Financial Information for Cancer Patients
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This pamphlet was created by BC Cancer Agency, Psychosocial Oncology Programs and is meant as a guide to help you and your family learn about support programs and services that can help you with the increased costs associated with having cancer.

Program requirements will vary but often include proof of income, proof of diagnosis and/or submitting receipts. Some government programs help replace sources of income, other programs, can lower the cost of services and, some non-profit programs can help alleviate some of the financial burden.

If you need to talk to a counsellor to discuss your concerns, please call Patient & Family Counselling Services at your Regional Cancer Centre and make an appointment. Contact numbers are on the last page of this pamphlet.

First Steps:

✓ If you are not registered with Fair Pharmacare, register right away.

✓ If you are already receiving government financial support, speak with a representative and/or go to their website, you may be able to get additional benefits.

Disclaimer: BC Cancer Agency, Psychosocial Oncology strives for accuracy in all our resource materials but we cannot guarantee it. When you are considering a program please go to the agency website or call them for more detailed information.

For more information go to: BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca : Health info - Coping with Cancer - Practical Support
If you are unable to work due to cancer and/or treatment side effects, you may have access to private services or government programs to help replace a portion or all of your earnings either temporarily or over the longer term.

**Work-place Benefits:**
Some people may have benefits through a place of work. These benefits may allow for sick time, personal leave, short-term disability and/or long-term disability. Find out your options from human resources or the plan administrator.

**Insurances & Credit:**
You may have life insurance, disability insurance and/or a critical illness insurance plan. Some life insurance plans may allow people nearing end of life to withdraw funds while still living or offer other options.

If you have a credit card, loan or mortgage, you may also have insurance to cover your payments. Ask companies if they can temporarily stop or lower payments due to illness. Be aware the company may require you to pay these in the future.

Please call company representatives to find out what options are available and consider all the implications.

**Employment Insurance:**
**Regular Benefits** are available to eligible patients if you were working in insurable work and premiums were deducted from your wages as shown on your pay stub. The number of weeks you can get covered is based on the unemployment rate in your area and the number of insurable hours you have accumulated – up to a maximum of 45 weeks. You must be ready, willing, and able to work, and you must be actively seeking work. You may need more hours to qualify if you’ve had a violation on a prior claim within the last five years. When you have 600 hours of insurable work, and your normal weekly earnings have been reduced by more than 40% because of sickness, you may be eligible to get EI sickness benefits.
Sickness Benefits are available to eligible patients if you have a maximum of 15 weeks of benefits, if you are not able to work because of sickness, injury or quarantine but would be ready to work if not for medical reasons. To qualify, you need a medical certificate or note signed by your doctor or approved medical expert.

Compassionate Care Benefits (CCB) are for eligible caregivers with a maximum of 26 weeks of benefits if you need to be away from work temporarily to give care or support to someone who is gravely ill and who has a significant risk of death within 26 weeks (6 months). The leave can be shared at any time during the 26-week period, either at the same time or at other times, but each caregiver must apply one at a time, and be eligible for these benefits (example: 2 people using 3 weeks each, with only the first person to claim CCB benefits serving the one week waiting period). If you plan to share this benefit you should agree on the number of weeks that each of you will take before you apply for benefits.

Parents of Critically Ill Children (PCIC) are for eligible parents for a maximum of 35 weeks if you have to be away from work to give care or support to your critically ill or injured child who is under the age of 18. A critically ill child is a child who has a life-threatening illness or injury, that can include various acute phases of illness and for which continued parental care or support is provided.

For more information about these and other Employment Insurance benefits go to Service Canada www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html or call 1.800.206.7218.
Income Replacement Programs

Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD):
Disability benefits are available for eligible contributors who are under the age of 65 and have a health issue that is both severe and prolonged. Severe means that you have a mental or physical disability that stops you from doing any type of gainful work. Prolonged means your disability is likely to be long-term or unending. CPP gives monthly benefits to dependent children of parents who receive the CPP disability benefit. Eligible children are under the age of 18, or between 18 and 25 and going to a recognized school or college full time. If both parents are getting CPP disability benefits, their dependent children may get two children’s benefits—one for each parent. There is an appeal process for denied applicants. You have 90 days to appeal.

There is a Terminal Illness Application which shortens the application process for people with a terminal illness. Contact Service Canada or a Patient & Family Counsellor for more information.

Canada Pension Plan Retirement:
Programs include:

- Early Retirement (between ages 60-64)
- Regular Retirement (age 65)
- Old Age Security (OAS) - the amount of your OAS pension will be decided by how long you have lived in Canada after the age of 18.
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) - if you live in Canada and you have a low income, this monthly non-taxable benefit can be added to your OAS pension.
- Spousal Allowance - if you are 60 to 64 years of age and your spouse or common-law partner is getting the Old Age Security pension and is able to get the Guaranteed Income Supplement, you might be eligible to get this benefit.
Allowance for the Survivor - if you are 60 to 64 years of age and you are widowed, you might be eligible to get this benefit.

For more information go to Service Canada www.canada.ca or call 1.800.277.990

**Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation**

The Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation serves BC residents that need supports to help them achieve their social and financial independence. Their programs include Income Assistance and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Assistance.

- Apply for Income Assistance
- About PWD designation

For more information about these programs please go to www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports or call programs and services at 1.866.866.0800.
Some non-profit foundations, societies and government sponsored programs offer limited funding to eligible cancer patients. When you apply you will be asked for personal information such as verification of illness and income. You will need to ensure you are eligible and apply online or ask for an application form from their organization.

BC Hospitality Foundation:
BC Hospitality Foundation has a fund for people who work or have worked in the hospitality industry and who have need of financial assistance because of a critical medical situation. For more information go to BC Hospitality Foundation at https://bchospitalityfoundation.com/ or call 1.877.651.2236.

BC Rehab Foundation
BC Rehab Foundation provides individual grants for a range of new and used equipment to assist individuals with their quality of life and personal mobility needs. For more information go to http://www.bcrehab.com/ or call 604.737.6383.

Canadian Cancer Society:
The Canadian Cancer Society offers a Travel Treatment Fund to help cover travel expenses for eligible low income patients who are receiving active cancer treatment and who need to travel out of area for treatment.

Through a partnership with the BC Cancer Agency, the Financial Support Drug Program (FSDP) may help eligible cancer patients with a part of the cost of selected prescription medications that manage symptoms and side effects related to cancer treatment.

For more information go to Canadian Cancer Society www.cancer.ca/en/?region=bc or call 1.888.939.3333.
Financial Assistance if You Need to Stop Working

**Canadian Breast Cancer Support Fund**
This program provides financial assistance for patients who do not have the finances to cover the costs of basic necessities (at or below poverty line) as well as additional costs related to cancer treatment. For more information go to [http://cbcsf.ca/apply-for-funds/](http://cbcsf.ca/apply-for-funds/) or call 416.233.7410.

**Colon Cancer Canada**
Colon Cancer Canada has the Wendy Bear Fund that provides financial assistance for people with colon cancer who have a financial need. For more information go to [www.coloncancercanada.ca](http://www.coloncancercanada.ca) or call 1-888.571.8457.

**Fertile Future**
Fertile Future has the Power of Hope Fund which offers financial assistance to eligible cancer patients by providing a substantial reduction in the overall cost required to pursue fertility preservation treatment. For more information go to [http://fertilefuture.ca/programs/power-of-hope/](http://fertilefuture.ca/programs/power-of-hope/) or call 1.613.440.3302 or 1.877.467.3066.

**Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation**
Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation has a fund for women with breast cancer who have unforeseen expenses that their health insurance program may not cover. For more information go to [http://kellyshiresfoundation.org/](http://kellyshiresfoundation.org/) or call 1.877.436.6467.

**Pancreatic Cancer Society**
Craig’s Cause is a financial support fund offered by the Pancreatic Cancer Society for eligible patients to help ease the financial burdens that come with treatment and care. For more information go to [www.craigscause.ca/page.asp?ID=57](http://www.craigscause.ca/page.asp?ID=57)
If you are a Veteran, a member of the Canadian Forces, Navy or RCMP you may be eligible for financial programs and services from Veterans Affairs Canada. For more information go to www.veterans.gc.ca or call 1.866.522.2122. For advocacy and support contact the Bureau of Pension Advocates, call 1.877.228.2250.

**Canadian Forces Personnel Assistance Fund (CFPAF)**
The CFPAF provides several financial assistance programs to eligible members and former members and their dependents. For more information go to http://strongproudreedy.ca/missionready/en/canadian-forces-personnel-assistance-fund/

**Royal Canadian Navel Benevolent Fund**
If you are a member, former member or dependent of the Canadian Forces or Navy and qualify for the Distress Fund or Emergency Fund go to http://rcnbf.ca/ for more information.

**The Last Post Fund**
Eligible veterans can receive a dignified funeral and burial services. For more information go to www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/funeral.php or call 1.800.465.7113.

**The Legion**
The Poppy Trust Fund provides financial assistance to veterans, military members and RCMP and their families who are in financial distress. For more information go to www.legion.ca/we-can-help/financial-assistance/ or call 1.780.423.3965.
Health Insurance BC provides healthcare coverage for a fee to eligible residents in BC. There is a yearly deductible and monthly premium (fees).

**Medical Services Plan (MSP):**
MSP covers healthcare needs such as doctor and hospital visits and lab tests. Premiums are based on last year’s income. You might qualify for:

- **Premium Assistance** which is a program that eliminates or reduces the cost of premiums. Eligibility is based on income, residency, family size, age and disability.

- **Temporary Premium Assistance** which is a program that eliminates the cost of premiums temporarily, due to financial hardship.

**Pharmacare:**
Pharmacare provides coverage or partial coverage for prescription drugs. The Pharmacare Drug Formulary outlines what prescription drugs are covered.

- Some drugs that are not normally covered may require a **Special Authority** form to give them full benefit status. Ask your prescribing physician to complete and sign a form on your behalf.

**Fair Pharmacare**
Fair Pharmacare provides financial assistance for prescription drugs based on your income tax return from two years ago. You may also be required to pay a yearly deductible. Apply for this program after you have qualified for MSP coverage.

- If your income has suddenly dropped by 10 percent or more during the past two years, request an Income Review to lower your deductible.
Palliative Care Benefits Program
Palliative Care Benefits are available for eligible individuals requiring palliative care services at home. You will need a doctor’s referral and a life expectancy of six months or less. Services include coverage for some medications, medical supplies and necessary equipment.

For more information go to Health Insurance BC www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents or call 1.800.663.7100 or 604.683.7151

Prosthesis & Ostomy Supplies
Pharmacare covers some of the cost of selected medical supplies like prostheses and ostomy supplies. You will need a prescription from your doctor if you want to make a claim. For more information go to Health Insurance BC www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents

Breast Prostheses and Supplies:
- If you’ve had a mastectomy or lumpectomy, you may be eligible for coverage of breast prostheses or other supplies when purchased from an approved provider:
  - Breast prostheses (for each affected breast)
  - One every two years or at the end of the manufacturer’s warranty
  - Maximum $450 for mastectomy, $350 for lumpectomy
  - Lymphedema arm sleeves - two per mastectomy, per year (no pre-approval needed for costs above $400)
  - Gloves or gauntlets for lymphedema arm sleeves - Two per mastectomy, per year maximum $150 for off-the-shelf products, $300 for custom-fit products

NOTE: Canadian Cancer Society has breast prostheses and mastectomy bras to loan. For fitting assistance or more information call 1.888.939.3333
Ambulance Services:
For people with BC Health Insurance coverage there is a $50 flat fee for 911 responses; $80 fee for inter-facility transport and no cost when transported between hospitals. The fee covers both ground and air ambulance services. Individuals who do not have BC Health Insurance coverage, contact BC Ambulance services for cost.

For more information go to BC Ambulance Services www.bcehs.ca/or call 1.800.665.7199 or 250.356.0052 (Victoria area)

Non-prescription Drugs
Pharmacare does not cover the cost of non-prescription (over-the-counter) drugs. If you are receiving benefits from any government agency contact them to see if they will assist you.

Extended Medical & Other Private Plans
You may get reimbursed for “out of pocket” prescription costs or medical supplies through your extended medical plan or other private insurance plan. Review any coverage and the claim process. You may need a prescription from your physician and/or need to submit a receipt if you make a claim.
First Nations Health Authority (FNHA):
You are eligible for FNHA if you are a First Nations adult with status (or child under 1 year of First Nations person with status) who is a resident of BC and qualify for Health Insurance BC coverage. You must not be covered under any other benefits provided by the Federal Government or First Nations organizations. For more information go to First Nations Health Authority www.fnha.ca/benefits or call 1.855.550.5454 or 604.693.6500

Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB):
If you are Inuit or First Nations with status and do not qualify for Health insurance BC coverage you will be covered under NIHB. For more information, go to First Nation, Inuit & Aboriginal Health at www.hc-sc.gc.ca or call 1.800.317.7878 or 604.666.3331. For First Nations drug exceptions and authorization call 1.800.580.0950. For authorization for medical equipment/supplies call 1-800-321-5003.
Dental and denture costs are normally covered by the patient. However, if cancer treatment is impacting your teeth, there may be some financial assistance available to reduce your costs. Discuss your concerns and possible options with your oncologist or oncology nurse.

If you are receiving Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation benefits call 1.866.866.0800 and ask about eligible coverage.

If you require a reduced cost dental clinic go to BC Dental Association at www.bcdental.org (reduced cost clinics).
Regional Health Authorities:
Your regional health authority offers home health and community care services. You will need a financial assessment to determine the costs. Each region has different services available. Contact your regional health authority. A doctor’s referral may be required.

For details about what is offered in your community go to the regional website:

- Fraser Health Authority (home & community care)
- Interior Health Authority (home & community care)
- Northern Health Authority (home & community care)
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (home & community care)
- Vancouver Island Health Authority (home & community care)

Home Health Equipment:
Red Cross loans home health equipment for up to 3 months with a referral from a healthcare professional such as a doctor, occupational therapist or physiotherapist. For more program information and to find a location closest to you go to Red Cross www.redcross.ca or call 1.800.418.1111 (general inquiries).

Hospice programs in your community may also loan medical equipment to patients who are registered with the palliative care program.
Better at Home (seniors):
Better at Home is a program that helps seniors with simple day-to-day tasks (some offer medical transportation) so that they can continue to live independently in their own homes and remain connected to their communities. Seniors living in a community which offers Better at Home can contact a local organization to find out more and to apply for services. A service provider will help determine which services are most appropriate for an individual’s circumstances. Go to www.betterathome.ca/ to find a program near you.

Wigs & Head Apparel:
Cancer treatment can cause hair loss and you may want a wig or a head covering. Donated and reconditioned wigs and free head apparel can be found at your local Canadian Cancer Society office, Cancer Lodge or at your cancer centre.

There may be wigs to borrow or purchase or free head apparel at your cancer centre, ask a member of your oncology team or a volunteer about availability and location.

For more information about the Canadian Cancer Society go to www.cancer.ca or call 1-888-939-3333.
Nutritional Supplements & Supplies
If you require nutritional supplements or tube feed supplies, you may receive assistance from the following:

- If you receive Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation benefits you may qualify for a Diet Supplement, Short Term Nutrition Supplement, Monthly Nutrition Supplement or Tube Feed Supplement. Attend your local MSDSI office or call 1.866.866.0800

- If you are a veteran, the Department of Veterans Affairs may cover Meals on Wheels, oral nutrition supplements or tube feed supplies/formula. For more information go to www.veterans.gc.ca or call 1.866.522.2122.

- First Nations and Inuit patients may qualify for coverage through Non-Insured Health Benefits. For more information go to First Nations and Inuit Health www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniha-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php or call 1.800.317.7878 or 604.666.3331.

Please talk to a dietitian at your local cancer centre as they may have other alternatives for you to consider. If you have an extended benefit plan check to see if you have any coverage.
Disability Tax Credit
The disability tax credit is a non-refundable tax credit used to reduce income tax payable on the income tax and benefit return. A person with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions may claim the disability amount once they are eligible. For more information go to Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca.

Fuel Tax Refund for Persons with Disabilities:
People with certain disabilities may apply for a refund on motor fuel tax paid on fuel purchased for their motor vehicles. The refund is based on the amount of taxes paid, to a maximum of $500 annually. For more information go to www.gov.bc.ca or call 1.877.388.4440.

Income Tax Preparation Clinics:
Canada Customs and Revenue has a community volunteer income tax program for seniors and others who are on a limited or low income. For more information and to find a clinic near you go to www.cra-arc.gc.ca/volunteer/ or call 1.800.959.8281

Property Tax Deferment Program
Eligible individuals with disabilities may be allowed to defer the payment of their property taxes until their home is sold. A preferential interest rate applies to the deferred taxes. For more information go to BC Government www.gov.bc.ca or call 1.800.663.7867.

Tax Deductions for People with Disabilities:
Tax credits and deductions are available for persons with disabilities, their supporting family members, and their caregivers. For more information go to Canada Revenue Agency www.cra-arc.gc.ca/disability/ or call 1.800.959.8281.
Access Pro Bono Society:
Access Pro Bono offer several programs serving the critical legal needs of BC’s individuals and non-profit organizations of limited means, ranging from summary legal advice clinics to full legal representation services. For more information go to www.accessprobono.ca or call 1.877.762.6664 or 604.878.7400.

Legal Services Society:
Legal Services Society (LSS) provides Legal Aid (free legal information, legal advice and representation), for people with low incomes in BC. You can also get information about Family Law in BC and free printed resources. For more information go to www.lss.bc.ca/ or call 1.866.577.2525 or 604.408.2172.

My Law BC is LSS’s website that provides information about legal concerns such as making a Will or missing mortgage payments go to http://mylawbc.com/.
Bankruptcy Canada:
Bankruptcy Canada provides support and resources for filing for bankruptcy. For more information, go to www.bankruptcycanada.com/.

Credit Counselling:
Experienced and professionally trained counselors may help you resolve debt and money management problems. For more information go to www.creditcounsellingcanada.ca/ or call 1.866.398.5999.

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada:
The Financial Consumer Agency has information to help you manage spending and debt. You can find a budget worksheet and a section on dealing with debt. For more information, go to www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca (for consumers - budgeting & money management).
Short-term Accommodation

Cancer Lodges:
Accommodation at a Canadian Cancer Society- Cancer Lodge is available at a modest rate for cancer patients and their caregivers when attending cancer treatment appointments. Patients need to be able to care for themselves or have someone to help give care. For more information, call 1.888.939.3333 or contact a lodge to make a reservation.

Jean C. Barber Lodge
575 W. 10th Ave.
Vancouver, BC.
V5Z.4C3
604.879.9131

Vancouver Island Lodge
2202 Richmond Ave.
Victoria, BC
V8R.4R5
250.592.2662

Southern Interior Rotary Lodge
2251 Abbott St.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y.1E2
250.712.2203

Kordyban Lodge
1100 Alward St.
Prince George BC
V2M.7B1
250.562.3535
Government Medical Rates:
The BC government has a list for discounted medical rates at hotels and motels for patients and families who need to travel out of town for non-emergency care. For a list, go to BC Government Medical Travel Accommodation Listing http://csa.pss.gov.bc.ca/medicaltravel/.

Tips when traveling for treatment
• Check your extended medical plan to see if travel for medical treatment is covered.
• If you receive any government benefits call, check their website or visit a local office and ask about funding for medical travel.
• You may want to review eligibility requirements for the Canadian Cancer Society, Travel Treatment Fund. Go to www.cancer.ca (financial support) or call 1.888.939.3333
• For information about other types of accommodation call Patient & Family Counselling Services at your local cancer centre.
• Keep medical travel receipts as costs might be claimed on your tax return or extended medical plan.
BC Housing Programs

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) provides a subsidy for individuals, who are over age 60 and have resided in BC for at least one year and pay more than 30% of their income in rent. To see if you are eligible go to www.bchousing.org/programs/SAFER

Rental Assistance Program (RAP) Adults with at least one dependent child and an annual household income of less than $35,000 may be eligible for the Rental Assistance Program. For more information go to www.bchousing.org/

Home Adaptations for Independence (HAFI) provides financial assistance for individuals with disabilities and whose home or apartment needs modifications to improve accessibility. For more information go to www.bchousing.org/ or call 1.800.257.7756 or 604.433.2218

Home Owners Grant
If you own your property and have a physical disability or you have a relative residing with you that has a disability, you may be eligible for a provincial home owners grant. For more information go to www2.gov.bc.ca/
Childcare Subsidy:
Ministry of Children & Family Development offers a childcare subsidy on a sliding income scale for those with low incomes. For more information go to Ministry of Children & Family Development
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/
or call 1.888.338.6622 or 250.356.6501

BC Family Bonus Programs:
The program provides non-taxable monthly payments to help low and modest income families with the cost of raising children under age 18. The program includes the basic family bonus and the B.C. earned income benefit. Benefits are combined with the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) into a single monthly payment.
For more information go BC Government at
www2.gov.bc.ca/
or call 1.800.387.1193
BC Bus Pass:
Low-income seniors and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) have access to the BC Bus Pass Program. Persons with Disabilities can receive a bus pass as part of their disability assistance. Low-income seniors and other eligible people can access the program at a reduced cost ($45). Passes are Compass Cards and are valid in communities serviced by BC Transit or Trans Link. Print out an application, complete online request or call 1.866.866.0800 (press option 2 – enter phone number – press option 2 and press option 1)

BC Health Connections Programs:
Programs are available in most BC communities if you have a health condition that prevents you from using the regular transit system. Options include:

- HandyDART and other programs provide a door-to-door service using specially equipped vehicles to carry passengers with physical or cognitive disabilities who cannot use the regular public transit system. For information about your area:
  - Metro Vancouver areas go to: Translink www.translink.ca (rider guide>accessible transit>handydart) or call 604.575.6600
  - Vancouver Island areas go to: BC Transit www.busonline.ca/regions/vic/accessible/ or call 250.727.7811
  - Wheels for Wellness www.wheelsforwellness.com/ or call 250.338.0196
  - Kelowna areas go to: BC Transit www.busonline.ca/regions/kel/handydart/default.cfm or call 250.762.3278
  - Prince George areas go to: BC Transit www.busonline.ca/regions/prg/handydart/default.cfm or call 250.562.1394
Transportation Programs

• **Handy PASS/Handy Card & Taxi-Saver** is available when HandyDART cannot accommodate your travel needs. If eligible, “accessibility” programs lower the cost for regular bus service or taxis. **Taxi Saver Program** provides a 50% subsidy toward the cost of taxi rides. You will need to have a Handy Pass to use this program.

• **Northern Health Connection Bus Service** is a bus service available in Northern BC for people needing to travel out-of-town for medical appointments. Passengers will be charged a fee based on the number of zones travelled. Return fares range from $20.00-$80.00. For more information, go to [https://nhconnections.ca/](https://nhconnections.ca/).

To reserve your seat, call 1.800.647.4997 and have your BC care card number ready.

**Hope Air:**
Hope Air arranges free flights for Canadians who must travel for non-emergency medical appointments and cannot afford the costs. For more information, go to [www.hopeair.org/Default.aspx](http://www.hopeair.org/Default.aspx) or call 1.877.346.4673

**Travel Assistance Program (TAP):**
The Travel Assistance Program is available to BC residents who need to travel outside their home community to get non-emergency specialist medical care. Before making travel plans, contact TAP for approval. TAP does not reimburse for any costs. Ask for a TAP referral form from your family doctor and get your family doctor’s signature. Call TAP and you will receive a confirmation number. Present your completed form with confirmation number to the participating travel service. TAP automated line is available 24/7. Completed TAP forms are valid for 90 days. For more information, go to Ministry of Health [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc/travel-assistance-program-tap-bc](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc/travel-assistance-program-tap-bc) or call 1.800.661.2668
Participating services:

- **Angel Flight** provides free air transport for cancer patients in BC who cannot travel by conventional means to medical appointments on the lower mainland and points on Vancouver Island.
  Call 250.818.0288

- **BC Ferries** gives 100 percent discount for patient/vehicle and escort accompanying a patient. Present completed TAP form when purchasing your ticket.

- **Central Mountain Air** provides regular fare discounts and some flight restrictions are waived.
  Call 1.888.865.8585

- **Harbour Air Seaplanes** gives 30 percent discount on regular economy fares on any scheduled services.
  Call 1.800.665.0212

- **Hawkair** provides special fares for medical travel.
  Call 1.800.487.1216

- **Helijet** – 30% discount is available.
  Call 1.800.665.4354

- **Orca Airways Ltd.** gives 25 percent discount off regular fare. Serves Abbotsford, Port Alberni, Qualicum Beach, Tofino, Vancouver and Victoria.
  Call 1.888.359.6722

- **VIA Rail** – 30% discount is available.
  Call 1 888.842.7245

- **Westcoast Air** – 30% discount is available.
  Call 1.800.665.0212
Insurance Discounts
Car Insurance Discounts – if you have been approved for a fuel tax refund you may also qualify for a 25% discount on your basic auto plan even if someone else drives the vehicle.
For more information, go to www.icbc.com/autoplan/costs/Pages/Discounts-and-savings.aspx or call 1.800.663.3051

Parking Permits for People with Disabilities
Parking permits allow people with disabilities to use designated accessible parking spaces anywhere in BC. Applications must be filled out and signed by a physician. Permits are available to people with permanent or temporary disabilities that impair mobility and to organizations that provide transportation to persons with mobility impairment.

• **Metro Vancouver & Prince George:** Permits are available through Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC). Cost: $20.00 for temporary, permanent or organization permits. For more information, go to SPARC www.sparc.bc.ca/ or call 1.888.718.7794 or 604.718.7744

• **Kelowna:** City of Kelowna provides disability parking permits. Cost is $10.50. For more information, go to City of Kelowna www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page1722.aspx or call 250.469.8757.

• **Victoria:** Disability Resource Centre provides disability parking permits. Cost: $20.00 for temporary, permanent or organization permits. For more information go to Disability Resource Centre http://drcvictoria.com/programs_and_services/ or call 250.595.0044
Parking Hardship Privileges (Lower Mainland)
Certain circumstances arise in which paying for parking within the Fraser Health (FH), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), Providence Health Care (PHC) or Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) Hospital facilities (which includes BC Cancer Agency) present a medical hardship and you may be eligible for a reduction in parking fees. Contact Patient & Family Counselling Services or a hospital social worker to assess your situation.

TREO
A BC resident with a permanent disability and/or a person who is in active cancer treatment who needs to cross the Port Mann Bridge, may be exempt from paying the toll. For more information, go to www.treo.ca/tolls-and-fees/tolling-exemptions/ or call 604.516.8736 or 1.855.888.873
Patient & Family Counselling Services Contacts

Abbotsford Centre:
1.877.547.3777 or 604.851.4733

Centre for the North:
1.855.775.7300 or 250.645.7330

Fraser Valley Centre:
1.800.523.2885 or 604.930.4000

Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior:
1.888.563.7773 or 250.712.3963

Vancouver Centre:
1.800.663.3333 or 604.877-6000 local 672194

Vancouver Island Centre:
1.800.670.3322 or 250.519.5525
Proceeds from sales of publications and all donations go towards BC Cancer Agency, Psychosocial Oncology Programs.