

## Vancouver Island Cancer Centre Transportation Information

If you need transportation getting to your cancer treatment appointments, please refer to the suggestions below. If you need further support, you can schedule an appointment with a counsellor by calling Patient & Family Counselling Services at 250.519.5525 local 695525. If you require additional information about community services please call the Canadian Cancer Society, Cancer Information Line at 1888.939.3333.

### Public Services

<b>Taxi Service</b>	Local taxi service is available in your communities. Consult your telephone directory for best options. Wheelchair accessible vehicles may be available at no extra charge, but you may need to book ahead.
<b>BC Transit</b>	Public Transit – In <a href="#">Victoria</a> regional system call 250.382.6161 or go to their website. For surrounding area see regional websites for transit information.
<i>HandyDart:</i>	<a href="#">Register</a> online or call 250.727.7811 Once you have registered you can book a trip <a href="#">online</a> \$2.50/disabled rider and an attendant is free.
<i>HandyPASS &amp; Taxi Saver:</i>	<a href="#">Taxi Saver</a> vouchers are available one time to disabled permanently registered handyDART riders only. They provide a 50% subsidy towards the cost of taxi rides. You will need to have a HandyPASS to use this program.
<b>BC Ferries</b>	BC Ferries transportation call 1-888-223-3779 for reservations and ferry schedules or visit <a href="http://www.bcferrries.com/">http://www.bcferrries.com/</a>
<b>*BC Ferries Connector</b>	Wilson’s Transportation offers private bus transportation on board BC Ferries. Call 888.788.8840 or visit <a href="http://bcfconnector.com/">http://bcfconnector.com/</a> for schedules and to purchase tickets (*private service)
<b>Disabled Parking Permit</b>	To apply to use the disabled parking spaces, visit <a href="http://www.sparc.bc.ca">www.sparc.bc.ca</a> for an application. Call 604.718.7744 for more information.

### Community Organizations & Private (fee for service)

<b>Angel Flights</b>	Provides air transportation for cancer patients in rural communities needing medical services at hospitals and centralized medical care facilities in Victoria and Vancouver. Phone: 250.818.2088 <a href="http://www.angelflight.ca">www.angelflight.ca</a>
<b>A Little Lift</b>	Private transportation to medical appointments for seniors and others living in Comox Valley, Courtenay or Cumberland. Cost is \$35.00/hr. for vehicle and a companion. Phone: 250.890.0636 <a href="http://www.alittlelift.ca/">www.alittlelift.ca/</a>
<b>Better at Home Programs Directory</b> <i>Find a program in your community:</i>	Better at Home is a program that helps seniors with simple day-to-day tasks so that they can continue to live independently in their own homes and remain connected to their communities. To find a non-profit organization near that provides transportation to medical appointments go to <a href="http://www.betterathome.ca/map">www.betterathome.ca/map</a> and look up your community. You will need to qualify and register with the specific program in your area.

<b>Beacon Community Services</b>	Offers free transportation for medical appointments for Saanich residents. Call 250.656.5537 for more information.
<b>Broadmead Care</b>	Free transportation to medical appointments for seniors who are Saanich residents. Call 250.658.3264 for more information.
<b>Capital City Volunteers</b>	Free transportation is available for residents of Victoria who are over age 18 with low income. Call 250.388.7844 local 310 for more information.
<b>Community Assistance Society</b>	Transportation is available to Victoria. The cost is \$40 for a round trip. Call 250.389.4661 for more information.
<b>Cowichan Seniors Community Foundation</b>	Transportation is available for seniors to medical appointments. Cost is free and by donation. Call 250.715.8849 or visit <a href="http://www.cowichanseniors.ca">www.cowichanseniors.ca</a> for more information.
<b>Cancer Driveline</b>	Free transportation to cancer related medical appointments in Victoria, Sooke and Greater Victoria. Call 778.265.0906 for more information.
<b>Freemason Cancer Car Program</b>	The Freemason Van provides free long haul service to Nanaimo or Victoria to the communities on Vancouver Island and is operated in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society. Requests for rides are made to the Canadian Cancer Society Unit offices as listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campbell River: 250.289.1955; Comox Valley: 250.338.5454</li> <li>• Ladysmith, Parksville &amp; Qualicum Beach: 1.855.287.8882</li> <li>• Nanaimo: 250.741.8180; Port Alberni: 250.724.2912</li> <li>• Cowichan Valley: 250-668-5585</li> </ul>
<b>Hope Air</b>	Non-profit charitable organization that arranges free flights for those who need to travel for medical reasons and are in financial need <a href="http://www.hopeair.org">www.hopeair.org</a> Call 1.877.346.HOPE (4673) for more information.
<b>James Bay Health &amp; Community Services</b>	Transportation to medical appointments for over age 18 and who have low income. Call 250.388.7844 local 334 for more information.
<b>Ladysmith Resources Centre Association</b>	Transportation to medical appointments is available for seniors. Transportation is by either van or access to volunteer drivers who will transport a patient in their own car. Call 250.245.3079 or visit <a href="http://www.lrca.bc.ca/transport.asp">www.lrca.bc.ca/transport.asp</a> for more information.
<b>Lifesupport</b>	Provides non-emergency ground based transportation for the Central and North Island, to and from hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities and private residences serving residents. It is an appropriate option for cancer patients who are not able to use local transportation services because of poor health or mobility. Call 1-250-586-9928 for transfers originating from Centre/North island or visit <a href="http://www.LifeSupportTransport.com">www.LifeSupportTransport.com</a> for more information or visit.
<b>Medi-Van</b>	Medi-Van is the non-emergent patient transport service provider for the South Island. The South Island includes the following sites: Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria General Hospital, Saanich Peninsula Hospital, Aberdeen Hospital, Glengarry Hospital, Mount Tolmie Hospital, Gorge Road Hospital, Priory Hospital, Oak Bay Lodge, Queen Alexandra C.C.H., and Seven Oaks MH Facility.  Contact Medi-Van's dispatch; call 250-389-0948 or 1-855-389-0948 for transfers originating from South Island.
<b>Oak Bay Volunteer</b>	Free transportation to medical appointment for residents of Oak Bay. Phone 250.595.1034.

**Services**

[www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca](http://www.oakbayvolunteers.bc.ca) .

**Pender Island  
Community Support**

A volunteer driver program provides rides to medical appointments for Pender Island residents. Rider must provide a Travel Assistance Program (TAP) form from their doctor for ferry travel. Call 250.629.3346 for more information.

**Saanich Volunteer  
Services**

A volunteer driver program provides rides for medical appointments for Saanich residents. Call 250.595.8008 for more information.

**Society of Organized  
Services**

Free transportation to non-emergency medical appointments for Parksville, Nanoose and Qualicum residents. Call 250.248.2093 or visit [www.sosd69.com](http://www.sosd69.com).

**Tofino Bus**

Express bus service with arrivals and departures from Tofino to Ucluelet, Port Alberni, Nanaimo and Victoria. Cost is \$26.00 from Ucluelet to Port Alberni/then take Freemason bus. Visit the online reservation system at <http://www.tofinobus.com/> or call 1.866.986.3466 or 250.725.2871 to reserve your ticket by phone.

**Wheels for Wellness**

Transportation to a non-emergency out of town medical appointment, for example Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River that exceeds 60 KM (one way) from your point of departure. Suggested donation is \$20.00. [www.wheelsforwellness.com](http://www.wheelsforwellness.com) Call 250.338.0196 for more information.

## Financial Assistance Programs

### **Canadian Cancer Society**

*Financial Support Program:*

Provides limited, short-term financial assistance to cover a portion of eligible clients' cancer-related transportation and accommodation expenses go to [www.cancer.ca/en/support-and-services/support-services](http://www.cancer.ca/en/support-and-services/support-services).

### **Extended Health Benefits**

Contact your plan administrator or employer human resources department to see if your plan covers the cost of traveling to medical appointments.

### **First Nations, Inuit and Aboriginal Health**

*Non-insured health benefits:*

Provides benefits for specified services including medical transportation for eligible First Nations people and Inuit. Phone: 1.800.317.7878 or go to [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/benefit-prestatiion/medtransport/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/benefit-prestatiion/medtransport/index-eng.php).

*First Nations Health Authority:*

First Nations Health Authority medical benefits information go to .

### **Kelly Shire Foundation**

*Transportation fund:*

Private charity program for **breast cancer** patients (this fund is available for more than transportation costs). Call 1.877.436.6467 or visit [www.kellyshiresfoundation.org/](http://www.kellyshiresfoundation.org/) for more information.

### **Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation**

*BC Bus Pass Program:*

BC Employment & Assistance & Persons with Disabilities:  
Phone: 1.866.866.0800

The [Bus Pass Program](#) has two components: a bus pass for low-income seniors (cost is \$45.00) and a bus pass for persons with the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation (free). Go to website for more information.

*Medical Transportation Supplements:*

Medical transportation supplements are provided to specific recipients of income assistance and disability assistance who are eligible for general health supplements or are facing a life-threatening health need. They are intended to meet extraordinary transportation costs associated with essential medical treatment. Contact the [Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation](#) for more information.

### **Ruby Slipper Fund (Sunshine Coast Only)**

The Ruby Slipper Fund provides financial assistance to people living on the Sunshine Coast who have received a cancer diagnosis. After all other means of support have been exhausted the Ruby Slipper Fund aids with the costs of treatment-related costs such as traveling for treatment. Go to <http://www.rubyslipperfund.com/> for more information.

### **Travel Assistance Program (TAP)**

This resource is relevant for those travelling to a cancer centre by air, ferry or rail from another region for cancer treatment. A TAP request form is required prior to your trip and is available from your doctor's office. For more information visit [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/tap-bc). Obtain a TAP form and fill it out, call and get your confirmation number. This form will cover ferry fare for patient and one support person. Present this form at time of service. Refer to the website for further instructions and TAP eligibility criteria.

### **Veterans Affairs**

*Independence Program:*

Benefits for qualifying veterans that require support and financial assistance including transportation costs for medical appointments. Phone: 1.866.522.2122 [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/health/veterans-independence-program](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/health/veterans-independence-program).