

## Our Team

The Advocacy Access staff have extensive experience working with diverse community groups.

Members of the team are specialists in the disability benefits available through the federal and provincial governments, and obtaining needed health and medical benefits. Advocates are also experienced with many of the unique problems people with specific disabilities face in obtaining supports and benefits.

## General Information

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you need assistance or would like more information, the staff will be pleased to help.

To make an appointment, call us at the numbers listed on the back panel.



## Advocacy Access is a program of BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

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The Law Foundation of British Columbia

City of Vancouver

Ministry of Human Resources

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch

Private donations

For our Help Sheets and more information on disability benefits, visit our website at [www.bccpd.bc.ca](http://www.bccpd.bc.ca) or contact us at:

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BC Coalition of People with Disabilities  
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Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1R3  
tel 604.872.1278 • fax 604.875.9227  
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# Disability Fact Sheet

## Advocacy Access



AN ADVOCACY ACCESS PUBLICATION

A PROGRAM OF  
BC COALITION OF  
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

# Disability Fact Sheet

## ADVOCACY ACCESS

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities' Advocacy Access Program began many years ago as a small, volunteer service.

We offered an informal ombuds service to people with disabilities who were looking for help to apply for benefits, to appeal a decision, or to find out how to advocate for themselves.

Many years later, Advocacy Access has become one of BCCPD's busiest programs. Each year, we serve over 25,000 people with disabilities. The mandate of our program is:

- to advocate on behalf of individuals who need assistance
- to educate people with disabilities on their rights and share self-help skills

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## What We Do

Our advocates work with clients on:

- understanding income assistance rights and responsibilities
- applying for the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit; appealing and going to tribunal
- applying for CPP disability benefits; appealing and going to tribunal
- accessing health benefits
- accessing the gas tax rebate
- obtaining information on subsidized housing

**We can also refer you to other agencies or resources which may be able to help you or provide more information.**

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**Our advocates can work with you one-to-one, refer you to other agencies or provide helpful resources.**

## Education

An important component of the program is helping people with disabilities advocate for themselves.

Our staff conduct workshops in different regions of the province to share self-help skills and information.

Topics covered include:

- provincial disability benefits application, appeal and tribunal procedures
- CPP disability benefits application, appeal and tribunal procedures
- accessing community resources
- levels of government responsibility for disability programs

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**We also share information with other advocacy groups through publications and workshops.**

**Help Sheets, brochures and manuals are also available to individuals and groups.**