

Common Questions on Local Resources for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

There are many supports for people with disabilities who live in Burnaby, British Columbia. Here are some common questions about accessing these supports, based on content from the [DocTalks webinar series on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#).

Understanding Disability Resources for Children

1. What are some atypical behaviours in children?

Some [behaviours in children](#) that are commonly associated with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) or mental health conditions include aggression, self-injury, sleep problems, avoiding social interaction, and not listening to adults.

2. What do I do if I notice atypical behaviour in my child?

See a family physician or nurse practitioner if you are concerned about your child's behaviours.

Talk with your child's teacher about what you've noticed. They can help collect information about your child's strengths and areas of need. Your child may then be connected to learning supports in school. The school may prepare a letter for you to take to a doctor to get an assessment. [Community Living British Columbia \(CLBC\)](#) may support the cost of the assessment if you are interested in their services and if they suspect a diagnosis.

Consider joining a family-to-family peer group to support you with navigating the available resources. See the links below.

3. What is the difference between "diagnosis" and "designation" in the school system?

A diagnosis is completed by a health professional (e.g., pediatrician or psychologist) to determine if a child meets the medical criteria for a disorder. These medical assessments are shared with the school.

A designation is determined by a school professional (e.g., school psychologist), alongside a school team,

to determine if a child meets Ministry of Education criteria for a learning need. This may also involve reviewing medical reports, but the final decision is made by the educational institution.

Transitioning to Adult Disability Resources

1. What is Community Living BC (CLBC)?

[Community Living British Columbia \(CLBC\)](#) provides life-long support to adults (19+ years old) who have disabilities. They provide funding for services for people to reach their goals and connect to their community. You can find more information about eligibility criteria, required documentation, and the types of services they offer on their website.

2. When should I start applying for CLBC support?

Consider starting sooner rather than later. Typically, the process begins when the person is 16 years old. Gathering the required documents can take time. It can be challenging to find the required documents from childhood later in life. You can apply and become eligible for CLBC support but choose not to access services until later in life.

3. How do I start applying for CLBC support?

Speak to a CLBC Eligibility Facilitator. Start the process by:

- Calling your [local CLBC office](#).
- Asking your [Child and Youth Supports Needs Worker](#) (CYSN) to refer you to CLBC.

You can learn more about the [documents you need](#) to apply for CLBC support on their website.

4. What is a Representation Agreement?

A Representation Agreement is a legal document that covers health care and personal care matters. You can make a Representation Agreement as soon as the person is 19 years old and transitions into adult services. Learn more at [Nidus](#).

5. What is a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)?

A Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a savings plan intended to help an individual who is approved to receive the disability tax credit (DTC) to save for their long-term financial security. You can learn more at the [Government of Canada](#) website or the [PLAN Institute](#).

Navigating Disability Resources for Aging Adults

1. What can I do if my aging loved one who has IDD is experiencing a health challenge?

It can be difficult to know when a person's health challenge is due to their disability or a new age-

Definitions

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD):

A group of lifelong conditions that lead to limitations in intellectual, physical, social, and practical skills. Whilst people with IDD tend to experience more complex health challenges, they also regularly live into older age (50s – 80s) and can experience a good quality of life.

Child and Youth Supports Needs Worker (CYSN):

A staff who provides information about Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) support.

related health issue. Identifying a baseline of how a person completes typical tasks can help caregivers and health professionals measure abilities over time and determine when changes happen. Encourage regular health check-ups and be persistent until new health concerns are resolved.

2. How can I support my loved one with IDD as they age?

You might also provide some anticipatory guidance about what to expect when aging and explore advance care planning. Advocate for additional supports early on and keep track of changes in support once the person turns 65 years old. You can find out more at [Disability Alliance BC](#).

For More Information About IDD Resources

Scan me!



Find forms to help improve communication with the doctor during medical visits, videos on health care in Burnaby, and more information about about disability resources on the [Burnaby Primary Care Networks Developmental Disabilities](#) webpage!

Useful Links

Supporting Children and Young People Who Have Disabilities

- Burnaby School District
<https://burnabyschools.ca/>
- Developmental Disabilities Association
www.develop.bc.ca
- Foundry BC www.foundrybc.ca
- Reach Child and Youth Development Society
www.reachdevelopment.org
- ONTRAC, BC Children’s Hospital
<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/our-services/support-services/transition-to-adult-care>
- This World Is Ours
<https://www.thisworldsours.com/>
- Space Program www.spacetreatment.net
- Vancouver Parents Transition Group
www.vptg.wordpress.com

General Resources

- Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)
www.communitylivingbc.ca
- Fraser Health Authority Developmental Disabilities Mental Health Service
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/developmental-disabilities-mental-health-services>
- Registered Disability Savings Plan
<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-disability-savings-plan-rdsp.html>
- Nidus www.nidus.ca
- BC People First www.bcpeoplefirst.com
- Inclusion BC www.inclusionbc.org
- Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI) www.gobaci.com

- Canucks Autism Network
www.canucksautism.ca
- Developmental Disabilities Association
www.develop.bc.ca
- PosAbilities www.posabilities.ca

Resources for Aging Adults Who Have Disabilities

- Aware, Share, Care www.awaresharecare.ca
- Disability Alliance BC
www.disabilityalliancebc.org
- Fraser Health Authority Advanced Care Planning
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/advance-care-planning>
- Fraser Health Authority Specialized Seniors Clinic
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/Service-Directory/Service-At-Location/A/9/specialized-seniors-clinic---new-westminster>
- Fraser Health Authority Health Services for Community Living
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/Service-Directory/Service-At-Location/2/E/health-services-for-community-living---burnaby>
- PLAN Institute www.PLAN.ca
- UCI Mind www.youtube.com/user/UCIMIND

Resources for Family Members and Caregivers

- Advocate for Service Quality
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/services-for-people-with-disabilities/supports-services/advocate-for-service-quality>
- Family Smart www.familysmart.ca
- Family Support Institute (FSI) of BC
www.familysupportbc.com
- Here and Now Community Society
www.hereandnowca.org

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