5 guidelines with illustrative examples.	<a href="http://www.ubcm.ca">www.ubcm.ca</a>
<b>BC Healthy Communities Society: Plan H Program</b>	This Program, managed by BC Healthy Communities Society, supports local government engagement and partnerships across sectors for creating healthier communities, and provides learning opportunities, resources, and leading-edge practices for collaborative local action. Toolkits and additional information are available online.	<a href="http://planh.ca">planh.ca</a>
<b>2014 Building Access Handbook</b>	The content of the new handbook has been updated, from the 2007 edition, to align with the 2012 BC Building Code. This update also	<a href="http://housing.gov.bc.ca">housing.gov.bc.ca</a>







	includes adaptable housing guidelines, which were added to the BC Building Code in 2009. The handbook is available online.	
<b>The Accessible Communities Bylaws Guide</b>	Comprehensive outline of the benefits of implementing municipal bylaws with an accessibility focus related to planning, public facilities, parks streets, parking and housing.	<a href="http://sparc.bc.ca">sparc.bc.ca</a>
<b>Making Space for Everyone: Accessible, Inclusive and Safe Communities</b>	Overview of areas of design to improve accessibility and inclusion to better meet the needs of individuals with disabilities related to mobility, hearing, vision and cognitive challenges.	<a href="http://sparc.bc.ca">sparc.bc.ca</a>
<b>Accessible Community Garden Guidelines</b>	Includes basic steps and planning ideas to ensure that community gardens are be designed to eliminate some of the barriers that could potentially prevent people with disabilities from enjoying and participating in.	<a href="http://cydi.ca">cydi.ca</a>
<b>Creating Healthy Communities</b>	Includes tools and actions to foster environments for healthy living, including: outdoor activities, building community and connecting neighbors to each other.	<a href="http://smartgrowth.bc.ca">smartgrowth.bc.ca</a>
<b>BC Human Rights Code</b>	Online version of the BC Human Rights Code, including information about discrimination and the complaints process.	<a href="http://bclaws.ca">bclaws.ca</a>
<b>United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (UNCRPD)</b>	Information about the UNCRDP which acts as outline of human rights for people with disabilities related to all facets of everyday life.	<a href="http://un.org/disabilities">un.org/disabilities</a>

For a more comprehensive list of programs and services, please visit the Government of B.C. Disability Services homepage at: [www.gov.bc.ca/disabilityservices](http://www.gov.bc.ca/disabilityservices). Or, email the Accessibility Secretariat at [Accessibility@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Accessibility@gov.bc.ca) for more information on specific programs.







## Disability-related Funding Opportunities, Resources and Discounts for Individuals

Funding / Resource / Reduction	Description	Contact Information
<b>Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Designation / Income Assistance</b>	The BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities provides disability assistance and supplements to provide greater independence for people with disabilities, including security of income, enhanced well-being, and participation in the community.	<a href="http://www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca/pwd/eapwd.htm">www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca/pwd/eapwd.htm</a>  Phone: 1-866-866-0800
<b>2014 Building Access Handbook</b>	The content of the new handbook has been updated, from the 2007 edition, to align with the 2012 BC Building Code. This update also includes adaptable housing guidelines, which were added to the BC Building Code in 2009.	<a href="http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca">www.housing.gov.bc.ca</a>
<b>Choice in Supports for Independent Living (CSIL)</b>	A self-managed care option for home support services where funds are provided to eligible clients to purchase and manage their own home support services.	<a href="http://www.viha.ca/hcc/services">www.viha.ca/hcc/services</a>
<b>Employment Program of BC (EPBC)</b>	The Employment Program of BC (EPBC) provides comprehensive employment services and supports based on an individuals' need. EPBC is delivered by contracted service providers through 85 WorkBC Employment Services Centres throughout BC, ensuring that British Columbians can access standardized needed services and supports.	<a href="http://www.workbc.ca">www.workbc.ca</a>  Phone: 1-877-952-6914
<b>Enabling Accessibility</b>	A federal Grants and Contributions program that supports capital costs of construction and renovations related to improving physical accessibility and safety for people with disabilities in communities and workplaces.	<a href="http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/index.shtml">www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/index.shtml</a>  Phone: 1-800-622-6232 TTY: 1-800-926-9105
<b>Housing Adaptations for Independence (HAFI)</b>	Provides financial assistance to help eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities in British Columbia to continue to live in the comfort of their	<a href="http://www.bchousing.org/Options">www.bchousing.org/Options</a>  Phone: 1-800-257-7756







	home.	
<b>Endowment 150</b>  <b>Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)</b>  <b>Disability Tax Credit</b>	<p>Endowment 150 promotes financial literacy and provides access to available tax credits and benefits. To help those who want to save, Endowment 150 offers one-time \$150 gifts to Registered Disability Savings Plans (RDSP). To receive the Endowment 150:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can provide a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) number and verification of a minimum \$25 deposit</li> <li>You are eligible for the Federal Disability Tax Credit</li> </ul> <p>The RDSP is a long-term savings plan to help Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the future.</p> <p>The Disability Tax Credit is a non-refundable tax credit used to reduce income tax payable on the income tax and benefit return. A person with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions may claim the disability amount once they are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.</p>	<b>Endowment 150</b> <a href="http://www.endowment150.ca/home.htm">www.endowment150.ca/home.htm</a> Phone: 1-866-523-3157 Email: <a href="mailto:info@endowment150.ca">info@endowment150.ca</a>  <b>Registered Disability Savings Plan</b> <a href="http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/rdsp/">www.cra-arc.gc.ca/rdsp/</a> or <a href="http://www.rdsp.com">www.rdsp.com</a> Phone: 1 800-622-6232 TTY: 1-800-926-9105  <b>Disability Tax Credit</b> <a href="http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability/">www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability/</a> Phone: 1-800-959-8281
<b>Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)</b>	The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program provides monthly cash payments to subsidize rents for eligible BC residents who are age 60+ and pay rent for their homes.	<a href="http://www.bchousing.org/Options">www.bchousing.org/Options</a>  Phone: 1-800-257-7756
<b>BC Bus Pass Program</b>	The BC Bus Pass Program offers a reduced cost, annual bus pass for low income seniors and individuals receiving disability assistance from the Province of British Columbia. Passes are valid in communities serviced by BC Transit or TransLink. Handy Dart is not included in this program.	<a href="http://www.sd.gov.bc.ca/programs/bus-pass.html">www.sd.gov.bc.ca/programs/bus-pass.html</a>  Phone: 1-866-866-0800







<b>Fuel Tax Refund for Persons with Disabilities</b>	Individuals with certain disabilities may apply for a refund of the provincial motor fuel tax they pay on gasoline, diesel or propane used in their vehicle up to a maximum of \$500 per calendar year.	gov.bc.ca/consumertaxes Phone: 1 877 388-4440 Email: CTBTaxQuestions@gov.bc.ca
<b>Camping for Free at BC Provincial Parks</b>	Camping parties with an eligible person with disabilities can camp for free at BC Provincial Parks.	www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fees Email: ParkInfo@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca
<b>Discounted BC Ferries' fares for residents of BC with permanent disabilities</b>	Discount fares are available for BC residents who have a permanent disability (passenger fares only). To receive the discounted fare, people with disabilities must apply for a BC Ferries Disabled Status Identification Card, which is presented to the Ticket Agent at the terminal.	www.bcferries.com/travel_planning Phone: 1-888- 223-3779 TTY users can contact BC Ferries through TELUS Relay Services at either: 711 or 1-800-972-6509

For a more comprehensive list of programs and services, please visit the Government of B.C. Disability Services homepage at: [www.gov.bc.ca/disabilityservices](http://www.gov.bc.ca/disabilityservices). Or, email the Accessibility Secretariat at [Accessibility@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Accessibility@gov.bc.ca) for more information on specific programs.

