

Resource Guide for North Shore Children and Youth who Require Extra Support

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EDUCATION

PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

North Shore Child Care Resources & Referral Program (NSCCRRP)

Capilano Mall

201-935 Marine Drive

North Vancouver V7P 1S3

Tel: 604-985-7138

Parent Info Line: 604-985-7138 ext.303

Fax: 604-985-0645

Website: www.nscr.bc.ca

The North Shore Community Resources Society operates this program. It provides programs and projects that enhance child care services and the quality of life for children and their families, as well as services, supports, and consultation for parents, care providers, community agencies, municipalities and members of the public. Includes an equipment lending library, resource library, and public internet access.

North Shore Supported Child Development Program (SCDP; formerly Supported Child Care)

148 East 2nd Street

North Vancouver V7P 1B5

Tel: 604-998-0131

Fax: 604-998-0134

Email: info@nsscdp.com

Website: www.scdp.bc.ca

The SCDP is a community-based program that assists families of children with extra support needs to access inclusive child care that meets family needs. The program provides individualized planning to promote development, info and training for parents and care providers, referrals to other services, and resources such as books, toys, and specialized equipment. SCDP is funded by the province and is hosted by the North Shore Neighbourhood House.

***Serves children 0-12 years and some aged 13-19 years * Open referral ***

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

BC Provincial School for the Deaf

**5455 Rumble Street
Burnaby V5J 2B7**

Tel: 604-664-8560

TTY: 604-664-8563

Fax: 604-664-8561

Email: info@south.sd41.bc.ca

Website: www.burnabysouth.com

Located within Burnaby South High School, the BC Provincial School for the Deaf gives students the opportunity to participate in academic, social, and recreational activities with their deaf peers and with hearing students. Offers both a residential and day school for deaf children in BC.

*** Kindergarten to grade 12 * Open referral ***

First Nations Special Education Resource Line

**11011 Taylor Way
Delta V4C 4K2**

Phone/Fax: 1-877-547-1919

Email: khorner@uniserve.com

Website: www.fnsa.ca/karen.htm

A free service connecting teachers, administrators, parents, and service providers to the information they need to support First Nations students with disabilities who require extra support to meet their educational needs.

*** Kindergarten to Grade 12 * Open referral ***

North Vancouver School Board

**721 Chesterfield Avenue
North Vancouver V7M 2M5**

Tel: 604-903-3444

Fax: 604-903-3445

Email: info@nvsd44.bc.ca

Website: www.nvsd44.bc.ca

The North Vancouver School District's Student Services Department provides a range of programs and services for children with special needs. These include counselling and access to school psychologists, hearing resource and vision support programs, a speech and language therapy program, and a Learning Support Team that can customize educational services for individuals. Services are accessed through the Principal and the School Based Resource Team of the relevant school.

*** Kindergarten to grade 12 * Open referral ***

Vancouver Oral Centre for Deaf Children

**3575 Kaslo Street
Vancouver V5M 3H4**

Tel: 604-437-0255

Fax: 604-437-0260

Email: info@deafeducationcentre.org

Website: www.oraldeafed.org/schools/vancouver

An independent, non-profit day school that is approved by the BC Ministry of Education, through the Independent Schools Branch. Through the use of technology hearing-impaired children are taught to speak and to become proficient communicators, with the ultimate goal that they will be able to participate fully in the world at large. Parental involvement is emphasized.

*** Ages 0 to 18 years * Clinical diagnosis required * Partly funded by tuition fees
*Eligible children may have part of the tuition fee waived depending on financial need ***

West Vancouver School Board

**1075–21st Street
West Vancouver V7V 4A9**

Tel: 604-981-1000

Fax: 604-981-1001

Email: info@sd45.bc.ca

Website: www.sd45.bc.ca

Classroom teachers are responsible for designing programs for students with special needs. The teachers may work with Special Education Assistants to support students. An Individual Educational Plan (IEP) is created for each special needs student to identify individualized goals and to specify the adaptations, modifications, and services to be provided as well as measures for tracking achievement.

*** Kindergarten to grade 12 * Open referral ***

EQUIPMENT

Canadian Red Cross Society – Children’s Medical Equipment Recycling & Loan Service (CMERLS)

**3400 Lake City Way
Burnaby V5A 4Y2**

Tel: 604-709-6885

Fax: 604-709-6688

Email: Patricia.Barrett@redcross.ca

National Website: www.redcross.ca

Provides specialized medical equipment for children with special needs to enhance their daily activities and promote independence, as well as facilitate educational and recreational pursuits. Equipment includes wheelchairs, walkers, standers, bathing and toileting aids, and biomedical equipment. A volunteer-based program run by the Red Cross also provides adapted bicycles for children with special needs. The bikes must be prescribed and fitted by a therapist.

*** Ages 0-19 * Therapist referral necessary ***

North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NSAMH)

**1070 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver V7P 1M3**

Tel: 604-984-9321

Fax: 604-984-9882

Email: info@nsamh.org

Website: www.nsamh.org

The NSAMH’s Computer and Adaptive Technology (C.A.T.) Program enables individuals with disabilities to access computer-based education, entertainment, and communication tools. The program provides computer users with touch screens, track balls, and specialized software programs.

*** All ages * Open referral * Program fees * Annual membership fee ***

Personal Supports Information Line

Tel: 1-888-818-1211

TTY: 1-800-661-8773

Email: PersonalSupportsInformation@gov.bc.ca

A provincial government help line for information regarding equipment and assistive devices for persons with disabilities or special needs. Provides information and/or connects callers to the government program that provides the equipment about which the caller is inquiring.

*** No charge ***

Tetra Society of North America

**Box 27, Suite A304 Plaza of Nations
770 Pacific Boulevard South
Vancouver V6B 5E7**

**Tel: 604-688-6464
Fax: 604-688-6463
Email: info@tetrasociety.org
Website: www.tetrasociety.org**

Construct assistive devices for people with disabilities where the solution is not available in a commercially-made product. Volunteers with technical skills work one-on-one with people with disabilities to customize assistive devices. Includes a "Tools for Tykes" program to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

*** All ages * Open referral * Cost of raw materials and mileage ***

Variety – The Children’s Charity of British Columbia

**4300 Still Creek Drive
Burnaby V5C 6C6**

**Tel: 604-320-0505
Fax: 604-320-0535
Email: info@variety.bc.ca
Website: www.variety.bc.ca**

Charitable organization whose Heart of Variety funding provides children in need with specialized equipment such as talking computers, ambulation training orthoses, and wheelchairs and lifts.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * Proof of financial need required when applying for grants ***

HEALTH

Provincial Health Authority

BC Health Guide

Website: www.bchealthguide.org/kbaltindex.asp

An online self-care resource that provides information on many common health topics, as well as tests, procedures, medications, et cetera. This secure health database contains medically approved information from the Healthwise® Knowledgebase.

BC Health Files

Website: www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/httoc.stm

An online compilation of over 180 brief, easy-to-understand fact sheets about public and environmental health and safety issues.

BC NurseLine

Tel: 604-215-4700
TTY: 1-866-889-4700

Confidential health information and advice are offered through a toll-free 24-hour information line. Nurses are available around the clock 7 days per week; a pharmacist is available 5 pm to 9 am daily.

Dial-a-Dietitian

Tel: 604-732-9191
Website: www.dialadietitian.org

A phone service through which registered dietitians offer nutritional information and advice to callers. Translation services in over 130 languages are available.

BC Children's Hospital

4480 Oak Street
Vancouver V6H 3N1

Tel: 604-875-2000
Website: www.bcchildrens.ca

The BC Children's Hospital is an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. Staff at the Hospital provide expert care for BC's most seriously ill or injured children.

*** Ages 0 to 17 years * Referral by physician ***

G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre

4255 Laurel Street
Vancouver V5Z 2G9

Tel: 604-734-1313
Fax: 604-737-6359
Website: www.vch.ca/gfstrong/programs/aya/

G.F. Strong is BC's largest rehabilitation centre. Its Adolescent and Young Adult Program focuses on addressing the rehabilitation needs of young people with acquired or congenital disabilities. Adolescents with disabilities such as brain and/or spinal cord injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, and muscular dystrophy are admitted to the program. The program also addresses the transitional tasks faced by young people with disabilities as they move toward adulthood.

*** 12 years until the achievement of adolescent developmental tasks or age 25, whichever comes first * Referral by a physician ***

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children

**3644 Slocan Street
Vancouver V5M 3E8**

**Tel: 604-453-8300
Fax: 604-453-8301**

Website: www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/SunnyHillHealthCtr/

The Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children is an agency of the Provincial Health Services authority. It provides specialized services to children with disabilities and their families from across BC. Teams of health professionals provide assessment, diagnosis, consultation, referral and, in some cases, treatment services. The teams address issues such as development and behaviour, including developmental disabilities and acquired brain injury, neuromotor disabilities, and sensory impairment. They also provide respite services for families caring for children with disabilities and transition planning for children returning to the community.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * Referral by physician ***

Provincial Autism Resource Centre (PARC)

**3644 Slocan Street
Vancouver V5M 3E8**

**Tel: 604-453-8320
Fax: 604-453-8305**

Website: www.phsa.ca

(select “For health professionals”, then “Autism”)

Located at Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children in Vancouver, the team at PARC assesses and diagnoses children and youths with autism spectrum disorder.

*** Physician referral ***

Vancouver Coastal Health

Lions Gate Hospital

**231 East 15th Street
North Vancouver V7L 2L7**

Tel: 604-988-3131

Fax: 604-984-5838

Website: www.vch.ca/facilities/hospitals/lgh

Provides a full range of both general and acute care medical services. Follow-up support and liaison with community services and agencies is also available, as are workshops that deal with specific issues such as diabetes, asthma, eating disorders, etc.

Child and Adolescent Program

**Central Community Health Centre
5th Floor–132 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A2**

Tel: 604-983-6719

Fax: 604-983-6705

Website: www.nscg.ca/

This program provides psychological and psychiatric assessment and treatment services to children with behavioural, social, or emotional difficulties. Referring problems include behavioural issues, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Also offers parent groups, summer programs, and after school programs.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * Open referral ***

Community Dental Hygienist

**990–22nd Street
West Vancouver V7V 4C2**

Tel: 604-904-6189

Fax: 604-904-6262

Website: www.vch.ca

Provides assistance to families in need by giving access to dental care through the Healthy Kids Dental Program. A qualified hygienist works with children with special needs to address dental care issues. A list of facilities that may offer services at reduced fees is available at www.vch.ca/dentalhealth/child_services.htm.

Community Health Nursing

**5th& 6th Floor–132 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A2**

Tel: 604-983-6700

Fax: 604-983-6839

Website: www.vch.ca

Offers a range of health services, including assessments, immunization, referrals to specialists, nutritional counselling, speech and language assessments, and youth clinics.

*** Open referral ***

Community Nutritionist

**990–22nd Street
West Vancouver V7V 4C2**

**Tel: 604-904-6229
Fax: 604-904-6262
Website: www.vch.ca**

Provides nutritional consultation services and promotes healthy eating among children and youth, mainly through health education, health promotion, and helping organizations develop health-promoting policies. Parents can call with questions.

*** Open referral ***

Hearing Clinic

**5th Floor–132 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A2**

**Tel: 604-983-6704
Fax: 604-983-6839
Website: www.vch.ca**

Hearing clinic for children 0 to 19.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * Open referral ***

Paediatric Resource Team

**990–22nd Street
West Vancouver V7V 4C2**

**Tel: 604-904-6291
Fax: 604-904-6262**

This resource team provides support and services to children with special health needs and their families. Services include consultation and information for parents and other caregivers; delegated nursing services for children whose health care may be delegated to non-nurse caregivers; and direct nursing services for children with complex care needs who require a Registered Nurse.

*** School age children * Open referral ***

Speech and Language Pathology

**5th Floor–132 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A2**

**Tel: 604-983-6704
Fax: 604-983-6839
Website: www.vch.ca**

Provides assessment, consultation, and therapy. Children are seen in their homes or other locations.

*** Ages 0 to 5 years * Open referral ***

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Bernard C. Vinge & Assoc. (HCS) Ltd.

**418–4538 Kingsway
Burnaby V5H 4T9**

**Tel: 604-689-3855
Fax: 604-689-3864
Email: info@vinge.bc.ca
Website: www.vinge.bc.ca**

Operates two group homes on the North Shore for children and youth with developmental disabilities and complex physical and mental health issues.

*** Referral from Community Living British Columbia ***

Gateway Society – Services for Persons with Autism

**4807 Georgia Street
Delta V4K 2T1**

**Tel: 604-946-0401
Fax: 604-946-8429
Email: Solutions@gatewaysociety.org
Website: www.gatewaysociety.org**

A non-profit provincial agency that offers a range of residential and treatment services to children and adults with autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders. Services include both short- and long-term residential care.

*** Referral through MCFD ***

North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NSAMH)

**1070 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver V7P 1M3**

**Tel: 604-984-9321
Fax: 604-984-9882
Email: info@nsamh.org
Website: www.nsamh.org**

NSAMH provides full-time accommodation for persons with developmental disabilities living on the North Shore. Options range from community group homes to independent residences.

*** All ages * Open referral ***

North Shore Disability Resource Centre (NSDRC)

**3158 Mountain Highway
North Vancouver V7K 2H5**

**Tel: 604-985-5371
Fax: 604-985-7594
Email: nsdrc@nsdrc.org
Website: www.nsdrc.org**

Operates Quinton Place, a residential home for children with physical disabilities and high medical needs.

*** Referral from Community Living British Columbia ***

RECREATION

British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society (BCMOS)

Box 27, 770 Pacific Blvd South **Tel: 604-688-6464 ext.126**
Plaza of Nations **May–August Telephone: 604-222-1312**
Vancouver V6B 5E7 **Fax: 604-688-6463**
Email: bcmos@disabilityfoundation.org
Website: www.disabilityfoundation.org/bcmos/

BCMOS operates the Wilderness Access program out of Pacific Spirit Regional Park at 4915 West 16th Avenue in Vancouver. It runs from May to September, offering day hikes, theme hikes, camping trips, and Kids' Adventure Days. Specially-designed equipment such as the TrailRider gives children with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment.

*** Ages 4 and up * Membership fee * Fee for hikes, equipment rentals ***

BC Special Olympics

210–3701 East Hastings Street **Tel: 604-737-3078**
Burnaby V5C 2H6 **Fax: 604-737-3080**
Email: info@specialolympics.bc.ca
Website: www.bcso.bc.ca

Provides sport opportunities to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

*** Ages 8 and up * Visit website for eligibility requirements * Fees for some programs ***

BC Wheelchair Basketball Society (BCWBS)

224–1367 West Broadway **Tel: 604-737-3138**
Vancouver V6H 4A9 **Fax: 604-737-6043**
Email: info@bcsbs.ca
Website: www.bcwbc.ca

A non-profit organization that supports wheelchair basketball programs throughout BC. Resource library available.

*** Juniors include ages 8-19 * Membership fee ***

BC Wheelchair Sports Association (BCWSA)

**224–1367 West Broadway
Vancouver V6H 4A9**

**Tel: 604-737-3090
Fax: 604-737-6043**

**Email: info@bcwheelchairsports.com
Website: www.bcwheelchairsports.com**

BCWSA is dedicated to providing opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. It runs several junior sport programs, including Tennis, Basketball, Powersoccer, and Athletics. Programs are designed for children and youth who have a disability and are able to use a manual or electric wheelchair for mobility. The association provides a wheelchair loan program and also operates Junior Sport Camps every summer.

Bowen Lodge by the Sea

**(Operated by CNIB)
100–5055 Joyce Street
Vancouver V5R 6B2**

**Tel: 604-431-2020
Fax: 604-431-2099
Email: bcy@cnib.ca**

Website: www.cnib.ca/bowenlodge/

Bowen Lodge by the Sea is a specialized recreation camp on Bowen Island for children and adults with visual impairments.

*** Ages 9 to 19 years * Referral through CNIB * Minimal fees ***

British Columbia Blind Sports and Recreation Association (BCBSRA)

**350–5055 Joyce Street
Vancouver V5R 6B2**

**Tel: 604-325-8638
Fax: 604-325-1638**

**Email: info@bcblindsports.bc.ca
Website: www.bcblindsports.ba.ca**

A non-profit association of individuals who are blind, visually impaired, deaf-blind, or blind with additional disabilities, along with their supporters and family members. Works closely with the CNIB to improve access and opportunities for physical activity. Offers individualized physical education consultations, activity introduction programs, trains volunteers to act as sighted activity guides, and operates a specialized equipment loan program.

*** All ages * Membership fee ***

Camp Goodtimes

(Operated by the Canadian Cancer Society) Tel: 604-675-7141
565 West 10th Avenue Email: gotcamp@bc.cancer.ca
Vancouver V5Z 4J4 Website: www.bc.cancer.ca

The Canadian Cancer Society offers a number of safe, fun camping experiences at Maple Ridge's Loon Lake for children who have a history of cancer and their families. The week-long Kids Camp is for children ages 6 to 15; the week-long Teen Program is for ages 15-18; and the four-day Family Program is designed for children aged 0-18 and their family members. Medical professionals are on-site 25 hours a day during the Kids Camp and Teen Program.

*** Referral by a physician * No fees ***

Camp Moomba

c/o The Western Canadian Pediatric AIDS Society Tel: 604-684-1701
223-119 West Pender St. Fax: 604-684-1741
Vancouver V6B 1S4 Email: info@campmoomba.com
Website: www.campmoomba.com

A summer camp program for children who have been impacted by HIV and AIDS, Camp Moomba offers a safe and caring environment where children can have fun, free of the stigma of AIDS.

*** Ages 6-17 * No fees for camping or transportation ***

Disabled Sailing Association of British Columbia (DSA of BC)

Box 27, Suite A304-770 Pacific Boulevard South Tel: 604-688-6464
Plaza of Nations Fax: 604-688-6463
Vancouver V6B 5E7 June-Aug Telephone: 604-222-3003
Email: dsa@disabilityfoundation.org
Website: www.disabilityfoundation.org/dsa/

The DSA is a charitable society devoted to enriching the lives of people with significant disabilities through sailing in both recreational and competitive settings. Their Children's Program offers children with disabilities the opportunity to learn to sail with trained staff using adapted equipment.

*** Ages 6 to Adult * Membership fee * Fee for sailing sessions, lessons, programs ***

Disabled Skiers Association of B.C. (DSABC)

**226–1367 West Broadway
Vancouver V6H 4A9**

Tel: 604-737-3038

Fax: 604-737-6043

Email: disabledskiers@telus.net

Website: www.disabledskiingbc.com

Provides skiing and snowboarding programs for children with disabilities as a form of recreation and rehabilitation. Instructors are CADS certified and receive training on adaptive snowboarding techniques.

*** Fees for programs * Membership fee ***

Easter Seals Summer Camps

(Operated by Lions Society of BC)

**3981 Oak Street
Vancouver V6H 4H5**

Tel: 604-873-1865

Fax: 604-873-0166

Email: camp@lionsbc.ca

Website: www.lionsbc.ca/programs/camps/

The Lions Society of BC offers a range of safe and fun summer camps for children with physical and mental disabilities.

*** Ages 6 to 18 years * Open referral * No fee ***

Eureka Outdoor Camp

**22151 Wilson Avenue
Richmond V6V 2P6**

Tel: 604-520-1155

Email: info@eurekacamp.ca

Website: www.eurekacamp.ca

Operated by the Advantage Society for Children with Learning Disabilities, Camp Eureka is for children who have invisible disabilities such as attention deficit disorder, epilepsy, mild autism, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The goals of the camp are to promote children's self-confidence, to develop their social and interpersonal skills, and to foster an appreciation of the outdoors.

*** Ages 8 to 18 * Open referral * Minimal fees * Financial assistance available ***

North Shore ConneXions

**1070 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver V7P 1M3**

**Tel: 604-904-0842
Fax: 604-984-9882
Email: katieh@nsamh.org
Website: www.nsamh.org**

North Shore ConneXions is a community-based drop-in centre that provides recreational and social opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Operated by the North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped, North Shore ConneXions offers Friendship Circles for elementary-school children and The Avengers after-school life skills program for youth. Also offers karate, arts & crafts, cooking, etc., as well as the Snoezlen sensory experience room. See website for details.

*** Age varies with program * Open referral * Program-specific fees * Membership fee ***

North Shore Disability Resource Centre (NSDRC)

**3158 Mountain Highway
North Vancouver V7K 2H5**

**Tel: 604-985-5371
Fax: 604-985-7594
Email: nsdrc@nsdrc.org
Website: www.nsdrc.org**

Summer Program

This program is for children with disabilities who require assistance to attend summer day camp programs at local Recreation Centres or other programs in their community. Families can request an NSDRC Recreation Assistant to support their child/youth or they can request direct funding to hire someone of their choice to work with their child.

*** Ages 3 to 18 years * Open referral ***

Teen and Pre-Teen Program

This program offers opportunities for teens and pre-teens with disabilities to learn social and life skills while enjoying recreational activities with their peers. The four-hour weekend program provides individuals with choices and opportunities to participate in small group activities in the community.

*** Ages 9 to 18 years * Referral from Community Living British Columbia required ***

North Vancouver Recreation Commission

Delbrook recCentre (Administration Office)
600 West Queens Road
North Vancouver V7N 2L3

Tel: 604-987-7529

Fax: 604-984-4294

Website: www.northvanrec.com

Provides a wide range of recreational and social opportunities in the community. General categories include arts and community events; aquatics and arenas; fitness, health, and wellness; personal and social development; and sports. Also offers an after-school club for children with developmental disabilities. A Recreation Access Worker is available to assist with finding volunteers to support people in recreation programs on a one-to-one basis. The Recreation Access Worker may be contacted at 604-983-6417. Email may be sent via online access.

*** Age varies by program * Open referral * Fee for programs (financial assistance may be available) ***

Pacific Riding for Developing Abilities (PRDA)

1088–208th Street
Langley V2Z 1T4

Tel: 604-530-8717

Fax: 604-530-8617

Email: program@prda.ca

Website: www.prda.ca

PRDA provides therapeutic and recreational riding opportunities for individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities. Offers riding sessions as well as 4-day summer camps.

*** Ages 2 and up (maximum rider weight 160 lbs)* Physician referral required – see website for details * Fees are program-specific ***

Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society (RTES)

13671 No. 3 Road
Richmond V7A 1X7

Tel: 604-241-7837

Fax: 604-241-7858

Email: admin_rtes@shaw.ca

Website: www.rtesrichmond.com

The Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society provides therapeutic riding opportunities for children and youth with disabilities. Their goal is to promote the physical, psychological, and social wellbeing of participants.

*** Weight limits apply, call for information and application forms * Physician referral * Membership and lesson fees ***

SportAbility—Cerebral Palsy Sports Association of B.C.

**6235A–136th Street
Surrey V3X 1H3**

Tel: 604-599-5240

Fax: 604-599-5241

Email: sportinfo@telus.net

Website: www.cpsports.com

A non-profit association that provides sports and recreational opportunities for athletes with disabilities, including boccia, cycling, Power Soccer, and sledge hockey. Offers recreational/skill development programs and competitive clubs as well as regional and national competitions including the BC Disability Games and BC Summer Games.

*** Junior: up to 16 years * Senior: 16 to Adult * Open referral * Membership fee ***

Teen Scene Youth Group

(G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre)

4255 Laurel Street

Vancouver V5Z 2G9

Website: www.vch.ca/gfstrong/programs/aya

Tel: 604-737-6428

Fax: 604-737-6279

Teen Scene Youth Group provides an opportunity for youth with physical disabilities to socialize with their peers, as well as learn to life skills that will maximize their potential for independence. Topics covered include housing and transportation, vocation planning, and relationship issues.

*** Ages 15 to 20 * Open referral ***

Theatre Terrific

4397 West 2nd Avenue

Vancouver V6R 1K4

Tel: 604-222-4020

Fax: 604-222-4020

Email: info@theatreterrific.ca

Website: www.theatreterrific.ca

A theatre company for people with physical, developmental, or mental health disabilities. An ensemble workshop format is used to address thought-provoking and taboo subjects, allowing artists with disabilities to express their creativity.

***Ages 16 to Adult * Open referral * Program fees (some scholarships available) ***

Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association (VTEA)

3987–232 Street

Langley V2Z 2H4

Tel: 604-533-1262

Fax: 604-533-8963

Email: info@vtea.ca

Website: www.vtea.ca

A non-profit organization providing therapeutic horseback riding for children and adults with disabilities.

*** Contact VTEA for age/weight limits * Physician referral * Fee for programs ***

Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports (VASS)

**Suite 322 at 125A–1030 Denman St.
Vancouver V6G 2M6**

**Tel: 604-646-8277
Fax: 604-646-8277
Email: info@vass.ca
Website: www.vass.ca**

A non-profit society that operates skiing and snowboarding programs for persons with disabilities on three North Shore mountains. Lessons range from beginner to advanced, and may include adaptive equipment and specialized teaching techniques.

*** All ages * Open referral * Nominal fee for programs plus membership ***

West Vancouver Community Centre

**780–22nd Street
West Vancouver V7V 4B9**

**Tel: 604-925-7270
Fax: 604-925-5952
Website: www.westvancouver.net**

At the time of publication of this Resource Guide, the West Vancouver Community Centre is currently under construction. Programs are being held at alternate sites in West Vancouver. The Community Centre provides a variety of arts, fitness, and recreational opportunities. Please contact them for more information.

*** Open referral * Fees for some programs ***

Zajac Ranch

**c/o The Zajac Foundation
300–2006 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver V6J 2B3**

**Tel: 604-739-0444
Fax: 604-739-0441
Email: info@zajacranch.com
Website: www.zajacranch.com**

A summer camp for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Offers a full range of activities including horseback riding, water sports, gardening, music, and arts and crafts. Medical professionals are on-site 24 hours a day.

*** Ages 7 to 17 years * Completion of medical forms necessary to determine eligibility to enter program * Fee for program ***

RESPIRE SERVICES

Gateway Society – Services for Persons with Autism

**4807 Georgia Street
Delta V4K 2T1**

Tel: 604-946-0401

Fax: 604-946-8429

Email: Solutions@gatewaysociety.org

Website: www.gatewaysociety.org

A non-profit provincial agency that offers a range of residential and treatment services to children and adults with autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders. Services include respite care.

*** Referral through MCFD ***

North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NSAMH)

**1070 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver V7P 1M3**

Tel: 604-984-9321

Fax: 604-984-9882

Email: info@nsamh.org

Website: www.nsamh.org

The NSAMH's Community Respite program offers temporary support to the families of children with developmental disabilities, either in the child's home or in an approved care-giving residence in the community.

*** CLBC referral required ***

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Aboriginal Infant Development Program (AIDP)

**3036 Takaya Drive
North Vancouver V7H 2V6**

Tel: 604-929-0693

Fax: 604-929-4714

Email: mlalonde@twnation.ca

Website: aidp.bc.ca

Funded by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and MCFD, the AIDP provides support to the families of children who are at risk for, or who have been diagnosed with, a developmental delay. Consultants in this program offer home visits, activity planning, and developmental/family needs assessments in ways that are culturally sensitive and meaningful. Consultants may refer families to other services.

*** Ages 0-6 ***

Autism Community Training British Columbia (ACT)

**240–2250 Boundary Road
Burnaby V5M 3Z3**

**Tel: 604-205-5467
Fax: 604-205-5345
Email: info@autismcommunitytraining.bc.ca
Website: www.actbc.ca**

A province-wide not-for-profit information and referral service for families of children with autism spectrum disorder as well as professionals.

*** Fee for workshops ***

Autism Society of British Columbia (ASBC)

**303–3701 East Hastings Street
Burnaby V5C 2H6**

**Tel: 604-434-0880
Fax: 604-434-0801
Email: administrator@autismbc.ca
Website: www.autismbc.ca**

A parent-based and directed society that provides support to individuals with autism and their families. Services include Community Parent Groups which provide parents with opportunities to network with other parents and hear guest speakers; a Summer Reimbursement Program which provides financial assistance to children with autism who participate in summer activities; and an extensive resource library.

*** Open referral * Membership fee but financial assistance may be available ***

BC Family Hearing Resource Centre

**15220–92nd Avenue
Surrey V3R 2T8**

**Tel: 604-584-2827
TTY: 604-584-9108
Fax: 604-584-2800
Email: Info@bcfamilyhearing.com
Website: www.bcfamilyhearing.com**

Provincial program that provides a range of services to families with young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Programs include a speech language and auditory learning program, a cochlear implant program, a program that teaches parents strategies and techniques, a Parent to Parent Support Network, and sign language instruction. Also provides consultation and training for other professionals who work with children who are hearing impaired and a lending library.

*** 0 to school entry age * Open referral ***

British Columbia Association for Community Living (BCACL)

**227 6th Street
New Westminster V3L 3A5**

**Tel: 604-777-9100
Fax: 604-875-777-9394
Email: info@bcacl.org
Website: www.bcacl.org**

BCACL is non-profit association that works to promote opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to participate in all aspects of community life. Offers educational workshops, self-advocacy groups, and educational resources, as well as organizing special events.

*** All ages * Open referral ***

BC Centre for Ability

**2805 Kingsway
Vancouver V5R 4H9**

**Tel: 604-451-5511
Fax: 604-451-5651
Email: home@centreforability.bc.ca
Website: www.centreforability.bc.ca**

The BC Centre for Ability offers a wide range of programs and services for children and youth with disabilities. These include child development services, in-school support, counselling for families, therapy and rehabilitation programs, and a lending library. Please see the Centre's website for a full description of programs available.

*** Ages 0 to Adult * Please see website for program-specific fees ***

BC Epilepsy Society

**510-999 West Broadway
Vancouver V5Z 1K5**

**Tel: 604-875-6704
Fax: 604-875-0617
Email: info@bcepilepsy.com
Website: www.bcepilepsy.com**

A non-profit society that operates an extensive self-help lending library with materials about epilepsy.

*** All ages * Open referral ***

BC Paraplegic Association

**780 S.W. Marine Drive
Vancouver V6P 5Y7**

**Tel: 604-324-3611
Fax: 604-326-1229
Email: vancouver@bcpara.org
Website: www.bcpara.org**

Serves people with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities, assisting them in achieving independence, self-reliance, and full community participation. Provides a range of services including peer support. Publishes a manual, "Life Interrupted", written by youths aged 12-21 with spinal cord injuries, that offers practical information to peers.

*** All ages * Open referral * Sliding scale membership fee ***

Bridges to the Future

**7th Floor–1401 West Broadway
Vancouver V6H 1H6**

**Tel: 604-788-7124
Fax: 604-731-6127
Email: jennifer.crawford@bridgestothefuture.ca
Website: www.bridgestothefuture.ca**

Created by a partnership between the BC Paraplegic Association, the Cerebral Palsy Association, Muscular Dystrophy Canada and the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of BC, Bridges to the Future is a community-based resource designed to help youth with physical disabilities make the transition to adulthood. The program focuses on motivating, supporting, and coaching youth as they move toward goals such as preparing for post-secondary education, developing financial and life skills, finding suitable housing, and applying for Person with Disabilities status.

*** Ages 15 to 24 years * Individuals who qualify for community living adult services may not be included in the program ***

Canadian Deafblind and Rubella Association, BC Chapter (CDBRA-BC)

**713 Columbia Street
New Westminster V3M 1B2**

**Tel: 604-517-6175
Fax: 604-517-6137
Email: bcinfo@cdbrabc.ca
Website: www.cdbrabc.ca**

A non-profit organization that provides support and services to individuals who are deafblind. Services include an Early Intervention Program, a Summer Intervention Program, an Annual Summer Family Retreat, and a Hospital Intervention Program.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * Membership fee ***

Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

**100–5055 Joyce Street
Vancouver V5R 6B2**

Tel: 604-431-2020

Fax: 604-431-2099

Toll-Free Children's Line (information): 1-866-869-0343

Website: www.cnib.ca/en/bc-yukon/Default.aspx

A non-profit organization that offers support and information for individuals with varying degrees of visual impairment. Programs for children and youth with vision loss and their families include Early Intervention Camps, Family Regional Workshops, Bowen Summer Camps, a CNIB Youth Group (ages 12-17), and a Parent Support Group.

*** All ages * Open referral ***

Cerebral Palsy Association of BC (CPABC)

**801–409 Granville Street
Vancouver V6C 1T2**

Tel: 604-408-9484

Fax: 604-408-9489

Email: info@bccerebralpalsy.com

Website: www.bccerebralpalsy.com

Provides information and advocacy for people with cerebral palsy as well as raising awareness about cerebral palsy in the community. Organizes Family Support and Information meetings, maintains an extensive lending library, and offers workshops and seminars among other services.

*** All ages * Open referral * Sliding scale membership fee ***

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders (CHADD)

**P.O. Box 74670
Vancouver V6K 4P4**

Tel: 604-222-4043

Email: chaddvan@vcn.bc.ca

National Website: www.chaddcanada.org

British Columbia Webpage: www.vcn.bc.ca/chaddvan/

National non-profit parent-based organization formed to enhance the lives of individuals with attention deficit disorder (ADD) and their families. Holds support and information meetings and maintains a resource library.

*** All ages * Open referral * Annual membership fee ***

Community Care Facilities Licensing

5th Floor–132 West Esplanade

North Vancouver V7M 1A2

Website: www.vch.ca/environmental/licensing/licensing_services.htm

Email: communitycare.licensing@vch.ca

Tel: 604-983-6787

Fax: 604-983-6883

Provides services including the licensing and monitoring of child facilities and a complete list of licensed daycare, family child care, and preschool facilities on the North Shore.

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)

CLBC works with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to provide a range of services for children and youth with special needs and their families.

They provide services for children who

- Have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Are eligible for the At Home Program for children with severe disabilities
- Have a developmental disability

Eligibility criteria for programs may vary.

Facilitator's Office (planning) – CONTACT FIRST

203–267 West Esplanade

North Vancouver V7M 1A5

Tel: 604-981-0110

Quality Service Office (Analysts)

210–2100 Lynn Valley Road

North Vancouver V7J 2A2

Tel: 604-981-0321

Fax: 604-987-9337

Email: northvancouver@communitylivingbc.ca

Website: www.communitylivingbc.ca

Deaf Children's Society of BC (DCS)

200–7355 Canada Way

Burnaby V3N 4Z6

Tel: 604-525-6056

TTY: 604-525-9390

Fax: 604-525-7307

Email: deafbc@deafchildren.bc.ca

Website: www.deafchildren.bc.ca

Provides a family-centred approach in supporting deaf and hard of hearing children and their families, with the goal of enhancing the family's ability to advocate for opportunities to optimize their child's development. Operates a preschool (ages 3-5), a summer program, a speech and language program, and a lending library, as well as offering counselling and social events for parents and guardians.

*** Ages 0 to 5 years * Open referral * Membership fee required to access library ***

Down Syndrome Research Foundation (DSRF)

**1409 Sperling Avenue
Burnaby V5B 4J8**

Tel: 604-444-3773

Fax: 604-431-9248

Email directly through website

Website: www.dsrf.org

Based in BC, the DSRF offers a range of programs and services for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families. These include a Speech and Language “Chatter Camp” for children, a Summer School Program for teens and young adults, and a College Program to assist students with Down Syndrome to maintain their academic skills after graduation. They also have a resource library as well as a searchable online information guide about Down Syndrome.

*** All ages * Fees for programs * Health clinics require physician referral ***

Enquiry BC

Tel: 604-660-2421

TDD: 604-775-0303

Email: EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.lcs.gov.bc.ca/prgs/enquiry_bc.htm

A call centre that assists individuals by helping to identify which person or program a caller should speak to and providing the relevant contact information. Also assists in identifying what level of government is responsible for a program or service, and offers a toll-free transfer service for callers who would otherwise be charged for obtaining information from or conducting business with the provincial government.

Family Network for Deaf Children (FNDC)

**P.O. Box 50075
South Slope R.P.O.
Burnaby V5J 5G3**

Tel: 604-684-1860

TTY: 604-421-5271

Fax: 604-421-5273

Website: www.fndc.ca

A non-profit society that supports children who are deaf and hard of hearing and use sign language, as well as their families and communities. Provides workshops, videos, and info bulletins. Their Deaf Youth Today program offers social and recreational opportunities in a signing environment. Summer programs, including a family camp, and leadership training are offered during the school year.

*** Fees for programs * Membership may be waived based on financial considerations ***

Family Services of the North Shore (FSNS)

**101–255 West 1st Street
North Vancouver V7M 3G8**

Tel: 604-988-5281

Fax: 604-988-3961

Email: family@familyservices.bc.ca

Website: www.familyservices.bc.ca

A non-profit organization that offers counselling for a wide range of issues including anxiety, sexual abuse, eating disorders, and parenting struggles. Also offers innovative and informative parenting courses and a referral service to other resources for families that need assistance. The “I hope family centre” offers a family-drop in program that runs from September to June. Parents, grandparents, caregivers and their children under 5 years can join the group and meet others, have fun, and play in a supportive and stimulating environment.

*** Includes all ages * Open referral; Ministry of Children and Families referral necessary for some programs * Sliding scale fees * No fees for I hope family centre ***

Family Support Institute (FSI)

**227 6th Street
New Westminster V3L 3A5**

Tel: 604-540-8374

Website: www.familysupportbc.com

A provincial organization that supports parents of children with disabilities by providing information, training, and networking opportunities. Workshops treat such subjects as advocacy, education, friendships, and transitions. Maintains a lending library.

*** All ages * Open referral * Membership fee * Fee for workshops ***

FAS/E Support Network of BC

**108–17767 64th Avenue
Surrey V3S 1Z2**

Tel: 604-576-9911

Fax: 604-504-6685

Email: info@fetalalcohol.com

Website: www.fetalalcohol.com

Provides support, information, and education for families, professionals, and the community regarding prevention and intervention issues relevant to alcohol-related birth defects, including fetal alcohol syndrome and other disabilities caused by drug use during pregnancy. Provides advocacy for the development of home, school, and community-based services to meet the needs of affected individuals, their families, and professionals working with them.

Gateway Society – Services for Persons with Autism

**4807 Georgia Street
Delta V4K 2T1**

**Tel: 604-946-0401
Fax: 604-946-8429**

**Email: Solutions@gatewaysociety.org
Website: www.gatewaysociety.org**

A non-profit provincial agency that offers a range of residential and treatment services to children and adults with autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders. Services include consultation, training, and behavioural support services for ages 6 to 19 as well as both short- and long-term residential care. The organization also maintains a library and therapeutic equipment.

*** Referral through MCFD ***

Lower Mainland Down Syndrome Society (LMDSS)

**201-13281 72nd Avenue
Surrey V3W 2N5**

**Tel: 604-591-2722
Fax: 604-591-2730**

**Email: imdss@telus.net
Website: www.lmdss.com/**

Non-profit society comprised of parents, professionals, and self-advocates concerned with issues facing people with Down Syndrome. Provides information, referrals, and new parent packages; organizes social family events and provides family support; and operates a youth group.

*** All ages * Open referral * Membership fee ***

Mainstream Association for Proactive Community Living (MAPCL)

**4664 Lougheed Highway
Burnaby V5C 5T5**

**Tel: 604-299-4001 ext.243
Fax: 604-299-0329**

**Email: info@mapcl.org
Website: www.mapcl.org**

Provides a wide range of programs to support persons with physical and/or mental disabilities. Community Support Services programs include life skills, day support, a theatre troupe, and work experience opportunities. Their Family Care Network offers alternative supported living arrangements for individuals with disabilities.

*** All ages * Referral by MCFD ***

Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)

Mailing address

**PO Box 9770 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria V8W 9S5**

Tel: 604-660-4927

Email: MCF.CorrespondenceManagement@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/mcf/

The Ministry is a provincial government body that provides a wide range of services and programs to support the healthy development of children, youth, and families. Programs include, but are not limited to, early childhood development, services for children with special needs, and services for deaf and hard of hearing children and youth.

Muscular Dystrophy Canada

**7th Floor–1401 West Broadway
Vancouver V6H 1H6**

Tel: 604-732-8799

Fax: 604-731-6127

E-mail: infowest@mdac.ca

Web: www.mdac.ca

Funds research into muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular disorders. Provides information and education, equipment, peer support, and referrals. Youth-to-adult transition planning and support are offered through the “Bridges to the Future” program.

*** All ages * Open referral ***

North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped (NSAMH)

**1070 Roosevelt Crescent
North Vancouver V7P 1M3**

Tel: 604-984-9321

Fax: 604-984-9882

Email: info@nsamh.org

Website: www.nsamh.org

A non-profit organization that assists individuals with a disability or developmental delay to reach their maximum potential. The NSAMH's Family Support program helps families face the challenges of raising a child with special needs. They operate North Shore ConneXions, a community-based drop-in centre that provides recreational and social opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. ConneXions programs include Friendship Circles for elementary-school children and the Avengers life skills program for youth.

*** All ages * Open referral * Fees for some programs * Membership fee ***

North Shore Crisis Services Society

**154 West 3rd Street
North Vancouver V7M 1E8**

Tel: 604-987-1773 ext. 313

Fax: 604-987-1786

Women's 24-Hour Support Line: 604-987-3374

Email: nscss@direct.ca

Website: www3.telus.net/nscss/

Operates SAGE Transition House, a safe shelter for women experiencing abuse and their children, and a 24-hour support phone line. Also provides support services including advocacy and referrals.

*** Open referral * No charge for services ***

North Shore Disability Resource Centre (NSDRC)

**3158 Mountain Highway
North Vancouver V7K 2H5**

Tel: 604-985-5371

Fax: 604-985-7594

TTY: 604-998-1503

Email: nsdrc@nsdrc.org

Website: www.nsdrc.org

Provides a variety of programs and services for people with disabilities, including advocacy, one-to-one child care workers, summer recreation assistants, an Infant Development Program and a Teen and Pre-Teen social program. Also operates a shared living home for children with disabilities.

*** All ages * Community Living British Columbia referrals required for some programs ***

North Shore Infant Development Program

**706 East 7th Street
North Vancouver V7L 1S6**

Tel: 604-986-1358

Fax: 604-986-1369

This program is operated by the North Shore Disability Resource Centre. It provides information and support to parents of children who are experiencing delays in their development or who are at risk for developmental delay. Offers home visits, workshops, and opportunities to meet other parents, including a playgroup program.

*** Ages 0 to 3 years * Open referral ***

North Shore Multicultural Society

**207–123 East 15th Street
North Vancouver V7L 2P7**

**Tel: 604-988-2931
Fax: 604-988-2960
Email: office@nsms.ca
Website: www.nsms.ca**

Society devoted to building a harmonious and inclusive community on the North Shore and helping immigrants and refugees integrate into Canadian life. Offers support groups, language classes, and diversity training to youth.

*** Fees for certain programs * Open referral ***

North Shore Neighbourhood House

**225 East 2nd Street
North Vancouver V7L 1C4**

**Tel: 604-987-8138
Fax: 604-987-2107
Website: www.nsnh.bc.ca**

Provides a range of social, recreational, and child care services to residents on the North Shore. Programs include daycare, out-of-school care, and a “Teen Club” for 12-18 year-olds.

*** Cost varies by program ***

Office of the Ombudsman

**By mail:
Box 9039 Stn Prv Govt
Victoria V8W 9A5**

**Toll free: 1-800-567-3247
Fax: 250-387-0198
Website: www.ombudsman.bc.ca**

The office of the Ombudsman is an agency independent of the government that conducts impartial investigations into complaints of government administrative unfairness. Complaints may include delay, rudeness, negligence, arbitrariness, oppressive behaviour, and unlawfulness.

Parent Support Services of BC

**201–1155 West Pender Street
Vancouver V6E 2P4**

**Tel: 604-669-1616
Fax: 604-669-1636
Email: office@parentsupportbc.ca
Website: www.parentsupportbc.ca**

A volunteer-based society dedicated to preventing child abuse and encouraging healthy parent-child relationships. Provides information and support for parents through Parent Support Circles, Aboriginal Parent Support Circles, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Circles.

*** Membership fee for Parent Support Circles ***

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)

**260–3665 Kingsway
Vancouver V5R 5W2**

**Tel: 604-439-9566
Fax: 604-439-7001
Email: inquiries@plan.ca
Website: www.plan.ca**

A non-profit organization created by and for families who have a family member with a disability, PLAN focuses on financial and other aspects of planning for the future to ensure the security and quality of life of the individual with a disability. Offers individual consultations as well as group workshops on will and estate planning; also provides information and guidance regarding the transition to adulthood.

*** Open referral * Fee for some services ***

Representative for Children and Youth

**Tel: 250-356-6710
Toll free: 1-800-476-3933
Email: rcy@rcybc.ca
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/cyo/**

A provincial government agency that improves services and outcomes for children and youth through advocacy, accountability, and review. Supports self-advocacy by providing information and guidance; in some cases connects individuals with advocates in their community; and in some cases advocates directly on behalf of an individual.

*** Ages 0-19 ***

Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY)

**1409 Sperling Avenue
Burnaby BC V5B 4J8**

**Tel: 604-433-4180
Fax: 604-433-9611
Email: info@scyofbc.org
Website: www.scyofbc.org**

SCY is dedicated to improving the well-being of all children and youth in British Columbia by providing a forum for interdisciplinary exchange and action. Facilitates increased public understanding of the needs of young people through information, resource materials and practical tools on a wide range of topics including: children's rights, creating child and youth friendly physical and social environments, youth justice, play and recreation, child abuse education and prevention, and community involvement.

*** All ages * Open referral * Membership fee ***

Society of Special Needs Adoptive Parents (SNAP)

**445–5525 West Boulevard
Vancouver V6M 3W6**

**Tel: 604-687-3114
Fax: 604-687-3364
Email: info@snap.bc.ca
Website: www.snap.bc.ca**

SNAP was formed by and for parents of children with special needs, especially adoptive children. The society provides information and referral services, one-to-one support to families through their Resource Parent Network, educational workshops and conferences, and an extensive resource library.

*** All ages * Open referral * Membership fee ***

Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of BC (SBHABC)

**4480 Oak Street
Vancouver V6H 3V4**

**Tel: 604-878-7000
Fax: 604-677-6608
Email: info@sbhabc.org
Website: www.sbhabc.org**

Provides information on spina bifida and hydrocephalus to those directly or indirectly affected by it. Provides support to parents and information on equipment and services available. Also has an information library.

*** All ages * Open referral * Membership fee ***

Telus Relay Service (TRS)

**Toll free Voice to TTY: 1-800-855-0511
TTY to Voice: Dial 711
TTY to TTY Operator assistance: 1-800-855-1155**

Telus Relay Service helps persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or experience difficulty with speech and who use a TTY (Teletypewriter) to have telephone conversations with people using a standard telephone.

*** There is no charge for using the Relay Service to place local calls * Long Distance calls are billed at a reduced rate ***

Westcoast Family Resources Society

**304–1200 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver V7J 2A2**

Tel: 604-985-2202

Fax: 604-985-3742

Email: nshore.fpp@westcoastfamily.org

Website: www.westcoastfamily.org

Part of the North Shore Youth and Family Services, the Westcoast Family Resources Society is funded by the Ministry of Child and Family Development. It offers community-based programs to children and families experiencing difficulties, and to individuals wanting to improve their parenting skills. Addresses issues including abuse and trauma, mental and physical health, poverty, and self esteem, with attention to the cultural background and linguistic needs of clients.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * MCFD referral required for some programs * No fees ***

Western Society for Children

**102–93 Sixth Street
New Westminster V3L 2Z8**

Tel: 604-515-0810

Fax: 604-515-0870

E-mail: info@wsforchildren.org

Website: www.wsforchildren.org

A non-profit society that works to enhance the lives of children with disabilities, specifically those who do not qualify for government services. Offers advocacy, access to specialized equipment, one-on-one tutoring, and a resource library.

*** Ages 0 to 18 years * Open referral * Membership fee ***

TAX PROGRAMS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

At Home Program

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)

210–1200 Lynn Valley Road

North Vancouver V7J 2A2

Tel: 604-981-0321

Fax: 604-987-9337

Email: MCF.AtHome@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/

The At Home Program is designed to provide financial assistance to parents who care for a child with severe disabilities at home. Benefits may include respite and/or medical costs. See website for eligibility requirements and an online application.

*** Ages 0 to 17 (medical benefits) or 0 to 18 (respite benefits) * Open referral ***

BC Lions Society

3981 Oak Street

Vancouver V6H 4H5

Tel: 604-736-3476

Fax: 604-736-3495

Email: info@lionsbc.ca

Website: www.lionsbc.ca

Provides financial assistance to families of children with disabilities through their Patient Care Grants program. Funding may be used toward therapeutic equipment and prosthetics as well as transportation to and accommodation at Easter Seal House.

*** Ages 0 to 18 years * Open referral ***

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation – Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities (RRAP – Disabilities)

200–1111 West Georgia Street

Vancouver V6E 4S4

Tel: 604-731-5733

Fax: 604-737-4139

TTY: 1-800-309-3388

Info contact for reno programs: 1-800-639-3938

Website: www.cmhc.ca

Offers financial assistance, in the form of forgivable loans, to eligible homeowners to repair or modify their dwellings for access by low-income individuals with disabilities. Assistance varies with household income and the cost of accessibility modifications.

*** All ages * Open referral ***

Canada Revenue Agency (Tax Deductions)

**1166 West Pender Street
Vancouver V6E 3H8**

Toll free: 1-800-959-8281

TTY: 1-800-665-0354

Fax: 604-689-7536

Website: www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca

The website listed above provides extensive information about tax deductions and credits which may be claimed by eligible persons with disabilities or their caregivers, including child care expenses, excise taxes (refund of part of federal excise tax on gasoline), the Child Disability Benefit, and the Refundable medical expense supplement. A guide called Medical and Disability-Related Information may be downloaded from www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/formspubs/.

ICBC Autoplan Insurance Disability Discount

Website: www.icbc.com/insurance/insura_savemo_disabl.asp

A driver who is 16 or older, owns or leases a vehicle, and is a person with certain disabilities, may qualify for a 25% discount on her or his Basic Autoplan. See the ICBC website for details on how to apply.

*** Ages 16 to adult * Visit website for information on disabilities eligible for program ***

Ministry of Provincial Revenue (BC Home Owner Grant)

Toll free: 1-888-355-2700

Email: hogadmin@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.rev.gov.bc.ca/hog/physical.htm

A property owner who is the spouse or relative of a person with a permanent disability who resides in their home may be eligible for a home owner grant of up to \$275 annually. Funding is to be used toward structural home modifications necessary to accommodate an individual with limited mobility.

*** Property owners 19 years and older * See website for application process ***

THERAPIES AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES

ART THERAPY

British Columbia Art Therapy Association (BCATA)

**101–1001 West Broadway, Dept 123
Vancouver V6H 4E4**

**Tel: 604-878-6393
Email: info@bcarttherapy.com
Website: www.bcarttherapy.com**

Provides an online directory of art therapists, as well as therapist referrals.

Vancouver Art Therapy Institute (VATI)

**350–1425 Marine Drive
West Vancouver V7T 1B9**

**Tel: 604-926-9381
Fax: 604-926-5728
Email: vatimail@telus.net
Website: www.vati.bc.ca**

Provides referrals to art therapists.

AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH THERAPY

British Columbia Association of Speech/Language Pathologists and Audiologists

**402–1755 West Broadway
Vancouver V6J 4S5**

**Tel: 604-420-2222
Fax: 604-736-5606
Email: bcaslpa@telus.net
Website: www.bcaslpa.bc.ca/**

A professional association with a website that provides an online listing of speech/language pathologists and audiologists available to the public.

BC Centre for Ability

**2805 Kingsway
Vancouver V5R 5H9**

**Tel: 604-451-5511
Fax: 604-451-5651
Email: home@centreforability.bc.ca
Website: www.centreforability.bc.ca**

The BC Centre for Ability's Early Intervention Therapy Program (EITP) offers professional assistance from occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech/language therapists, and social workers.

*** Ages 0 to school entry * Referral by physician and parent * No fee ***

Vancouver Coastal Health

**5th Floor–132 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A2**

**Tel: 604-983-6876
Fax: 604-983-6839
Website: www.nscg.ca**

Provides assessment, consultation, and therapy. Children are seen at the Community Health Care Centre, at home, or at other community locations. Therapists work with families and other professionals.

*** Ages 0 to 5 years * Open referral * No fees ***

AUTISM

For information about Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funding, therapies and services for autism, check the following website or contact the Ministry of Children and Family Development office.

**Tel: 604-981-0321
Website: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/**

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

CBI Consultants

**204–3970 Hastings Street
Burnaby V5C 6C1**

**Tel: 604-320-1960
Fax: 604-320-1961
Email: info@cbiconsultants.com
Website: www.cbiconsultants.com**

Private consulting group that provides communication, behavioural, and instructional supports to children and adults with disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder. Also offers training workshops and courses.

*** All ages * Referral through CLBC, MCFD, Ministry of Health or Education; also contracts privately * Fee for training and workshops ***

Vancouver Coastal Health - Child and Adolescent Program

**Central Community Health Centre
5th Floor–132 West Esplanade
North Vancouver V7M 1A2**

**Tel: 604-983-6719
Fax: 604-983-6705
Website: www.nscg.ca/**

This program provides psychological and psychiatric assessment and treatment services to children with behavioural, social, or emotional difficulties. Referring problems include behavioural issues, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.

*** Ages 0 to 19 years * Open referral ***

MUSIC THERAPY

Music Therapy Association of British Columbia (MTABC)

**Capilano College
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver V7J 3H5**

**Tel: 604-924-0046
Fax: 604-983-7559
Email: info@mtabc.com
Website: www.mtabc.com**

Provides an online list of qualified music therapists and their areas of expertise.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

BC Centre for Ability

**2805 Kingsway
Vancouver V5R 5H9**

**Tel: 604-451-5511
Fax: 604-451-5651
Email: home@centreforability.bc.ca
Website: www.centreforability.bc.ca**

The BC Centre for Ability's Early Intervention Therapy Program (EITP) offers professional assistance from occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech/language therapists, and social workers.

*** Ages 0 to school entry * Referral by physician and parent * No fee ***

BC Society of Occupational Therapists

**402-1755 West Broadway
Vancouver V6J 4S5**

**Tel: 604-736-5645
Fax: 604-736-5606
Email: info@bcsot.org
Website: www.bcsot.org/**

A professional association with a website that offers an online directory of Occupational Therapists in BC.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

BC Centre for Ability

**2805 Kingsway
Vancouver V5R 5H9**

Tel: 604-451-5511

Fax: 604-451-5651

Email: home@centreforability.bc.ca

Website: www.centreforability.bc.ca

The BC Centre for Ability's Early Intervention Therapy Program (EITP) offers professional assistance from occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech/language therapists, and social workers.

*** Ages 0 to school entry * Referral by physician and parent * No fee ***

Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia (PABC)

**402-1755 West Broadway
Vancouver V6J 4S5**

Tel: 604-736-5130

Fax: 604-736-5606

Email: pabc@bcphysio.org

Website: www.bcphysio.org

Professional association whose website provides a searchable online list of registered physiotherapists.

Vancouver Coastal Health

**990-22nd Street
West Vancouver V7V 4C2 (mailing address)**

Tel: 604-904-6200

Fax: 604-904-6262

Website: www.vch.ca

Early Interventions Physiotherapy

(Ages 0 to school entry)

Tel: 604-984-2596

Assessment, consultation, and therapy services are available in the home, preschool, daycare, or other community settings. Physiotherapists collaborate closely with other community professionals.

School-aged Physiotherapy

(School entry to 19 years)

Tel: 604-904-6193

Consultation services for designated school-aged children and youth with disabilities.

*** Open Referral * No fee for services ***

TRANSPORTATION

Air Canada

Toll free: 1-888-247-2262

TTY: 1-800-361-8071

Website: www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/before/specialneeds.html

Offers reduced fares within North America for attendants who accompany and care for a person with disabilities during travel on an Air Canada flight. Also provides a number of special services for people with disabilities who may require extra support. See website for details.

BC Ferry Corporation

1112 Fort Street

Victoria V8V 4V2

Toll free: 1-888-223-3779

Ticketing Dept. Fax (applications): 250-381-5452

Website: www.bcferries.bc.ca

Offers reduced fares for BC residents who have a permanent disability and have a BC Ferries Disabled Status ID card. The ID card must be presented upon arrival at ferry terminal. Also permits one travelling companion to travel at reduced rate. Application form available online; requires physician verification of severity of disability. BC Ferries also offers services such as special vehicle loading and discounts for specially equipped vehicles.

Access To Travel (Government of Canada website)

Website: www.accesstotravel.gc.ca/main-e.asp

This government-operated website provides comprehensive information on accessible transportation and travel services to persons with disabilities. The site includes information on bus, rail, air, and ferry transportation between cities, as well as local ground transportation within cities. Also includes information on government programs and policies and links to other accessible transportation sites.

The website was developed in partnership between Transport Canada, provincial governments, and non-profit organizations.

Greyhound Canada

**Pacific Central Station
1150 Station Street
Vancouver V6A 4C7**

Tel: 604-661-8747

Website: www.greyhound.ca

Toll-Free Phone for People who are Hearing Impaired: 1-800-397-7870

Offers accessible bus travel to people with disabilities who have a valid Disability Travel Card issued by the C.N.I.B. or the Easter Seals/March of Dimes National Council or its designated affiliates. Some individuals may be eligible for reduced fares. Visit www.greyhound.ca/en/travel_information/special_needs.shtml for details.

Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) Parking Permit Program

**201–221 East 10th Avenue
Vancouver V5T 4V3**

Tel: 604-718-7744

Fax: 604-736-8697

Email: permits@sparc.bc.ca

Website: www.sparc.bc.ca

Issues parking permits to enable people with disabilities to legally park in designated zones throughout BC. Applications may be downloaded from the SPARC website. Proof of disability must be provided by a physician.

TransLink (Public Transit System Operator)

**1600–4720 Kingsway
Burnaby V5H 4N2**

Customer Information: 604-953-3333

Website: www.translink.bc.ca

Customer Relations Email: custrel@translink.bc.ca

Offers accessible public transit to people with disabilities. SkyTrain rapid transit cars, SeaBus passenger ferries, West Coast Express commuter railcars, B-line buses, and Community Shuttle minibuses are all fully accessible. Most other buses have either low-floor access or are equipped with lifts.

HandyCard

Tel: 604-453-4634

Residents of the Greater Vancouver Regional District who are unable to use conventional transit without assistance due to a physical or cognitive disability may apply for the HandyCard. Cardholders are entitled to concession fares on transit buses, SkyTrain, SeaBus, West Vancouver Transit, and West Coast Express. One escort traveling with a cardholder may travel free. The HandyCard is also valid identification for the TaxiSavers program. An application for a HandyCard can be downloaded from the TransLink website at www.translink.bc.ca/Transportation_Services/Accessibility/HandyCard_TaxiSaver.asp.

HandyDART Bus Service

North Vancouver Tel: 604-980-3691

Provides door-to-door public shared transit service for people with disabilities who cannot use public transit without assistance. The application form for persons wanting to register for this program may be downloaded from the web page www.translink.bc.ca/Transportation_Services/Accessibility/handydart.asp. The same web page provides booking and service details.

TaxiSavers

Tel: 604-980-3691

HandyCard holders may purchase TaxiSavers coupons through their local HandyDART Office. These coupons can be used to pay for taxi rides. Please call to confirm the price per book of coupons, as fare increases may affect pricing. Users may purchase a maximum of two books of TaxiSavers per month.

Bus

Tel: 604-953-3333

Each accessible bus can carry two wheelchairs or scooters. Not all buses and/or stops may be accessible therefore passengers must refer to the published or online schedules for this information. People who need assistance boarding or exiting the bus must be accompanied by an attendant.

SeaBus

Tel: 604-953-3333

SeaBus terminals and vessels are wheelchair/scooter accessible. Individuals who require special assistance to negotiate the terminal ramps or enter/exit the SeaBus must be accompanied by an attendant.

SkyTrain

Tel: 604-953-3333

All SkyTrain stations except Columbia are equipped with elevators. Please see TransLink website for information about free shuttle services that do not have elevator service to deliver passengers to bus stops.

WestCoast Express

Tel: 604-683-7245

This commuter rail service between Mission and Vancouver is fully accessible to people with disabilities. Each railcar has two wheelchair spaces and an accessible boarding ramp. HandyPass holders are entitled to concession fares.

VIA Rail – Pacific Central Station

**1150 Station Street
Vancouver V6A 4C7**

Toll free: 1-888-842-7245

TTY: 1-800-268-9503

Email: customer_relations@viarail.ca

Website: www.viarail.ca/planner/en_plan_beso_accو.html

The VIA Rail website provides information on the types of special needs they can accommodate, and the accessibility of their facilities. If a person with an eligible disability is traveling with an escort who is taking care of their needs, the escort may travel in the same class of service free of charge. In such cases proof of disability must be provided – see website for details.

MISCELLANEOUS

Canadian Abilities Foundation (CAF)

Website: www.enablelink.org

Provides information, inspiration & opportunity for people with disabilities. Home of EnableLink, a comprehensive Directory of Disability Organizations in Canada. Youth with disabilities may be interested in ordering a publication on the transition to living independently or reading an article on sexual development for teens with disabilities and a list of associated resource materials.

Disability is Natural

**BraveHeart Press
PO Box 7245
Woodland Park, CO 80863**

Toll-free: 1-866-948-2222

Fax: 1-719-687-8114

Website: www.disabilityisnatural.com

A website dedicated to encouraging new ways of thinking and talking about disability and to helping create a society that values and includes all people. Provides online articles and an email newsletter. Viewers may order a book or DVD version of the publication *Disability is Natural: Revolutionary Common Sense for Raising Successful Children with Disabilities*.

Griefworks BC Support Centre

**4500 Oak St. Room E405
Vancouver V6H 3N1**

**Tel: 604-875-2741
Email: person@griefworks.com
Website: www.griefworksbc.com**

Provides families with access to loss and grief information and support.
Established through a partnership between BC's Children's and Women's
Hospitals and Canuck Place Children's Hospice.

North Shore Community Resources (Legal Advocate)

**Capilano Mall
201-935 Marine Drive
North Vancouver V7P 1S3**

**Tel: 604-985-7138
Fax: 604-985-0645
Website: www.nscr.bc.ca**

A full-time legal advocate at the North Shore Community Resources office
provides legal information, support, referrals, and advocacy on family law issues
as well as residential tenancy issues, income assistance issues, and general
legal matters.

Persons with Disabilities Online (website)

Website: www.pwd-online.ca

A Government of Canada site where persons with disabilities, their family
members, caregivers, and service providers can access a wide range of
information on disability-related programs and services in Canada.

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