

2010



# Government Resource Guide

for Persons With Disabilities in Nova Scotia



# Persons With Disabilities in Nova Scotia Government Resource Guide

Disabled Persons Commission  
2010



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Dartmouth Professional Center  
277 Pleasant Street, Suite 104  
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# Introduction



**The Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission** has compiled a number of key programs and services that benefit persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia and is pleased to provide this program directory.

Additional information can also be obtained from the Nova Scotia Governments web site <http://www.gov.ns.ca>

The information contained in this directory can also be obtained over the internet at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/disa>

## **Help us ensure this guide is as up to date as possible.**

If you should notice any error or omissions, please fill out the included forms on page XX and return by mail or fax to the Disabled Persons Commission office.

Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission  
Dartmouth Professional Center  
277 Pleasant Street, Suite 104  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4B7  
Fax: (902) 424-0592

# Overview of the Disabled Persons Commission: Background



The Disabled Persons Commission Act was proclaimed in 1989, with the first Commission being assembled in early 1990. The primary purpose of the Act is to provide for the participation of Nova Scotians with disabilities in the development of government policies and programs which directly relate to or affect them.

## **The Commission is a mechanism to:**

- ensure the concerns of persons with disabilities are promoted within, and considered by, the government, especially in matters of policy and where concerns affect several departments of the government;
- facilitate communication of information on programs and services available to Nova Scotians with disabilities;
- review existing government policies and programs which relate to or affect persons with disabilities to ensure they are appropriate, effective and reflect the needs and concerns of the community.

# Overview of the Disabled Persons Commission: The Commission



The Disabled Persons Commission is a provincially legislated body comprised of twelve members, the majority of whom must be persons with a disability or are representative of the community. The remaining members of the Commission are chosen from among government departments which deliver programs that directly affect persons with disabilities. Each Commission member is appointed for a two year term and the Commission members elect the Chairperson, who must be a representative of the community.

In making appointments to the Commission, the Governor-in-Council attempts to ensure that members of the Commission represent the various regions of the province.

# Overview of the Disabled Persons Commission: Objectives



The objectives of the Disabled Persons Commission are to:

- Assist the Co-ordinating Committee of Ministers in understanding, and advise the Co-ordinating Committee on the needs and abilities of persons with disabilities;
- Make the general public aware of the needs and abilities of persons with disabilities;
- Make persons with disabilities and the general public aware of government programs that serve persons with disabilities;
- Make the general public aware of what it can do to facilitate the integration of persons with disabilities into the social and economic mainstream of the community.

# Overview of the Disabled Persons Commission: Responsibilities



The Disabled Persons Commission is responsible to the Government of Nova Scotia primarily through the Co-ordinating Committee of Ministers. The Chair of this Co-ordinating Committee is the Minister responsible for reporting on the status of disabled persons, who is also the Minister of Community Services. Membership on the Co-ordinating Committee is comprised of Ministries that have a direct stake in provision of services for persons with disabilities.

The Co-ordinating Committee of Ministers is comprised of:

- Minister of Community Services/ Chair
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
- Minister of Labour and Workforce Development
- Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Ultimately, the Disabled Persons Commission serves the 20.1% of Nova Scotians who have a disability.

For more information, contact:

## **Disabled Persons Commission**

Dartmouth Professional Center  
277 Pleasant Street, Suite 104  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4B7

Phone: (902) 424-8280  
Toll free: 1-800-565-8280  
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## ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

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Responsible for co-ordinating the Province's approach to Aboriginal issues. Includes discussions and negotiations with the Government of Canada and organizations representing Aboriginal Communities.

### Contact Information

Office of Aboriginal Affairs  
Centennial Building  
1660 Hollis St., Suite 910  
PO Box 1617  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

**Phone:** (902) 424-7409

**Fax:** (902) 424-4225

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## ACADIAN AFFAIRS

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Acadian Affairs focuses on increasing the visibility of the Acadian community and promoting its heritage and culture as an essential component of the rich diversity of the Province of Nova Scotia.

### Contact Information

Office of Acadian Affairs  
7th floor, Dennis Building  
1740 Granville Street, PO Box 682  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

**Phone:** (902) 424-0497

**Toll free:** 1-866-382-5811

**Fax:** (902) 428-0124

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## AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN AFFAIRS

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Assist, support, and enhance the provincial government's delivery of services to African Nova Scotians and be a partner in developing innovative solutions that lead to self reliance and sustainable development for African Nova Scotians and their communities.

In brief, the office of African Nova Scotian Affairs will:

- Assist and support community initiatives, issues etc., in matters relating to government
- Advocate for improved services, programs, etc.
- Facilitate and / or create dialogue between government and community
- Be an agent for change

The office of the African Nova Scotian is not:

- An employment office
- A financial / loan institution
- A legal clinic

### Contact Information

Main Office  
5670 Spring Garden Road  
PO Box 2691  
Suite 604  
Halifax, NS B3J 3B7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5555  
**Fax:** (902) 424-7189  
**Toll free:** 1-866-580-2672

Cape Breton Region  
Sydney Commerce Towers  
15 Dorchester Street  
Suite 501  
Sydney, NS B1P 5Y9

**Phone:** (902) 563-3735  
**Fax:** (902) 563-2700  
**Toll free:** 1-866-580-2672

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## ATLANTIC PROVINCES SPECIAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY (APSEA) NOVA SCOTIA

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Interprovincial Co-operative Agency established in 1975 by joint agreement among the Ministers of Education of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to assist school districts in the provision of adaptations required by students up to 21 years of age, who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired.

### Contact Information

Superintendent, Atlantic Provinces  
Special Education Authority (APSEA)  
5940 South St.  
Halifax, NS B3H 1S6

**Phone:** (902) 424-7765

**Fax:** (902) 424-5819

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## SERVICES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS (APSEA) NOVA SCOTIA

---

APSEA supports the philosophy of the inclusion of students who are deaf or hard of hearing with their peers in their community schools. School districts are recognized as having responsibility for the education of all school age children.

### Contact Information

Superintendent, Atlantic Provinces  
Special Education Authority (APSEA)  
5940 South St.  
Halifax, NS B3J 1S6

**Phone:** (902) 424-8500 or (902) 424-7765

**Fax:** (902) 424-5819

Director, Programs for Students  
who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing  
5940 South St.  
Halifax, NS B3J 1S6

**Phone:** (902) 424-8939

**TDD:** (902) 424-8939

**Fax:** (902) 424-0543

Director, Resources & Assessment  
Services (APSEA)  
5940 South St.  
Halifax, NS B3J 1S6

**Phone:** (902) 424-8540

**Fax:** (902) 424-6421

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## SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED (APSEA) NOVA SCOTIA

---

APSEA supports the philosophy of integration of students with visual impairments with their peers who are sighted in their community schools.

### **Contact Information**

Superintendent, Atlantic Provinces  
Special Education Authority (APSEA)  
5940 South St.  
Halifax, NS B3J 1S6

**Phone:** (902) 424-8500

**TTY:** (902) 424-7765

**Fax:** (902) 424-5819



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## NOVA SCOTIA ADVISORY COMMISSION ON AIDS

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In 1988, the government of Nova Scotia introduced and passed legislation providing for the establishment of an Advisory Commission of AIDS, which is mandated to advise the government on issues relating to HIV/AIDS. The Commission is made up of a Chairperson and up to 13 members who possess a broad range of professional and personal background. The Commission is supported in its work by a Research Officer, a Secretary and a limited budget.

### **Contact Information**

Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS  
Dennis Building, 6th Floor  
1740 Granville Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

**Phone:** (902) 424-5730

**Fax:** (902) 424-4727

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## NOVA SCOTIA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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The Advisory Council was established in 1977 to educate the public and advise the Provincial Government on issues of interest and concern to women. The Advisory Council works to ensure that issues affecting Nova Scotia women become part of government policy i.e. paid and unpaid work, family life, health, education, legal rights, discrimination and violence.

### **Contact Information**

Nova Scotia Advisory Council  
on the Status of Women  
6169 Quinpool Road, 2nd floor, Suite 202  
PO Box 745  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

**Phone:** (902) 424-8662  
**Toll free:** 1-800-565-8662 (in NS)  
**Fax:** (902) 424-0573

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## NOVA SCOTIA DISABLED PERSONS COMMISSION

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The Commission ensures the concerns of persons with disabilities are promoted within and considered by the Government particularly in matters of policy and where concerns affect several departments of the Government. The Commission facilitates communication of information on programs and services available to Nova Scotians with disabilities and reviews existing government policies and programs which relate to or affect persons with disabilities to ensure they are appropriate, effective and reflect the needs and concerns of the community.

### **Contact Information**

Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission  
Dartmouth Professional Centre  
277 Pleasant Street, Suite 104  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4B7

**Phone:** (902) 424-8280  
**Toll free:** 1-800- 565-8280  
**TTY:** (902) 424-2667  
**TTY Toll free:** 1-877-996-9954  
**Fax:** (902) 424-0592

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## NOVA SCOTIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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The Commission is an independent government commission that is responsible for administering the NS Human Rights Act. The Act prohibits discrimination based on age, race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, ethnic, national or aboriginal origin, family or marital status, irrational fear of contracting an illness or disease, source of income, political belief, affiliation or activity, an association with persons or organizations related to these protected characteristics and sexual harassment.

### Contact Information

Human Rights Commission  
1690 Hollis St., 6th floor  
PO Box 2221  
Halifax, NS B3J 3C4

**Phone:** (902) 424-4111

**Toll free:** 1-877-269-7699

**TTY:** (902) 424-3139

**TTY Toll free:** 1-866-811-3732

**Fax:** (902) 424-0596

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## NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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This program offers full-time work in a Nova Scotia government department or agency in a field related to your education. Terms are usually for four months to meet the needs of post secondary co-op programs, but some may be longer. This program is currently under review. Please contact the department for further information.

### Contact Information

Co-operative Employment Program  
Nova Scotia Public Service Commission  
Strategic Support Services  
One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
PO Box 943  
Halifax, NS, B3J 2V9

**Phone:** (902) 424-5722

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## NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - DIVERSITY TALENT POOL

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The Diversity Talent Pool began as an Affirmative Action Inventory. The main goal of the Talent Pool is to assist in increasing representation of the designated groups (Women in under-represented or non-traditional positions, Aboriginal Persons, African Nova Scotians and other Racially Visible Persons and Persons with Disabilities). The Diversity Pool consists of resumes of pre-screened, qualified applicants within the designated groups who are seeking casual employment with the Provincial Government. The secondary goal of the Pool is to assist departments in their recruitment process to fill casual positions. This program is currently under review. Please contact the Public Service Commission for further information.

### Contact Information

Nova Scotia Public Service Commission

**Phone:** (902) 424-5722

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## NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – POST SECONDARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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This program offers full-time work in a Nova Scotia government department or agency in a field related to your education. Terms are 2 years. In addition to the work experience, you will get extra training in areas such as project management, writing effective reports, and developing your career. This program is currently under review. Please contact the Public Service Commission for further information.

### Contact Information

Post Secondary Internship Program  
Nova Scotia Public Service Commission  
Strategic Support Services  
One Government Place  
1700 Granville Street  
PO Box 943  
Halifax, NS B3J 2V9

**Phone:** (902) 424-5722

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## NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION - SUMMER DIVERSITY PROGRAM

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This program offers your Nova Scotia provincial department, agency, board, or commission the opportunity to hire an aboriginal student, racially visible student or student with a disability for a summer work term (May – August), funded by the Public Service Commission.

Hiring a student benefits both your department and the student. Our students have a reputation for being excellent workers; adding diversity, enthusiasm, knowledge, and new perspectives

to their host departments. They can assist in a program area or on a special project or initiative. The student benefits through gaining valuable on-the-job experience and training. This program is currently under review. Please contact the Public Service Commission for more information.

### **Contact Information**

Nova Scotia Public Service Commission

**Phone:** (902) 424-5722

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## **NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – SUMMER FEMALE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

---

This program offers full-time work in a Nova Scotia government department or agency in a field related to your education and where women are under-represented. Terms are usually four months.

Each participant gets to work closely with a personal mentor who helps guide and advise her on her career and opportunities within government.

### **Contact Information**

Summer Female Mentorship Program  
Nova Scotia Public Service Commission  
Human Resources Innovation and Growth  
One Government Place  
1700 Granville Place  
PO Box 943  
Halifax, NS B3J 2V9

**Phone:** (902) 424-5722

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## OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

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For complaints against a department, agency or official of either the Provincial or Municipal Government, contact the Ombudsman for assistance.

### Contact Information

Office of the Ombudsman  
5670 Spring Garden Rd., Suite 700  
PO Box 2152  
Halifax, NS B3J 3B7

**Phone:** (902) 424-6780

**Toll free:** 1-800-670-1111 (in NS)

**Fax:** (902) 424-6675

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## WORKERS COMPENSATION APPEALS TRIBUNAL

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The Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal is an independent tribunal which hears and decides appeals from final decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Tribunal is governed by the Workers' Compensation Act of Nova Scotia and is the final level of appeal within the workers' compensation system.

### Contact Information

Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal  
5670 Spring Garden Road  
Suite 1002  
Halifax, NS B3J 1H6

**Phone:** (902) 424-2250

**Toll free:** 1-800-274-8281

**Fax:** (902) 424-2321

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# WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

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Funded entirely by the employers of Nova Scotia, the WCB provides workplace injury insurance for more than 18,000 employers, representing about 300,000 workers across the province. We strive to prevent injury and illness, but when it occurs, we support injured workers, their families and their employers to achieve an early and safe return to work.

Appointments are required to meet with a Case Worker.

## Contact Information

Main Office (Halifax)  
P.O. Box 1150  
5668 South St  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y2

**Phone:** (902) 491-8999  
**Toll free:** 1-800-870-3331

Branch Office (Sydney)  
336 Kings Road, Suite 117  
Sydney, NS B1S 1A9

**Phone:** (902) 563-2444  
**Toll free:** 1-800-880-0003

Investigations Unit

**Phone:** (902) 491-8917  
**Toll free:** 1-800-870-3331

Assessment Services

**Phone:** (902) 491-8324  
**Toll free:** 1-877-211-9267



# Department of Community Services

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## ACCESS-A-HOME PROGRAM

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The Access-A-Home Program provides assistance to people who must adapt their homes for wheelchair use. The amount of assistance depends upon income. The maximum grant available is \$5,000. The grant does not have to be repaid.

### Contact Information

Housing Services  
Eastern Region (Cape Breton)  
Provincial Buiding  
360 Prince Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5L1

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120

**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

**Fax:** (902) 563-2370

Housing Services Northern Region  
176 Archimedes Street  
P.O. Box 481  
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065

**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

**Fax:** (902) 752-7133

Housing Services - District Offices

Truro

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999

**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

**Fax:** (902) 897-1149

Amherst

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)

2131 Gottigen Street (5th floor)

P.O. Box 2623

Halifax, N.S. B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110

**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130

**Fax:** (902) 424-2091

Housing Services - Western Region

101 Magee Drive

P.O. Box 1000

Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481

**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483

**Fax:** (902) 825-6560

Housing Services - District Office

Bridgewater

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336

**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144

**Fax:** (902) 527-1357

**Fax:** (902) 667-1686

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## ADOPTION

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For a variety of reasons, there are children in Nova Scotia, other parts of Canada and around the world, who cannot be raised by their birth families. Through adoption, children who need permanent homes can be matched with individuals who have a desire to parent.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-866-259-7780

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## ADOPTION DISCLOSURE SERVICES PROGRAM

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Nova Scotia's Adoption Information Act establishes a balance between people's right to privacy and the opportunity for contact between adopted person and their birth families.

The Adoption Information Act creates an active registry to help people search for members of their birth family. Identifying information will be exchanged only after both parties have consented.

### **Contact Information**

To register write:  
Adoption Disclosure Service Program  
Department of Community Services  
P.O. Box 696  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T7

**Toll free:** 1-866-259-7780.

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## ADULT SERVICE CENTRES

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Vocational and other day program services complement the residential and other community-based support systems provided under the Services for Persons with Disabilities Program.

Adult Service Centers were established in Nova Scotia to provide community-based vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities or autism. Currently, Adult Service Centres provide employment, skills training and day program opportunities in communities across Nova Scotia.

Adults seeking admission to an Adult Service Centre can apply directly to the centre in their home area.

Please refer to the DIRECTIONS Council for Vocational Services Society, a not-for-profit organization representing twenty-eight Adult Service Centre member agencies throughout Nova Scotia.

### **Contact Information**

**Toll free: 1-877-424-1177**

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## ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

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The Alternative Family Support Program (AFS) supports persons with disabilities in an approved, private family home. Support and supervision is provided for up to two individuals unrelated to the AFS provider. The program provides a family-like setting for individuals who may require varying levels of support and supervision, who may prefer living with a family, and who will benefit from the additional support a family environment can provide. The program embraces the philosophy of Individual Support Planning and collaboration among the residents, their family or person acting on their behalf, their personal support network, the AFS provider, and the Department of Community Services.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## APPROVED COMMUNITY-BASED HOMES

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The Services for Persons with Disabilities Program provides a continuum of residential support options for individuals with disabilities. The goal is to create a range of residential programs that can support people at various stages of their development and independence.

Community-based homes refer to residences, which offer programs designed to meet the support needs of individuals with disabilities. The intent of the programs offered is to enhance each resident's potential to live, work, and socialize in the least restrictive, most integrative circumstances available in the community.

Small Option Homes are community-based homes which provide a residential support option for up to three individuals with disabilities. Qualified staff provides support in approved homes through a combination of live-in and shift models.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## DIRECT FAMILY SUPPORT

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This Direct Family Support (DFS) program provides supports and services to both children and adults with disabilities who live at home with their families. The intent of the program is to support and provide funding to eligible families to enable them

to support their family member with a disability at home.

The purpose of the program is:

- to enable individuals with disabilities to live at home
- to maximize family supports and community participation
- to prevent and/or delay the need for an out of home placement
- to establish a smooth and seamless transition between children's and adult's supports and services.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Community Services  
**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## **EMERGENCY REPAIR PROGRAM**

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The Emergency Repair Program (ERP) assists eligible homeowners or occupiers in rural areas to undertake emergency repairs required for the continued safe occupancy of their houses. A significant portion of this program is directed to the Aboriginal people of Canada. Funding is provided jointly by the Government of Canada (75%) and the Province of Nova Scotia (25%).

### **Contact Information**

Housing Services  
Eastern Region (Cape Breton)  
Provincial Buiding  
360 Prince Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5L1

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120  
**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135  
**Fax:** (902) 563-2370

Housing Services - Northern Region

176 Archimedes Street  
P.O. Box 481  
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065

**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

**Fax:** (902) 752-7133

Housing Services - District Offices

Truro District Office  
9 Church Street  
Truro, NS B2N 3Z5

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999

**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

**Fax:** (902) 897-1149

Amherst District Office  
144 East Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 486  
Amherst, NS BH4 4A1

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

**Fax:** (902) 667-1686

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)

2131 Gottigen Street (5th floor)  
P.O. Box 2623  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110

**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130

**Fax:** (902) 424-2091

Housing Services - Western Region  
101 Magee Drive  
P.O. Box 1000  
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481  
**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483  
**Fax:** (902) 825-6560

Housing Services - District Office  
Bridgewater District Office  
821 King Street, Suite 4  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B7

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336  
**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144  
**Fax:** (902) 527-1357

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## EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE (ESIA)

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Employment Support Services (ESS) helps people on Income Assistance to become more self-sufficient.

Self-sufficiency means different things to different people. Some people need to work on education, others on job skills. It may mean doing volunteer or part-time work. Self-sufficiency means finding what is right for you at this time, with your background, your family and personal situation, and what jobs are available in your community.

The services depend on your goals and your background. ESS offers some services directly, but also works with other organizations to provide some programs.

You must be a recipient of Income Assistance.

The Income Assistance (IA) program provides people in financial need with assistance with basic needs such as food, rent,



utilities like heat and electricity, and clothing. The program may also help you with other needs such as child care, transportation, prescription drugs, emergency dental care, and eye glasses.

You may be eligible for income assistance if you:

- live in Nova Scotia
- are 19 years of age or older.

You also may be eligible under special circumstances if you are 16 to 18 years of age and are in financial need. That means that your monthly income is less than the amount the ESIA Program allows for basic expenses such as food, rent or mortgage, utilities like heat and electricity, clothing, and taxes.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## **HOME ADAPTATIONS FOR SENIORS INDEPENDENCE (HASI)**

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The Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI) program helps homeowners pay for home adaptations to extend the time that low-income seniors can live in their own homes independently. HASI provides one-time, non-repayable contributions of up to \$3,500. Funding is provided jointly by the Government of Canada (75%) and the Province of Nova Scotia (25%).

What financial assistance is available?

Assistance in the form of a forgivable loan of up to \$3,500 is available. This loan does not have to be repaid provided that the homeowner agrees to continue to occupy the unit for the duration of the loan forgiveness period. The loan forgiveness period is 6 months. Repayable loans are not available.

## Contact Information

Department of Community Services  
Housing Services - Eastern Region (Cape Breton)  
Provincial Buiding  
360 Prince Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5L1

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120

**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

Housing Services - Northern Region  
176 Archimedes Street  
P.O. Box 481  
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065

**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

Housing Services - District Offices  
Truro District Office  
9 Church Street  
Truro, NS B2N 3Z5

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999

**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

Amherst District Office  
144 East Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 486  
Amherst, NS BH4 4A1

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)  
2131 Gottigen Street (5th floor)  
P.O. Box 2623  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110  
**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130

Housing Services - Western Region  
101 Magee Drive  
P.O. Box 1000  
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481  
**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483

Housing Services - District Office  
Bridgewater District Office  
821 King Street, Suite 4  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B7

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336  
**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144

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## INCOME ASSISTANCE (IA)

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The Income Assistance (IA) program provides people in financial need with assistance with basic needs such as food, rent, utilities like heat and electricity, and clothing. The program may also help you with other needs, such as child care, transportation, prescription drugs, emergency dental care, and eye glasses.

(In some places, programs that help people with basic requirements are called "social assistance", "income support", or less commonly, "welfare".)

### **Contact Information**

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## **INDEPENDENT LIVING SUPPORT**

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The Independent Living Support (ILS) Program provides up to 21 hours a week of supports and service to eligible individuals who are semi-independent and require minimum support in their own apartment or home.

The goals of providing up to 21 hours a week of supports and services are to:

- assist individuals to maintain and build connections and relationships with family, friends and other community members and resources
- assist individuals to maximize independence in instrumental activities of daily living

### **Contact Information**

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## **LICENSED HOMES FOR SPECIAL CARE**

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The Services for Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Program provides a continuum of residential support options for individuals with disabilities. The goal is to create a range of residential programs that can support people at various stages of their development and independence.

These settings provide support and supervision in homes with four or more beds. The options for placement in any particular

Homes for Special Care are limited as to the level(s) of care/ program they provide as per their licensed mandate under the Homes for Special Care Act.

Licensed Homes for Special Care include: Group Homes / Developmental Residences: Group Homes and Developmental Residences provide a continuum of developmental rehabilitation programs for individuals with disabilities within a 4-12 person residential setting. Developmental residences and group homes emphasize the development of inter-personal, community oriented skills, and activities of daily living. Group Homes primarily serve younger persons with one or more of the following types of disabilities: intellectual disability, long-term mental illness, or physical disability. Developmental Residences primarily serve younger adults with an intellectual disability or dual diagnosis.

Residential Care Facilities: Residential Care Facilities provide a residential support option to four or more adults with disabilities who require minimal support and supervision with routine personal-care activities, community skills and activities, and illness supervision. Individuals are provided with limited direct support and do not have major health or behavioural support needs.

Adult Residential Centres: Adult Residential Centres provides long-term structured supports and services to adults with disabilities to enhance their development of interpersonal, community oriented, and activities of daily living skills. Approved staffing is provided on a 24-hour / 7-day a week basis by on-site professional staff.

Regional Rehabilitation Centres: Regional Rehabilitation Centres provide both rehabilitation and developmental programs to adults with disabilities who require an intensive level of support and supervision related to complex behavioral challenges and skill development needs. Approved staffing is provided on a 24 hour / 7-day a week basis by on-site professional staff.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-877-424-1177

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## LOW INCOME PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (PHARMACARE) FOR CHILDREN

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The Nova Scotia government funds a program that provides prescription drug coverage (Pharmacare) for children of low-income families. (This program is sometimes referred to as LIPC: Low income pharmacare for children.) Families pay \$5 per prescription no matter how much the medication costs.

The Department of Community Services also provides Pharmacare coverage for more than 50,000 people who receive assistance from the department including income assistance, services for persons with disabilities and family and community supports.

### Eligibility

The program is available for families who receive the Nova Scotia Child Benefit and have a household income below \$20,921.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services  
Low Income Pharmacare for Children  
5675 Spring Garden Road  
PO Box 696  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T7

**Toll free:** 1-866-424-1269

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## PARENT APARTMENT PROGRAM

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The Parent Apartment Program creates affordable housing accommodation for senior family members by providing low interest loans for additions or renovations to a single family dwelling. Funding is provided by the Province of Nova Scotia.

The maximum loan available is \$25,000.

The maximum repayment term is 10 years with the interest rate to be established at the time of approval.

Where chattel mortgages are used to secure the loan, the term cannot exceed 6 years.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services  
Housing Services - Eastern Region (Cape Breton)  
Provincial Buiding  
360 Prince Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5L1

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120

**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

Housing Services - Northern Region  
176 Archimedes Street  
P.O. Box 481  
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065

**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

Housing Services - District Offices  
Truro District Office  
9 Church Street  
Truro, NS B2N 3Z5

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999

**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

Amherst District Office  
144 East Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 486  
Amherst, NS BH4 4A1

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)  
2131 Gottingen Street (5th floor)  
P.O. Box 2623  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110  
**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130

Housing Services - Western Region  
101 Magee Drive  
P.O. Box 1000  
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481  
**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483

Housing Services - District Office  
Bridgewater District Office  
821 King Street, Suite 4  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B7

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336  
**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144

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## PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM

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The Property Tax Rebate Program assists senior citizens who are in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement to the Old Age Security, by providing a rebate of a portion of the municipal property taxes paid for the previous year.

### Contact Information

**Phone:** (902) 424-4500  
**Toll free:** 1-877-296-9338.



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## PROTECTION FOR PERSONS IN CARE

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The Protection for Persons in Care Act is an extra safeguard from abuse for patients and residents 16 years of age and older who are receiving care from Nova Scotia's hospitals, residential care facilities, nursing homes, homes for the aged or disabled persons under the Homes for Special Care Act, or group homes or residential centres under the Children and Family Services Act.

Under this act, abuse may be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, medical, or related to neglect or theft. The act requires health facility administrators and service providers (including staff and volunteers) to promptly report all allegations or instances of abuse.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-800-225-7225

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## PROVINCIAL HOUSING EMERGENCY REPAIR PROGRAM

---

This program provides assistance to low income homeowners who cannot afford to carry out emergency repairs on their homes. Funding is provided by the Province of Nova Scotia.

A grant up to \$5,000 is provided for labour and materials and taxes. The grant does not have to be repaid.

### Contact Information

Housing Services - Eastern Region (Cape Breton)  
Provincial Buiding  
360 Prince Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5L1

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120

**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

Housing Services - Northern Region  
176 Archimedes Street  
P.O. Box 481  
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065  
**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

Housing Services - District Offices  
Truro District Office  
9 Church Street  
Truro, NS B2N 3Z5

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999  
**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

Amherst District Office  
144 East Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 486  
Amherst, NS BH4 4A1

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)  
2131 Gottigen Street (5th floor)  
P.O. Box 2623  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110  
**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130

Housing Services - Western Region  
101 Magee Drive  
P.O. Box 1000  
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481  
**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483

Housing Services - District Office  
Bridgewater District Office  
821 King Street, Suite 4  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B7

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336

**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144

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## RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RRAP)

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The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) for Persons with Disabilities offers financial assistance to homeowners to undertake accessibility work to modify dwellings occupied or intended for occupancy by persons with disabilities. Funding is provided jointly by the Government of Canada (75%) and the Province of Nova Scotia (25%).

### Contact Information

Housing Services  
Eastern Region (Cape Breton)

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120

**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

Housing Services - Northern Region

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065

**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

Housing Services - District Offices  
Truro District Office

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999

**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

Amherst District Office

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

**Fax:** (902) 667-1686

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110

**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130

Housing Services - Western Region

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481

**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483

Housing Services - District Office

Bridgewater District Office

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336

**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144

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## SENIOR CITIZENS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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This program provides assistance to senior citizens (people at least 65 years of age) who wish to remain in their own homes but who cannot afford to carry out necessary repairs. Funding is provided by the Province of Nova Scotia.

Eligible repairs must represent a threat to health or safety. Repairs to roofing, plumbing and heating are examples of work that is covered under the program. Repairs for cosmetic reasons (e.g. painting) are not permitted. A grant to a maximum of \$5,000 is available and does not have to be repaid.

## Contact Information

Department of Community Services  
Housing Services  
Eastern Region (Cape Breton) Provincial Buiding  
360 Prince Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5L1  
**Phone:** (902) 563-2120  
**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

Housing Services - Northern Region  
176 Archimedes Street  
P.O. Box 481  
New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5  
**Phone:** (902) 755-5065  
**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

Housing Services - District Offices  
Truro District Office  
9 Church Street  
Truro, NS B2N 3Z5  
**Phone:** (902) 893-5999  
**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454

Amherst District Office  
144 East Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 486  
Amherst, NS BH4 4A1  
**Phone:** (902) 667-1161

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)  
2131 Gottigen Street (5th floor)  
P.O. Box 2623  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110  
**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130  
**Fax:** (902) 424-2091

Housing Services - Western Region  
101 Magee Drive  
P.O. Box 1000  
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

**Phone:** (902) 825-3481  
**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483  
**Fax:** (902) 825-6560

Housing Services - District Office  
Bridgewater District Office  
821 King Street, Suite 4  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B7

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336  
**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144  
**Fax:** (902) 527-1357

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## SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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The Services for Persons with Disabilities Program serves children, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, long-term mental illness and physical disabilities in a range of community-based, residential and vocational/day programs.

These are voluntary programs designed to support people at various stages of their development and independence.

## Programs and resources:

### Alternative Family Support Program

This program supports persons with disabilities in an approved, private family home.

### Independent Living Support

This program provides up to 21 hours a week of supports and service for individuals who require minimum support in their own home.

### Approved Community-Based Homes

Residential support options for individuals with disabilities.

### Licensed Homes For Special Care

These settings provide support and supervision in homes with four or more beds.

### Direct Family Support

Supports and services to both children and adults with disabilities who live at home with their families.

### Adult Service Centres

Community-based vocational programs for adults with disabilities.

### Protection For Persons in Care

Under this Act, abuse may be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, neglect, theft or medical abuse.

### Wheelchair Recycling Program

Wheelchairs for children and adults with a net family income that falls within program guidelines.

## Contact Information

**Toll free: 1-877-424-1177**

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## SMALL LOANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

---

The Small Loans Assistance Program is a provincial funded program. It improves housing conditions by providing low interest loans to qualified applicants.

The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 and depending on the amount of the loan it may be secured by a promissory note or a registered mortgage.

### Eligibility:

- Your gross family income must be \$35,000 or less per year.
- You must own and live in the home you wish to renovate.
- You must have a good credit rating.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services

Housing Services

Eastern Region (Cape Breton)

Provincial Buiding

360 Prince Street

Sydney, NS B1P 5L1

**Phone:** (902) 563-2120

**Toll free:** 1-800-567-2135

**Fax:** (902) 563-2370

Housing Services - Northern Region

176 Archimedes Street

P.O. Box 481

New Glasgow, NS B2H 5E5

**Phone:** (902) 755-5065

**Toll free:** 1-800-933-2101

**Fax:** (902) 752-7133



Housing Services - District Offices  
Truro District Office  
9 Church Street  
Truro, NS B2N 3Z5

**Phone:** (902) 893-5999  
**Toll free:** 1-866-525-5454  
**Fax:** (902) 897-1149

Amherst District Office  
144 East Victoria Street  
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Amherst, NS BH4 4A1

**Phone:** (902) 667-1161  
**Fax:** (902) 667-1686

Housing Services - Central Region (Halifax)  
2131 Gottigen Street (5th floor)  
P.O. Box 2623  
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

**Phone:** (902) 424-5110  
**Toll free:** 1-800-774-5130  
**Fax:** (902) 424-2091

Housing Services - Western Region  
101 Magee Drive  
P.O. Box 1000  
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**Toll free:** 1-800-564-3483  
**Fax:** (902) 825-6560

Housing Services - District Office  
Bridgewater District Office  
821 King Street, Suite 4  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B7

**Phone:** (902) 543-7336

**Toll free:** 1-800-278-2144

**Fax:** (902) 527-1357

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## SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTION

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Special Needs Adoption refers to children for whom it is difficult to find adoptive homes. These children may have learning, behavioural or physical challenges, including delays in physical development, long-term disabilities, or a need for additional medical attention. Some children may need to stay with siblings or be placed in homes that are compatible with their culture (Mi'kmaq Adoption and African Nova Scotian and Bi-racial Heritage Adoption).

Children with special needs are in the permanent care of a Children's Aid Society, Family and Children's Services Agency, or a district office of the Department of Community Services. Most children with special needs are over two years old and have developed relationships with other people. In some cases, continued contact with these people may be important to them.

Financial subsidies may be available based on the needs of the child at the time of placement. The child's home Agency will make the final decision.

### Contact Information

Department of Community Services

**Toll free:** 1-866-259-7780

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## TARGET 100 PROGRAM

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Target 100 is an initiative that will recruit, train and hire 100 Department of Community Services clients in the co-operative system over the next five years.

How do I access Target 100?

Employment Support and Income Assistance clients can access Target 100 through their Caseworker. You and your Caseworker will work together to determine if participation in Target 100 is the best thing for you.

What is the criteria?

The goal of Target 100 is to address gaps in the co-operative sector labour market by filling it with skilled individuals who are in receipt of income assistance. As employment opportunities arise, individuals with the appropriate qualifications will be supported and referred for interviews to fill these positions.

Target 100 will also provide training opportunities to individuals in response to addressing some of these labour market gaps. Individuals that meet the criteria and are a good fit for the opportunity will be interviewed to participate. Information on training opportunities will be shared with Caseworkers.

### **Contact Information**

Contact your case worker for information about this program.

# Department of Education

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## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY - ACCESS TO LEARNING

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Assistive technology (AT) is a range of strategies and resources which include services and tools used to enable a student to meet learning outcomes or to improve or maintain a student's ability to meet outcomes. Assistive Technology has the potential to increase a student's control over objects, daily activities, age-appropriate experiences, and subsequent learning.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Education  
Student Services Division

**Phone:** (902) 424-7454

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## POST-SECONDARY DISABILITY SERVICES

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There are three grants available to student's that have a disability, to find out more on these grants: (the Canada Access Grant, the Provincial Access Grant, and the Canada Study Grant for Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities) contact the Department of Education at the number listed below.

The Canada Access Grant was created effective August 1, 2005, to increase accessibility to post-secondary education for students with disabilities.

The Provincial Access Grant was created effective August 1, 2005, to coincide with the Canada Access Grant to help decrease student loan debt.

The Canada Study Grant for Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities was created to help support the accommodations or adaptive equipment needed by a student with permanent disabilities attending post-secondary training.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Education

**Phone:** (902) 424-6737

**Toll free:** 1-800-285-1197

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## **SCHOOLSPLUS+**

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SchoolsPlus is a part of Nova Scotia's child and youth strategy, Our Kids are Worth It. The strategy responds to Commissioner Nunn's recommendation to improve co-ordination and collaboration in our delivery of programs and services for children, youth, and families.

The vision for SchoolsPlus is that schools become a convenient place for government and other services to be delivered to families. This approach will make it easier for professionals to collaborate with each other on behalf of children, youth, and families. Families are served in a welcoming, accessible place that they are already familiar with – a school in their own community.

### **Contact Information**

SchoolsPlus Co-ordinator  
Student Services, Department of Education  
2021 Brunswick Street  
Halifax, NS B3K 2Y5

**Phone:** (902) 424-7308

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## SKILLS CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA

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Skills Canada ~ Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization that promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to Nova Scotia youth.

Through industry, government, labour, and education partnerships, the Nova Scotia Skills Competition provides students and apprentices with the opportunity to achieve excellence in their field of work.

### Disability Services

Made possible by the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Education, Disability Services is a new initiative of Skills Canada~ Nova Scotia. Our aim is to provide information on services and resources available in the province, and to integrate persons with disabilities into our programs and events.

### Contact Information

Skills Canada – Nova Scotia  
2021 Brunswick Street, Box 578  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S9

**Phone:** (902) 424-5175

**E-mail:** [novascotia@skillscanada.com](mailto:novascotia@skillscanada.com)

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## TUITION SUPPORT PROGRAM

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The government of Nova Scotia outlined the development of a new “tuition support program for special needs students with IPPs [Individualized Program Plans].” This process has been developed to provide eligible students with the opportunity to attend a designated special education private school.

The intention of this support is to provide options for students with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Learning Disabilities (LD) to access education outside the framework of the public school system.

### Contact Information

Tuition Support Program  
Student Services Division  
(Learning Disabilities Consultant)  
NS Department of Education  
Box 578  
2021 Brunswick St.  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S9

**Phone:** (902) 424-2128  
**Fax:** (902) 424-0759  
**email:** [tuitionsupport.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:tuitionsupport.ednet.ns.ca)

# Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture

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## BARRIER FREE SPORTFISHING

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One of the most difficult issues to be overcome by a disabled or senior angler is finding suitable venues to fish. The Barrier Free Access to Sportfishing Program was developed to provide recreational angling opportunities to physically challenged and senior anglers of the province through the construction of piers, ramps, platforms and other infrastructure directed towards facilitating this activity.

Detailed information sheets on how to get to many of these Barrier Free sites can also be obtained by calling or writing to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture or by contacting the sponsoring organization for the site.

### Contact Information

Nova Scotia Department of  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
PO Box 700  
Pictou, NS B0K 1H0

**Phone:** (902) 485-5056

**Fax:** (902) 485-4014

**Website:** [www.gov.ns.ca/fish/inland](http://www.gov.ns.ca/fish/inland)

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
PO Box 654  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

**Phone/Fax:** (902) 423-6793



# Department of Health

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## ARM AND LEG PROSTHESIS PROGRAM

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This program was established to ensure that all eligible residents of Nova Scotia, who require a conventional limb prosthesis as a substitute for a partially or totally absent arm or leg, are provided access to the services of a qualified Prosthesis. The program is a component of the Ancillary Programs provided by the Department of Health (DoH). Its mandate is to provide financial coverage to persons of all ages, who are eligible for Medical Services Insurance (MSI) coverage provided under the Health Services and Insurance Act.

### Contact Information

Department of Health  
General Inquiries:  
Acute & Tertiary Care Branch – Limb Prosthesis

**Phone:** (902) 424-5818

**Toll free:** 1-800-387-6665 (in NS)

**Fax:** (902) 424-0730

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## CONTINUING CARE PROGRAMS

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### Adult Protection Services

The Department of Health offers help and support for people age 16 or older who are abused or neglected and who cannot physically or mentally protect or care for themselves. This work is guided by the Adult Protection Act (1985). This Act is currently under review.

## Contact Information

If you know of an adult in need of protection, contact the Department of Health by calling 1-800-225-7225 (toll free in NS).

## Caregiver Allowance

The program is targeted at low income care recipients who have a high level of disability or impairment as determined by a home care assessment. If the caregiver and the care recipient both qualify for the program, the caregiver will receive the Caregiver Allowance of \$400 per month.

## Contact Information

1-800-225-7225 to apply for the Caregiver Allowance. If you are already receiving Continuing Care services, contact your Continuing Care Coordinator.

## Help – Bed Loan Program

The HELP - Bed Loan Program supports individuals to stay independent in their homes as long as possible by providing temporary loans of hospital-type beds to eligible Nova Scotians to use in their homes. The program is funded by the Department of Health and managed by the Canadian Red Cross - Nova Scotia Region. Eligible individuals receive the bed at no charge and for as long as they need it.

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (902) 424- 4288 (HRM)  
**Toll free:** 1-800-225-7225

## Home Care

Home care provides service to Nova Scotians of all ages who need care in their homes and communities to help them remain as independent as possible as long as possible. Home care services include home support (such as personal care, respite, and light housekeeping), nursing care (such as dressing changes, catheter care, and intravenous therapy) and home oxygen.

### **Contact Information**

To be assessed or to have a family member assessed for home care services, call 1-800-225-7225.

## Long Term Care

Long-term care provides accommodation, supervisory care, personal care, and nursing services to individuals who can no longer live independently in the community with family and other supports available.

The Department of Health licenses and approves three types of long-term care facilities. They are:

Community Based Options – Accommodation, supervision and non-nursing level personal care for one to three people in each home. These are unlicensed, but are inspected and approved by the Department of Health.

Residential Care Facilities – Homes for people who need supervision and limited help with personal care. These are licensed and inspected by the Department of Health.

Nursing Homes or Homes for the Aged – Homes for people who need help with personal care and professional nursing care. These are licensed and inspected by the Department of Health.

### **Contact Information**

If you feel you or a family member need long-term care, you can contact Continuing Care by calling the toll-free intake line at 1-800-225-7225.

## Self Managed Care

The Self Managed Care program was introduced as a new Continuing Care program option in December 2005. The program helps many Nova Scotians with physical disabilities to increase control over their lives. The program extends funds to eligible individuals so that they may directly employ the people who provide home support and personal care needs.

### Contact Information

The Self Managed Care Policy, Applications, and the Care Manager Guide can be requested by calling Continuing Care at 1-800-225-7225.

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## DIABETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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If a person with diabetes can't afford the medications and supplies they need, there is a greater risk of developing complications.

This program seeks to reduce that risk by assisting with the cost of diabetes medication and supplies, and by promoting a healthy, active lifestyle.

Nova Scotians under the age of 65 with a diagnosis of diabetes, and no drug coverage, are eligible for this program.

### Contact Information

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program  
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs  
PO Box 500  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S1  
7 Spectacle Lake Drive  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X7

**Phone:** (902) 424-6565

**Toll free:** 1-800-305-5026

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## DRUG ASSISTANCE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

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Drug Assistance for Cancer Patients – helps pay the cost of approved cancer related drugs for eligible residents of Nova Scotia with a gross family income of \$15,720 or less.

Standard benefits include chemotherapeutic agents, pain medications, antiemetic agents and laxatives for use with chronic opioid therapy.

### Contact Information

Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs  
PO Box 500  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

**Phone:** (902) 429-6565

**Toll free:** 1-800-544-6191

**Fax:** (902) 468-9402

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## FAMILY PHARMACARE PROGRAM

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The Province of Nova Scotia has created the Family Pharmacare Program to assist Nova Scotians who do not have drug coverage or are experiencing high drug costs not covered by their private insurance. The program helps cover the costs of certain prescribed medications, supplies, and related services. Anyone with a valid Nova Scotia Health Card can enroll in the program. There are no Family Pharmacare premiums, and the programs' co-payment and deductible have yearly maximums that are set depending on a family's annual income.

A family could be:

- a single adult (18 years of age or older)
- an adult and spouse
- an adult and all children under 18 years of age OR
- an adult, spouse and all children under 18 years of age.

### **Contact Information**

**Phone:** (902) 496-5667

**Toll free:** 1-877-330-0323

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## **FAMILY PHYSICIANS ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

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This is a directory to help Nova Scotians find a family physician who is taking new patients.

Physician participation in this directory is voluntary. The information it contains is based on the latest information provided to the Department of Health. If your community is not represented, please contact your local district health authority. You may call physician offices in your area directly to see if they are accepting new patients.

### **Contact Information**

Physician Information Line

**Phone:** (902) 424-3047

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## **HOME OXYGEN**

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Patients who rely on oxygen will have greater mobility thanks to a change in the provincial Home Oxygen Program. Starting on April 1, 2007 Nova Scotians in the Home Oxygen Program will have access to a monthly supply of portable oxygen.

Through Home Oxygen Services, the province also provides Nova Scotians with access to oxygen for use in the home.

Care Coordinators are available to help you every day, including weekends, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Health

**Phone:** (902) 424-4288

**Toll free:** 1-800-225-7225 (in NS)

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## **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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Mental Health Services (MHS), a branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Health, provides leadership for the overall policy and planning of MHS and makes recommendations to the Department of Health on funding requirements of districts.

With the help of other sectors, MHS is responsible for establishing priorities, standards, effective evaluation methods and for ensuring fair and equitable access to mental health services.

For Mental Health Service enquiries please contact the local mental health service in your area:

IWK Health Centre, Child / Adolescent Mental Health Program  
(902) 464-4110

### **Contact Information**

Capital District Health Authority

Mobile Crisis Intervention Services  
(902) 429-8167

Outpatient Clinics Bedford/Sackville  
(902) 865-3663

Dartmouth  
(902) 464-3263

Halifax County East

(902) 464-4110

Canada Mental Health Association, NS Division

(902) 466-6600

Cape Breton District Health Authority

Emergency Crisis Services

(902) 567-7767

Adult Outpatient Services

(902) 567-7742

Child and Adolescent Services

(902) 567-7731

Canadian Mental Health Association, CB Branch

(902) 567-7735

Colchester East Hants Health Authority

Mental Health Services

1- 800-460-2110 Ext. 5526

Canada Mental Health Association, Truro Branch

(902) 895-4211

Cumberland Health Authority

Cumberland Mental Health Services

(902) 667-3897

Guysborough, Antigonish, Strait Health Authority

Community Mental Nurse, Guysborough

(902) 533-3300



Pictou County Health Authority

Pictou Mental Health Services  
(902) 755-1137

Canada Mental Health Association,  
Pictou County Branch  
(902) 755-4441

South West Nova District Health Authority

Yarmouth Mental Health Centre  
(902) 742-4222

Shelburne Mental Health Centre  
(902) 875-4200

Digby Mental Health Centre  
(902) 245-4709

South Shore Health Authority

Mental Health Services  
(902) 543-4604 Ext. 5062

Shelburne Mental Health Centre  
(902) 875-4200

Digby Mental Health Centre  
(902) 245-4709

Annapolis Valley Health Authority

Kentville Adult Mental Health Services  
(902) 679-2657 Ext. 2870

Kentville Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Services  
(902) 679-2867 Ext. 2873

Middleton Mental Health Services  
(902) 825-4825

CMHA Kentville Branch  
(902) 679-2422

CMHA Bridgetown Branch  
(902) 665-4805

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## NOVA SCOTIA SENIORS' PHARMACARE PROGRAM

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What is the Nova Scotia Seniors' Pharmacare Program?

The Nova Scotia Seniors' Pharmacare Program is a provincial drug insurance plan that helps seniors with the cost of their prescription drugs. Seniors do not have to join the Pharmacare Program, and not every senior is eligible to join.

Who is eligible? You are eligible to join the program if you:

- are a permanent Nova Scotia resident
- have a valid Nova Scotia Health Card
- are at least 65 years old
- do not have drug coverage through Veterans Affairs Canada, Non-Insured Health Benefits, or any other public or private plan that covers most of your medications and supplies after age 65

Contact the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs area if you have questions regarding enrolling in the Seniors' Pharmacare

Program, Drug Assistance for Cancer Patients, premiums, co-payments, benefits, and other Pharmacare questions:

### **Contact Information**

Nova Scotia Pharmacare Program  
P.O. Box 9322, Station "A"  
Halifax, NS B3K 6A1

**Phone:** (902) 429-6565

**Toll free:** 1-800-544-6191

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## **PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM**

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More help is available to Nova Scotians facing an incurable illness. An increase in the amount of home support services palliative care patients can access will help them remain in their own homes in the last three months of their lives. Palliative care patients can now access about 200 hours of home-care services per month, for a total of 600 hours in the last three months of life. That is an increase of about 50 hours per month, or 150 hours over three months.

### **Contact Information**

Call toll-free 1-800-225-7225. Out of province callers, please call 1-902-424-4288.

Care Coordinators are available to help you every day, including weekends, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

# Department of Health Promotion and Protection

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## ADDICTION PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES

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Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services (APTS) provides a comprehensive range of programs and services to those affected by their own or others' harmful involvement with alcohol, other drugs, and/or gambling. APTS strives to link clients to treatment and services in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Through our Central Intake Service clients, health professionals and the public can access all of our services and related information through one central number. Knowledgeable and experienced addiction social workers, nurses and support staff will provide callers with the information they need or assess and refer them to the most appropriate service. The Central Intake line is staffed from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Health Promotion  
and Protection

**Phone:** (902) 424-8866

**Toll free:** 1-866-340-6700

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## FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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### Planning Assistance

The Planning Assistance Program assists community organizations and municipalities in obtaining professional assistance in planning, designing and researching proposed and existing sport and physical recreation facilities.

### Community Recreation Capital Grants (CRCG) Program

The Community Recreation Capital Grant program is to assist in the development of small scale indoor and outdoor capital recreation projects, less than \$20,000.

### Recreation Facility Development (RFD) Program

The Recreation Facility Development Program assists community groups, municipalities and other 'not for profit' organizations to develop facilities in order to increase public participation in sport and physical recreation facilities. Projects range from \$20, 000 to \$450, 000.

### Building Facility Infrastructure Together (B-FIT) Program

The B-FIT program assists community groups, municipalities and other 'not for profit' organizations develop major facilities in order to increase public participation in sport and physical activity. The program is designed to support projects greater than \$450 000.

### Contact Information

Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection  
Summit Place, 5th Floor  
1601 Lower Water Street  
PO Box 487  
Halifax, NS B3J 2R7

**Phone:** (902) 424-4807

**Toll free:** 1-866-231-3882

**Fax:** (902) 424-4716

**Email:** [healthpromotion@gov.ns.ca](mailto:healthpromotion@gov.ns.ca)

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## HOSTING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Provincial Sport Organizations may apply on an annual basis for support toward hosting a recognized national championship.

### Contact Information

Department of Health Promotion and Protection  
Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation  
5516 Spring Garden Road, 2nd floor  
PO Box 864  
Halifax, NS B3J 2V2

**Phone:** (902) 424-7512

**Toll free:** 1-866-231-3882

**Fax:** (902) 424-0520

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## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

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The Regional Development program is designed to support activities which respond to the goals and priorities of communities and priority areas for the Department of Health Promotion, including physical activity, sport and recreation opportunities, capacity building, gender equality, volunteer development, physical activity levels of children and youth, fair and safe activities and responding to traditionally underserved populations.

### Contact Information

Department of Health Promotion and Protection  
Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation  
5516 Spring Garden Road, Suite 200  
PO Box 864  
Halifax, NS B3J 2V2

**Phone:** (902)424-7512

**Toll free:** 1-866-231-3882

**Fax:** (902) 424-0520

# Department of Justice

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## MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM

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The Nova Scotia Mental Health Court Program is a voluntary offender-based program for adults (persons 18 years of age and older) who have been charged with a criminal offence and have a mental disorder but are competent to participate in the criminal justice system. For this Program, “mental disorder” means a recognized mental illness, including but not limited to schizophrenia and related disorder, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, developmental (mental) delay, organic (acquired) brain injury or head trauma, and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders where a mental disorder is the primary disorder.

How is someone referred to the Mental Health Court?

The accused will appear in arraignment court where either police, lawyers, Sheriffs, family members, or the accused themselves can recommend that they be referred to the Mental Health Court. The presiding Judge will make the referral.

What happens when an individual is referred?

An individual participates in the Mental Health Court on a voluntary basis and agrees to undergo a clinical screening to determine if their mental disorder is contributing to their criminal actions.

If accepted into the Mental Health Court, an assessment will be completed and a support plan developed. This support plan, agreed to by the individual, will include requirements such as participating in programs and attending clinical appointments.

Ideally, it should take 6 weeks from referral to acceptance into the Mental Health Court.

Who makes up the court?

The Court has a dedicated team comprised of a nurse, a social worker, a Probation Officer, a Crown Attorney, and a Legal Aid lawyer. There is also a Provincial Court Judge assigned to preside in the Mental Health Court.

### **Contact Information**

General Inquiries  
5151 Terminal Road  
P.O. Box 7  
Halifax, NS B3J 2L6

**Phone:** (902) 424-4030

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## **PUBLIC TRUSTEE**

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For administrative purposes, the Public Trustee reports to the Minister of Justice. The Public Trustee manages estates of living persons who need services of a trustee, guardian, attorney or other fiduciary not readily available in the private sector to such living persons administers estates of deceased persons and has standing to apply for grant of administration or administration with will annexed in any case where no grant of probate or administration has been issued may consent to medical or surgical treatment of a mentally incompetent hospital patient when consent cannot be obtained from the patient's guardian, spouse or next-of-kin may act as litigation guardian or representative in litigation for minor, incompetent, deceased, missing or unascertained litigants in respect of whom a court makes representation orders.

### **Contact Information**

Public Trustee Office  
Suite 405, 5670 Spring Garden Road  
P.O. Box 685  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3

**Phone:** (902) 424-7760

**Fax:** (902) 424-0616



# Department of Labour and Workforce Development

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## EMPLOYMENT NOVA SCOTIA

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We want to:

- Help Nova Scotians meet their full employment potential
- Help employers find the employees they need to prosper
- Help communities play an active role in developing well-balanced local labour markets.

We will achieve these goals through programming offered under the Canada-Nova Scotia Labour Market Development Agreement and Labour Market Agreement, and other programs across the Department of Labour and Workforce Development, and other federal and provincial organizations.

### Contact Information

Employment Nova Scotia  
Duke Tower  
5251 Duke St., 8th Floor  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 1P3

**Halifax Region:** (902) 722-5004

**Northern Region:** (902) 928-3692

**South Shore Valley Region:** (902) 541-5635

**Cape Breton Region:** (902) 563-3522

**Toll-free:** 1-877-223-0888

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## NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING CODE

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Section 3.8 of the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations contains information on Barrier Free Design for Nova Scotia. The regulations can be obtained from the following contact information:

### Contact Information

Building Code Regulations  
Nova Scotia Labour and Workforce Development  
PO Box 697  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T8

**Phone:** (902) 424-5721

**Toll free:** 1-800-559-3473 (in NS)

**Fax:** (902) 424-3239

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## NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL FOR ADULT LEARNING

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The Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning (NSSAL) offers programs for adult Nova Scotians who want to improve their literacy skills. Programs are tuition-free and offered at more than 150 sites across the province. Since NSSAL was created, thousands of adults have graduated with their high school diploma.

### Contact Information

**Toll free:** 1-877-go-NSSAL (1-877-466-7725)

# Department of Natural Resources

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## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (HUNTING LICENCE)

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You qualify if you have a valid vehicle handicap parking pass issued under the Motor Vehicle Act. The permit may contain special terms and conditions.

You must obtain a hunting licence and comply with all applicable laws and regulations relating to the hunting and taking of wildlife.

The permit does not authorize you to shoot from any public highway. The vehicle being used must be at a complete stop with the motor turned off whenever the firearm is loaded.

It is an offence to pursue wildlife with a vehicle.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 698  
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9

**Phone:** (902) 424-5935

**Fax:** (902) 424-7735

# Department of Seniors

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## AGE-FREINDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

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The program assists municipalities in creating or adapting structures and services that are accessible and inclusive of seniors with varying needs and capacities in order to ensure they are able to lead healthy, active lives. A few examples are:

Town of Truro. Age-friendly changes to local park and recreation facilities.

Town of Antigonish. Benches and rest areas to make public spaces more age-friendly.

Town of Berwick. Support for summer recreational activities for seniors.

Town of Lockeport. Support for age-friendly improvements to local recreation centre and intergenerational social activities.

Village of New Minas. Recreational activities, outings and wellness program for seniors.

### Contact Information

Dennis Building, 4th Floor  
1740 Granville Street, Halifax  
(8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday)

Seniors Information Line

**Phone:** (902) 424-0065 (metro area)

**Toll free:** 1-800-670-0065 (toll-free)

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## DEPARTMENT OF SENIORS

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The Department of Seniors is the provincial government department responsible for coordinating the planning and development of policies, programs, and services for seniors and leading the implementation of the Strategy for Positive Aging in Nova Scotia.

### Contact Information

Department of Seniors  
4th floor, Dennis Building  
1740 Granville Street  
PO Box 2065  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Z1

Seniors Information Line

**Phone:** (902) 424-0065 (metro area)

**Toll free:** 1-800-670-0065 (toll-free)

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## POSITIVE AGING

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The fund assists nonprofit community organizations in creating projects that advance the goals and actions outlined in Nova Scotia's Strategy for Positive Aging, with a focus on health, well-being and community participation of Nova Scotia seniors, a few examples are:

Scots Bay Community Hall Association, Seniors Sub-Committee. Scots Bay. Compile a resource guide for the area and establish an assistance program for seniors for chores in and around their homes.

Gardiner Mines Recreation Society, Gardiner Mines. Seminar series (health care, home safety, etc.) and storytelling/dvd project with seniors and youth collaborating.

Sable River Community Hall. Sable River. Series of workshops entitled STRENGTH (Seniors Respecting and Embracing New Goals for Their Health).

Gordon B. Isnor Tenants Association. Halifax. Expansion of programming to include movie night, literacy program, outings and physical activity programs.

### **Contact Information**

Dennis Building, 4th Floor  
1740 Granville Street, Halifax  
(8:30 am-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday)

Seniors Information Line

**Phone:** (902) 424-0065 (metro area)

**Toll free:** 1-800-670-0065 (toll-free)

# Department of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

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## ACCESS NOVA SCOTIA

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At Access Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, service is our business. We're committed to making government services more accessible and more convenient for you and we're continuously looking for ways to serve you better.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal  
Relations (all locations)  
**Phone:** (902) 424-5200  
**Toll free:** 1-800- 670-4357

Halifax Access Nova Scotia Centre  
6960 Mumford Road, West End Mall  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Z3

Kentville Access Nova Scotia Centre  
28 Aberdeen Street  
Kentville, NS B4N 2N1

Sydney Access Nova Scotia Centre  
380 King's Road, Moxam Centre  
Sydney, NS B1S 1A8

Bridgewater Access Nova Scotia Centre  
80 Logan Road  
Bridgewater, NS B4V 3J8

Dartmouth Access Nova Scotia Centre  
650 Portland Street  
Dartmouth, NS B2W 6A3

Truro Access Nova Scotia Centre  
80 Walker Street, Suite 3  
Truro, NS B2N 4A7

Yarmouth Access Nova Scotia Centre  
Provincial Building  
10 Starrs Road, Suite 127  
Yarmouth, NS B5A 1T2

Port Hawkesbury Access Nova Scotia Centre  
Provincial Building  
218 MacSween Street, Suite 22  
Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2J9



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## ACCESSIBLE PARKING IDENTIFICATION PERMITS AND PLATES

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Who is eligible?

Those with a physical disability as described in one of the following statements:

- I have a significant mobility impairment that makes it difficult to walk for more than 50 metres – caused by paralysis, limb amputation, or a heart or lung disease.
- I require the full-time assistance of a mobility aid such as a wheelchair or walker.
- I am legally blind as defined within the Motor vehicle Regulations.
- I have a temporary mobility impairment caused by a medical condition.

You can apply for your permit either by mail or in person. If you send your application by mail, we will process your application within three business days and mail the permit or plates back to you. If you apply in person, you will get your plates or permit immediately, apply at any registry of motor Vehicles office.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations  
PO Box 1652  
Halifax, NS B3J 2Z3

**Phone:** (902) 424-5851

**Toll free:** 1-800-898-7668

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## ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ATAP)

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The purpose of the Accessible Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP) is the enhancement of existing inclusive transportation services through the purchase of an accessible vehicle or modification of an existing vehicle.

## Eligibility

Funding is available to communities, organizations or groups involved in the delivery of any community accessible transportation service, including the private sector.

## Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations  
1601 Lower Water Street  
P.O. Box 216  
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

**Phone:** (902) 424-2088

**Fax:** (902) 424-0821

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## COMMUNITY ACCESS-ABILITY PROGRAM

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Community ACCESS-ability Program is one way the Government of Nova Scotia is demonstrating its commitment to equal opportunity and improving access to community facilities and venues for persons with disabilities. Under this program, funds are available for cost shared grants to community groups for accessibility related capital improvements.

Under this program, the provincial Government will make grants of up to two thirds of the direct and indirect costs of renovations, installations, and/or equipment, with the sponsoring organization being responsible for raising at least one third of their improvement project's funding from other sources. The maximum grant available for individual projects is \$10,000. Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate that the improvement proposed is part of an overall plan and commitment to the inclusiveness of persons with disabilities.

Applications for ACCESS-ability Grant funds will be considered any time throughout the duration of the program, subject to funding availability.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations  
Georgina Dimock, Planning &  
Development Officer

**Phone:** (902) 424-5965

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## COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CTAP)

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The Community Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) is intended to promote the delivery and provide operating support for cost effective and sustainable community-based inclusive transportation services in low population density communities in Nova Scotia. Community-based inclusive transportation is defined as: services that respond to the unmet needs of all persons who have a transportation disadvantage. Priorities and needs are determined by the community. Services are developed and provided by non-profit organizations through partnerships by coordinating public, private, non-profit, and volunteer resources and services.

### Contact Information

Community Transportation Assistance  
Program (CTAP)  
c/o Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations  
P.O. Box 216  
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

**Phone:** (902) 424-5965

**Fax:** (902) 424-0821

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## COMPUTER REBATES

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Rebate of 8/13 of Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on computers purchased by visually, hearing, physically, mentally impaired persons.

- the applicant is visually impaired, hearing impaired or physically or mentally challenged; or
- the applicant purchased the computer on behalf of a visually impaired, hearing impaired or physically or mentally challenged person.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations  
Program Management and Corporate  
Services Division  
1505 Barrington Street, 8th floor  
Halifax, NS  
PO Box 755  
Halifax, NS B3J 2V4

**Phone:** (902) 424- 6300 (HRM)

**Toll free:** 1-800-565-2336 (in NS)

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## CONSUMER PROPOSALS

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Consumer proposals are designed to provide you with an opportunity to make a proposal to your creditors to pay off your debts. You may make a proposal to your creditors to pay off a percentage of your debt, extend the time you have to pay off the debt, or propose some combination of both. Consumer proposals are administered by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations under the federal Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

**Phone:** (902) 424-5200

**Toll free:** 1-800-670-4357

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## DEBTOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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The Debtor Assistance Program is designed to offer counselling to those facing financial difficulty. Counsellors may offer assistance in preparing a family budget, or assist clients who qualify to present a consumer proposal. Staff will be pleased to review all program options through the Debtor Assistance Program. This program is administered by Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

**Phone:** (902) 424-5200

**Toll free:** 1-800-670-4357

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## DIAL – A – RIDE

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Dial-A-Ride Nova Scotia is a support network of non-profit, community-based transportation systems, located throughout Nova Scotia. It is a joint initiative of seven Departments and Agencies: Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Education, Health, Community Services, Transport & Public Works, Utility and Review Board, and the Disabled Persons Commission.

The Dial-A-Ride network was created in response to the pressing need for inclusive transportation services in Nova Scotia.

Dial-A-Ride Nova Scotia offers a diverse range of personal transportation services to meet the needs of all Nova Scotians, including wheelchair accessible vehicles for persons with special mobility needs.

### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

**Toll free:** 1-877-305-RIDE (7344)

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## GAS STATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA

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Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations has an interactive map that allows people with disabilities to determine where full service gas stations are located in the province. To see this map go to the following website:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/drivers/gas-pricing-stations/gas-stations.asp>

### Contact Information

Public Enquiries - Service Nova Scotia  
& Municipal Relations  
Mail Room, 8 South, Maritime Centre  
1505 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K5

**Phone:** (902) 424-5200

**Toll-Free:** 1-800-670-4357

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## HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

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The Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) provides help to low- and modest-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating.

The rebate program will help more than 70,000 Nova Scotians heat their homes, making life more affordable this winter.

This program offers a rebate of up to \$200 for eligible applicants who heat their home with oil, electricity, wood, propane, wood pellets, natural gas or coal.

Single people with an income of \$27,000 or less and families with an annual income of \$42,000 or less qualify for a rebate.

Applications are available at Access Nova Scotia centres or by

calling toll free @ 1-800-670-4357.

#### Motor Vehicles - Rebate of Nova Scotia Sales Tax (13%) For Persons with Physiological Impairment

A person who is subject to a physiological impairment and has purchased a passenger vehicle or light truck or van may apply for a rebate of the Nova Scotia Sales Tax (NSST-13%). NSST applies to motor vehicles purchased from persons who are not HST/GST registrants.

The Minister may, upon application authorize a rebate of the Nova Scotia Sales Tax - (not to exceed \$3,000.00) on the purchase of a passenger vehicle, van or truck having a load capacity not exceeding 3/4 ton.

#### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia & Municipal Relations  
Program Management and Corporate  
Services Division  
1505 Barrington Street, 8th floor  
Halifax, NS  
PO Box 755  
Halifax, NS B3J 2V4

**Phone:** (902) 424- 6300 (HRM)

**Toll free:** 1-800-565-2336 (in NS)

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## SENIORS PROPERTY TAX REBATE

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This program, administered by Access Nova Scotia on behalf of the Department of Community Services, is designed to help eligible seniors remain in their homes by providing them with an annual rebate on their municipal property taxes.

#### Contact Information

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

**Phone:** (902) 424-4500

**Toll free:** 1-877-296-9338

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## TRIP - TRANSIT RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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The NS-TRIP provides funding to support capacity building initiatives intended to generate new and improved public transit services in rural and unserved urban areas of Nova Scotia.

Eligible Applicants can apply for up to 75% of the total eligible costs, to a maximum grant of \$50,000 per project. Applicants can receive funding for one project per year under the program.

The funding will be used to support a broad range of activities, all of which must be directly related to enhancing the service capacity of new or existing public transit organizations in Nova Scotia.

### **Contact Information**

Rene Frigault,  
Planning and Development Officer  
c/o Service Nova Scotia and Municipal  
Relations (SNSMR)  
1505 Barrington Street, 14 North  
P.O. Box 216  
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

**Phone:** (902) 424-2088

**Fax:** (902) 424-0821



# Department of Transportation and Public Works

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## ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL (APS)

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Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works will consider the use of Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) indications at signalized intersections on roads owned by the province

An APS is a supplemental device to the pedestrian signal that provides information to visually impaired, persons who are deaf, and others that may benefit from additional sensory prompts, to indicate when it is appropriate to cross the street.

The 'Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) documents 'Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices' (MUTCO) and 'Guideline for Understanding, Use and Implementation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals' shall form the basic guidelines for deploying an APS system. Other related documents and standards may be consulted.

### Contact Information

Department of Transportation and Public Works

Johnston Building  
1672 Oranville Street  
Halifax NS B3J 3Z8

Traffic Engineering  
PO Box 186  
Halifax, NS B3J 2N2

**Phone:** (902) 424-2533

**Fax:** (902) 424-0571

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## DEAF CHILD AND BLIND CHILD SIGNS

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“Deaf Child” and “Blind Child” signs are provided by the Department of Transportation and Public Works. These warning signs are intended to advise motorists of the presence of a private residence or institution that houses a child or children who are deaf or blind to the degree that they cannot exercise due care for their well being while present on the street or highway. The costs of erection, maintenance and removal of these warning signs are the responsibility of the Department of Transportation and Public Works.

### **Contact Information**

Department of Transportation and Public Works  
Purdy’s Wharf, Tower 2  
1969 Upper Water Street, Suite 506  
PO Box 186  
Halifax, NS B3J 2N2

**Phone:** (902) 424-2297

**Fax:** (902) 424-0532

# Non Provincial Government Listings

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## ACCESS-A-BUS

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Metro Transit's Access-A-Bus service is a shared ride, door-to-door, transit service for persons who are unable to use the conventional transit system due to physical or cognitive disabilities and are declared eligible through a registration process.

The Access-A-Bus service is meant to supplement the Metro Transit fixed route system. Funding is provided by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

You may qualify for the Access-A-Bus service for the following reasons:

- Require use of wheelchair or scooter (users of scooters must transfer to a regular seat).
- Unable to step up or down 35 centimeter (13 inch) step unassisted.
- Unable to walk 175 meters (574 feet) outside unassisted, (one city block).
- Have 20/200 vision or less (legally blind).
- Unable to utilize the existing conventional transit due to cognitive or physical disability. (Use of the low floor buses is permitted).
- Unable to communicate orally or through sign language; this inability must be associated with another significant inability.

## Contact Information

Metro Transit  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
200 Ilsley Ave  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1V1

**Registration:**  
(902) 490-6681

**HRM Call Centre:**  
(902) 490-4000

**Access-a-bus scheduling:**  
(902) 490-6999 ext 1

**Access-a-bus dispatcher:**  
(902) 490-6999 ext 2

**Access-a-bus cancellation:**  
(902) 490-6999 ext 3 (24 hours a day)

**TTY:** (902) 490-6645

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## CANADA PENSION PLAN – DISABILITY BENEFITS

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The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability benefit is a monthly payment. It is available to people who contributed recently to the Canada Pension Plan while they worked, and then became unable to work at any job on a regular basis because of a disability. The primary purpose is to replace a portion of employment earnings for people who recently paid into the CPP. There are also benefits for children if at least one parent qualifies for the CPP disability benefit.

A CPP disability benefit is not approved on the basis of which disability or disease you have, but on how the medical condition and its treatment affect your ability to work at any job on a regular basis.

### **Contact Information**

Toll free (Canada and the United States)

**For service in English:** 1-800-277-9914

**For service in French:** 1-800-277-9915

**TTY:** 1-800-255-4786

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## **DISABILITY TAX CREDIT**

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The Disability Tax Credit, administered by Canada Revenue Agency, is a non-refundable tax credit that you can claim on your income tax return if you meet its eligibility requirements. This credit can reduce the amount of tax you have to pay. To make a claim, you must complete and file Form T2201, "Disability Tax Credit Certificate." It must be certified by a medical practitioner. The fact that you get a CPP disability benefit does not necessarily mean that you will get Disability Tax Credit. Please note that these programs have different eligibility criteria.

### **Contact Information**

Contact the Canada Revenue Agency for more information.

**Toll free:** 1-800-959-8281

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## ENABLING ACCESSIBILITY FUND

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As part of a \$45-million, three-year commitment to expand opportunities for people with disabilities, the Enabling Accessibility Fund supports community-based projects across Canada that improve accessibility, reduce barriers, and enable Canadians, regardless of physical ability, to participate in and contribute to their community and the economy. Approved projects will have strong ties to and support from their communities.

There are two kinds of funding under the Enabling Accessibility Fund.

1. Small Projects Enabling Accessibility:

Provides grants of up to \$50,000 for projects to renovate buildings, modify vehicles, and/or make information and communication more accessible.

2. Major Projects Enabling Accessibility:

Provides contribution funding of \$1 million to \$15 million for participatory abilities centres, subject to an agreement with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

### Contact Information

Enabling Accessibility Fund  
Office for Disability Issues  
105, rue Hôtel de Ville  
Bell Building, First Floor  
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0J9

**Toll free:** 1-866-268-2502

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## REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN

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A Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) helps people with disabilities and their families save for the future. Contributions to RDSPs may be supplemented by a Canada Disability Savings Grant and Canada Disability Savings Bond.

### Eligibility Information

Any person who is:

Eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (disability amount);

A Canadian resident; and

Under 60 years of age.

If the person is a minor, their parent or legal representative may establish the RDSP for their benefit.

### Contact Information

The following financial organizations offer the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), grant and bond:

BMO Bank of Montreal. For more information, visit the Bank of Montreal Web site or call them at 1-800-665-7700.

Bank of Nova Scotia. For more information, visit the Bank of Nova Scotia Web site or call them at 1-877-929-4499.

CIBC Securities Inc. For more information, visit the CIBC Web site or call them at 1-800-465-3863.

RBC Royal Bank. For more information, visit the RBC Royal Bank Web site or call them at 1-800-463-3863.

TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. For more information, visit the TD Waterhouse Canada Inc. Web site or call them at 1-866-280-2022.