

Canada Disability Savings Program Newsletter

(November 2016 Issue)

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Help Spread the Word about the RDSP:

Discovering what government programs can help meet your specific needs can be an intimidating task. The Government of Canada makes great efforts to help individuals find programs that are right for them. On October 12, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, and the Honourable Michelle Stilwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation of British Columbia, joined forces to challenge all ministers responsible for persons with disabilities across Canada to take actions to increase Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) uptake in their provinces or territories. Provinces and territories are encouraged to report on their efforts through social media by using the #RDSPChallenge hashtag.

BC has shown leadership in increasing program awareness and understanding including creating a guide called "How to Start and Manage an RDSP in British Columbia". This tool can be found at the following website:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/supports-services/registered_disability_savings_plan_guide.pdf

A great way to inform people about the RDSP is through our program brochure, which was recently updated to include more straight-forward language and is available at: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/savings/videos_ads.shtml

We'd love to hear from you, let us know what you need to better promote the program: NC-RDSP-ORGS-REEI-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Upcoming WebEx:

The RDSP Outreach Team wants to provide your organization—and other disability stakeholder organizations—with an overview about the program and how it helps Canadians. We are developing RDSP WebEx information sessions which will be held in the new year. Each session will be a 30-minute presentation outlining what an

RDSP is, how to open one, and the benefits of having one, plus allow for participant questions to be answered.

This fall we held two WebEx sessions for representatives of Provincial and Territorial governments and received feedback saying the sessions were easy to understand and provided useful RDSP knowledge to share among their networks.

Are you interested in participating? If yes, please send us an email (by January 9th/17) at: NC-RDSP-ORGS-REEI-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Also, let us know if you prefer an English or French session and if you would need some type of accommodation in order to facilitate your participation (e.g. closed captioning, large print, Braille, etc.)

International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

December 3rd, 2016, marks the 24th year of the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The theme put forth by the United Nations for this year's International Day is "*Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want*".

This theme highlights 17 sustainable development goals and their role in increasing inclusion for people with disabilities. The goals focus on breaking down barriers including obstacles related to the physical environment, information and communications technology, and cultural barriers -- the way people with disabilities are viewed and treated by others.

National Youth Forum:

Youth are key to breaking down barriers for Canadians with disabilities and creating a more accessible and inclusive Canada. On November 1, 2016, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough hosted an exciting one-day national forum on accessibility to engage youth with disabilities and youth who have life, work or academic experience related to disabilities.

Minister Qualtrough engaged youth participants on what accessibility means to them and their vision of an accessible Canada. She encouraged participants to continue demonstrating leadership in their communities and continue working towards building a more inclusive and accessible society. The event was a great success with more than 110 youth from across Canada who participated and provided innovative solutions to tough issues. To see photos from the event, visit the [AccessibleGC](#) Facebook page.

The National Youth Forum is part of the government's consultation process to inform the development of planned accessibility legislation. Canadians from around the country have already begun sharing their views on what an accessible Canada means to them. All Canadians are encouraged to have their say in the consultation process, either by attending an engagement session or by participating online at www.Canada.ca/Accessible-Canada.

Financial Literacy Month:

November is Financial Literacy Month. The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) offers useful tools, resources and events to help you better manage your money at Canada.ca/Financial-Literacy-Month.

Putting money aside can make the difference between feeling stressed and being in control of your financial situation. And once amounts have been saved, contributing to an RDSP could help increase your long-term financial security.

Here are some easy savings tips you can practice and share with others:

1. Start now. Some banks offer low-cost or no-cost accounts to young people, seniors, and low income Canadians. Consult the FCAC's [Account Selector Tool](#) to find the account that best suits your needs.
2. Make a [budget](#) and update it regularly.
3. Automate it. Transfer money automatically every pay cheque to a savings account such as an RDSP account and watch your savings grow. Remember that contributions to an RDSP will generate matching grants at a ratio of 3:1, 2:1 or 1:1 depending on the contribution amount and the annual income.

"Being a saver is one of the best money habits you can develop. Life is full of twists and turns and having savings will shelter you from financial ups and downs." says Jane Rooney, Financial Literacy Leader.

We're moving to a New Website:

To make it easier for Canadians to find government information/services, the Government of Canada is merging its many departmental and agency websites into one. '**Canada.ca**' is being organized according to the topics most requested and the tasks most commonly performed by the public. As Employment and Social Development Canada and Service Canada's web content is now being moved to Canada.ca, in 2017, we encourage you to access our program's content at the new site:

Canada.ca ► Benefits, ► Disability Benefits, ► Canada Disability Savings Grant and Bond

NOTE: If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, just let us know by adding UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line of your return message.