



# POLICY GOVERNING SUPPORT FOR MOBILITY AIDS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CANADA

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# Introduction

A supportive disability policy environment is one of the factors that has been identified as essential to full participation and community integration for people with disabilities. It is therefore necessary to understand the policy context within which people with disabilities operate and attempt to carve out a life for themselves in the community.

The Canadian Disability Policy Alliance is a national collaboration of disability researchers, community organizations, and federal and provincial policy-makers, aimed at creating and mobilizing knowledge to enhance disability policy in Canada, to promote equity and opportunity for disabled Canadians. The Alliance is a partner in the Canadian Disability Participation Partnership, led by Dr. Kathleen Martin-Ginis and funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Within this 7-year project, the CDPA has undertaken to provide assistance to the three research teams (Employment, Mobility and Sport/Recreation) on policy-related aspects of their work. This is the second of three cross-jurisdictional scans of legislation governing the provision of goods and services to people with disabilities in Canada. This scan focuses on legislation governing funding for mobility aids (specifically wheelchairs and scooters) for people with disabilities across Canada. These policy scans have grown out of the two major reports we produced by the CDPA in 2008 and 2013. These can be found on the CDPA website (www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca). The full reports provide a broader perspective on disability policy across sectors and across the country.

For the purposes of this report, **policy** is defined as a purposeful set of actions by government aimed at addressing identified social problems (Boyce et al., 2001). Those actions can be formal, explicit, and (to a greater or lesser degree) enforceable, such as legislation, regulations and government programs. They can be moderately formal, such as election promises, throne speeches, position papers or policy reports. These are explicit statements of government intent, but they have not been authorized as law by parliament. At the other end of the spectrum, policy declarations can be informal expressions by political actors of where government is going and what ideals or values it embraces. In this document, we focus on formal policy; that is, legislation, regulations, and government programs.

**Disability policy** is defined by Bickenbach (1993) as policy that responds to the questions:

- What does it mean to have a disability in this society?
- What is society committed to doing for those who have a disability?

Disability policy may be enacted for a number of reasons; for example:

- To voluntarily provide service to others deemed less fortunate;
- To fulfil an acknowledged need;
- To compensate for a loss;
- To invest in anticipation of a return in the form of contribution to society;

• To redistribute wealth or capital (Bickenbach, 1993).

Typically, disability policy has at least one of the following three objectives:

- Equity to prevent discrimination and to ensure equal opportunity;
- Access to permit entry or access to venues, goods and services;
- Support to provide material support, such as equipment, personal care, financial supports, therapy, counselling, service (McColl & Jongbloed, 2006).

We use the term "disability policy" as if it referred to an entity that was widely recognized and acknowledged as such. In fact, disability policy is perceived by people with disabilities as being impenetrable and unnecessarily complex, with little in the way of a coherent underlying ideology or policy framework (Boyce et al., 2001; McColl & Jongbloed, 2006). Policy of interest to people with disabilities ranges across jurisdictions, across sectors within government, and across programs within ministries. It is a patchwork of legislation, regulations, programs, providers and entitlements that requires considerable probing to reveal, and considerable patience to understand. Disability policy in Canada has been described as conflicting, fragmented, incoherent, not user-friendly, a "hitor-miss" affair (Boyce et al., 2001; Prince, 2004; Cameron & Valentine 2001). According to Lande (1998), disability policy has been the victim of vague statutory definitions and capricious judicial opinions leading to flawed case law.

The disability policy environment in Canada is dominated by several major statutes and programs at the federal level. The federal government has taken a leadership role in setting standards and providing for the necessities of people with disabilities, beginnings as a system for injured workers and veterans (Crichton & Jongbloed, 1997; Torjman, 2001). Although legislation has been referred to as a "blunt tool" with which to remedy social problems, it is the skeleton of a system of policy. In Canada, statutes like the Constitution Act, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canada Health Act, the Employment Equity Act and the Human Rights Act form the basis upon which disability programs and entitlements rely (Cameron & Valentine 2001). Layered on top of those laws are a set of programs offered by government aimed at addressing the social and economic needs of people with disabilities. For example, the Canada Pension Plan Disability program provides a disability income benefit; Revenue Canada provides a disability tax credit; the Office of Disability Issues within Resource Development Canada provides standards and ideological guidance about disability; Statistics Canada collects information about disability; Employment Insurance provides benefits to disabled workers. These are just a few examples of the web of services and programs concerning disability at the federal level.

According to the Constitution Act in Canada (and before that the British North America Act of 1867), most services to individual citizens are delivered at the provincial level. Therefore in each province and territory, there are also laws and programs that have major implications for the lives of people with disabilities. Social security, health, education, housing, transportation, child care, adaptive

equipment, personal care and vocational programs are all examples of provincial jurisdiction over issues affecting people with disabilities.

The political scene in Canada has been dominated in recent years by tensions between the federal and provincial/territorial governments as to who does what and where the resources for specific commitments should come from. As far as disability policy is concerned, it has been designated as one of a small set of items over which federal-provincial tensions must be resolved (Cameron & Valentine 2001).

There is concern that a weakened position for the federal government relative to the provinces is not in the best interests of people with disabilities (Torjman, 2001). Historically, the disability community has been served well by its relationship with the federal government. Several key successes have resulted in a legacy of legislation and political culture that have advanced the cause of disabled people (Crichton & Jongbloed, 1998; Torjman, 2001). The same cannot be said, however, for the provincial governments. Recent trends toward delisting insured health services, cutting welfare rolls, decreasing commitments to home health services and to municipalities have adversely affected the social service net for provincial populations as a whole. Whenever this happens, it is a relative certainty that those who are the most disadvantaged, and thus the most dependent upon those services, suffer most. Arguably, many people with disabilities are among those most in need, and thus are disproportionately disadvantaged by such measures (Cameron & Valentine, 2001). A survey conducted by the Office of Disability Issues (Prince, 2009) shows that Canadians believe that governments ought to be responsible for the provision of supports such as health, education, transportation, housing and special needs. Whereas families, informal networks and the voluntary sector can be expected to provide general supports, these specific programs are part of what Canadians believe is the government's job.

There have been a number of suggestions in the literature that we are at a crossroads in disability policy in Canada (McColl & Jongbloed, 2006; Boyce, Boyce, & Krogh, 2006). Colleagues at various levels of government agree that the main reason for deficiencies in disability policy is the lack of a sound evidence base upon which to build disability policy. Difficult questions and ideological tensions persist about how disability policy should be framed (Prince, 2004). These issues have made it difficult for policy-makers to relate to the disability community and to achieve consensus on the needs of people with disabilities (Joiner, 2006; Prince, 2006). Furthermore, the debate is typically highly polarized, and inflamed by the rhetoric of rights (Bickenbach, 2006). A number of areas exist where there are strong disagreements about how disabled citizens should be viewed, what they need and how they can be best served by governments in Canada (McColl & Jongbloed, 2006).

Standing in the way of the development of coherent and equitable disability policy is a lack of evidence upon which to base responses to questions like the following:

What is the best way to provide services to people with disabilities – a minority group approach or a universalist approach?

- What should be the target of disability policy disabled people themselves or the society that presents obstacles to inclusion and integration?
- Is the identity of the disability community sufficiently clear to evoke a clear policy response?
- Is there public support for disability issues, or is the majority of the electorate perceived by policy makers to be either indifferent or opposed to further disability policy initiatives?

The Canadian Disability Policy Alliance operates on the basis of three assumptions about policy:

- The policy environment is perfectly designed to produce the problems that people
  experience in their daily lives. In other words, if a particular constituency within the disability
  community experiences a persistent problem, it can almost certainly be traced back to a
  flaw, weakness, gap or inconsistency in the policy framework.
- 2. We need to assemble and use the evidence that has already been and continues to be created to make a strong, credible, evidence-based case for change.
- 3. We need people with a variety of different skill sets in order to be successful in making meaningful change in the policy environment research, knowledge translation, advocacy, communication, evaluation, and leadership.

The purpose of this research is to produce a comprehensive survey of policy related to funding for mobility aids available to people with disabilities in Canada.

# **Methodology**

The methodology for the scan was similar to a scoping review of academic literature (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Levac, Colquohoun, & O'Brien, 2010). The scoping review typically unfolds in five stages:

- 1. Identify the research question
- 2. Identify all relevant studies
- 3. Select the studies for detailed analysis
- 4. Chart the data according to key concepts
- 5. Collate and summarize the findings of the selected studies.

### 1. <u>Identify the research question</u>

The research question for this study was:

What policy exists at federal, provincial and territorial levels in Canada that explicitly addresses FUNDING FOR WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS for people with disabilities?

### 2. <u>Identify all relevant data</u>

For each jurisdiction (federal, 10 provinces and 3 territories), the search began on the government home page with the search terms: **disability, wheelchair, mobility aid, benefits.** This approach typically revealed if there was a Disability Issues office or a similar department in government. If such an office existed, the search proceeded to identify programs, benefits and services that were

available to citizens. The links at the disability office site would lead to programs offered in various departments, i.e. education, parking, housing, employment or income assistance.

The purpose of the search was to identify legislation, regulations and programs governing the provision of funding for mobility aids. For this scan, the emphasis was on funding for wheelchairs and scooters, including purchase, loan, repair and maintenance. We did not focus on funding for other mobility devices, such as canes, crutches or walkers, and we did not focus on wheelchair modifications or accessories. Funding for wheelchairs was most commonly located under the Health Ministry, but was also often found under Labour or Employment as part of workers' compensation, or under Transportation as part of automobile insurance.

The second step of the methodology was to consult the *Canadian Legal Information Institute* (CanLII; <a href="http://www.canlii.org/en/">http://www.canlii.org/en/</a>). CanLII is a non-profit organization managed by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, with the goal to make Canadian law accessible for free on the Internet. The following search terms were used to identify legislation and regulations related to this topic:

 Wheelchair, disability, medical, rehabilitation, device, aid, equipment, assistive, scooter, mobility, insurance.

### 3. Select data for detailed analysis

The next step was to begin to select information to populate tables for each of the ten provincial, three territorial, and the federal jurisdiction. All publicly-available information that was provided free-of-charge by the government was collected and archived for further analysis.

## 4. Chart the data according to key concepts

For each jurisdiction, an attempt was made to provide comprehensive information on:

- existing legislation, regulations or explicit policy statements
- bureaucracies or agencies charged with administering the policy
- a description of the service, program or entitlement
- contact information for further inquiries.

### 5. Collate and summarize the findings of the selected studies.

In order to fully exploit the data assembled, the next step would be detailed policy analyses and cross-jurisdictional comparisons of the policy context in Canada. These will be conducted as specific research projects dictate.

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# **The Disability Policy Lens**

As a tool for policy analysis, these questions are intended to provide a quick, easy guide for analyzing disability policy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to these questions, but each has important implications for people with disabilities. For more information, please see <a href="https://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca">www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca</a> or McColl & Jongbloed (2006) <a href="https://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca">Disability & social policy in Canada (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)</a>

- 1. Does the policy specifically mention people with disabilities? Are there provisions pertaining specifically to disabled people?
- 2. If so, how is disability defined? Who is included / excluded from consideration under the policy? Who decides who qualifies as disabled? Does the definition conform with a particular model of disability (eg., biomedical, social, charitable)?
- 3. What does the policy aim to achieve?
  - a. Equity freedom from discrimination
  - b. Access ability to participate
  - c. Support resources to address special needs
- 4. Does the policy aim to enforce individual rights or collective responsibilities?
- 5. Does the policy aim to provide for a special need associated with a disability, or does it aim to provide the same thing to all citizens? Does it aim to achieve:
  - a. Outcome equity whatever it takes to achieve equal outcomes with non-disabled;
  - b. Vertical equity special considerations to create equal opportunity for disabled people;
  - c. Horizontal equity <u>equal treatment</u>; treating disabled people the same as everyone else.
- 6. Does the policy view disabled people collectively as a minority group, or does it aim to structure society so as to ensure universal access / coverage?
- 7. How does the policy relate to other policies (legislation, regulations, programs) in the jurisdiction in the same Ministry, in other Ministries; including both disability-specific and non-disability-specific policy? What about other jurisdictions (national, provincial, regional, municipal)? (For a review of disability policy by jurisdiction across Canada, see: <a href="http://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca/resources/reports/a-scoping-review-of-disability-policy-incanada.html">http://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca/resources/reports/a-scoping-review-of-disability-policy-incanada.html</a>; watch this space for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2013) in September )
- 8. Who wins and who loses when this policy is implemented? How is the allocation of scarce resources affected by this policy? What is the impact on: other disability groups; Business / private sector; Other minority groups; Other citizens generally / taxpayers; Other?
- 9. How did this policy come into effect? What is the history associated with it? Who were the champions / detractors? Where might one anticipate support / opposition?

# **FEDERAL**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act, SC 2005	Veterans Affairs	Disability Award	The Disability Award provides injured Canadian Forces members or Veterans with a tax-free cash award for an injury or illness resulting from military service. The Disability Award is designed to provide immediate financial support to those who have been injured while serving our country. Includes Aids for Daily Living (walkers/canes) and Special Equipment (walkers/wheelchairs/powered mobility devices).	http://www.veterans.gc.ca/en g/services/disability- benefits/disability-award
Income Tax Act, RSC 1985	Canada Revenue Agency	NA	If you are a person with a disability or you support someone with a disability, you may be able to claim deductions and tax credits for disability supports deduction, includes:  Scooter – the amount paid for a scooter that is used instead of a wheelchair.  Walking aids – the amount paid for devices designed exclusively to help a person who has a mobility impairment – prescription required.  Wheelchairs and wheelchair carriers	http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdls/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/lns300-350/330/llwxpns-eng.html#walking

# **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Services Act, SNL 1995	Department of Health and Community Services	Special Child Welfare Allowance Program	This program provides assistance with the cost of services/supports to families with a child (under the age of eighteen years) who has a physical or intellectual disability living at home. The assistance is designed to enable families to purchase items (includes wheelchairs) and/or services, which are necessary due to the child's disability. The amount of monthly assistance for each family is determined through a financial needs test.	http://canlii.ca/t/89vn
Health and Community Services Act, SNL 1995	Department of Health a	Special Assistance Program – Medical equipment and supplies	The Special Assistance Program is a provincial program, which provides basic medical supplies and equipment to assist with activities of daily living for individuals living in the community who meet the eligibility criteria for the program. Benefits of the program include medical supplies (such as dressings, catheters and incontinent supplies); oxygen and related equipment and supplies; orthotics such as braces and burn garments, and equipment such as wheelchairs, commodes or walkers.	http://canlii.ca/t/89vn
Support Act, SNL 2002	upport Act, SNL 2002 Education and Skills	Employability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities	This program is designed to assist individuals with a disability acquire the skills, experience and support necessary to successfully prepare for, enter or remain in the work force. Services include technical aids and other supports to assist individuals obtain access to job opportunities and training. This program is cost-shared with Human Resources Social Development Canada.	http://canlii.ca/t/89t7
Income and Employment	Department of Advanced Education and Skills	Supports to Employment for Persons with Disabilities	This initiative responds to the disability related support needs of adults with disabilities who wish to participate in or maintain employment and includes work place accommodations, work place adaptation, assistive devices such as hearing aids, visual scanners, readers, technical equipment, assistive technology such as computer aides or software which can be used by persons with disabilities to aid in getting and maintaining employment.	http://canlii.ca/t/89t7

Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act, RSNL 1990, c W-11 Workplace Health, Safety & Compensation Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador	Health Care Entitlement	Prescribed Treatments, Devices and Accessories (can include wheelchairs; power and manual, scooters, or walkers). The Commission will pay for treatments, devices and accessories prescribed by licensed health care providers, as long as the treatment, device or accessory, in the opinion of the Commission:  a. will improve or maintain the worker's functional abilities;  b. will improve the likelihood of early and safe return to work;  c. will minimize the risk of further injury or aggravation of the original injury; or,  d. will reduce the severity of symptoms where the work injury has a significant impact on the activities of daily living.  The Commission will cover the cost of repair or replacement, as appropriate, for a health care device where:  a. The device is still necessary for the compensable condition; and,  b. The need for repair or replacement is not the result of intentional mistreatment of the device.  The Commission will cover the cost for repair or replacement which is not covered by the existing warranty for the device.	http://canlii.ca/t/8b5n
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# **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, RSPEI 1988; Social Assistance Act, RSPEI 1988	Department of Community Services and Seniors	Disability Support Program	The purpose of The Disability Support Program (DSP) is to assist with personal planning and to help meet the needs related to an individual's disability. These supports are needs based, and they are not intended to provide income. Supports can take a number of different forms, including technical aids (including wheel chairs) and other devices.	http://canlii.ca/t/8dgh

Insurance Act, RSPEI 1988, c I-4	NA	NA	All reasonable expenses incurred within four years from the date of the accident as a result of such injury for necessary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, hospital, professional nursing and ambulance service and for any other service within the meaning of basic health services or insured services under the Health Services Payment Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. H-2 or the Hospital and Diagnostic Services Insurance Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. H-8 and for such other services and supplies which are, in the opinion of the physician of the insured person's choice and that of the insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment, occupational retraining or rehabilitation of said person, to the limit of \$50,000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/8dh7
Workers Compensation Act, RSPEI 1988, c W-7.1	Workers Compensation Board of PEI	NA	The Workers Compensation Board will authorize the payment of an assistive device where all of the following conditions are met: a) the need for the assistive device resulted from the compensable work injury; b) it is medically effective in the treatment or ongoing care of a compensable work injury; c)the cost does not exceed what the Workers Compensation Board considers to be reasonable and proper; d) it is recommended by an approved health care provider, pursuant to Workers Compensation Board policy, POL - 64, "Health Care Providers"; and e) the Workers Compensation Board has determined the worker has sustained an impairment as a result of the compensable work injury  The worker is responsible for the day —to -day care of the assistive device. The Workers Compensation Board may pay for repairs or replacement over time. "Assistive Device" means a device that increases the worker's ability to perform activities of daily living and improve independence. Examples of assistive devices include wheelchairs, commodes, raised toilet seats, modified work tools, and adaptive technology components.	http://canlii.ca/t/8d8k

# **NOVA SCOTIA**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Employment Support and Income Assistance Regulations, NS Reg 25/2001	Community Services	Employment Support Services/ Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities	To be eligible to benefit from a program funded under LMAPD an individual must: be considered a person having a disability (physical, mental health, learning, cognitive, intellectual) and there is a realistic possibility of attaching to the labour market as a direct result of receiving goods or services through an LMAPD funded program.  individuals who have made a claim under the Worker's Compensation Act, Veteran's Rehabilitation Act (Canada), Canada Pension Plan, or through private insurance companies are not eligible.	http://canlii.ca/t/8745
Workers' Compensation Act, SNS 1994-95, c 10	Workers Compensation Board of Nova Scotia	NA	In general, the WCB covers costs for pre-approved services and personal equipment other health care items (crutches, braces, artificial limbs, wheelchairs, etc.) and maintenance and repair.	http://canlii.ca/t/87dx

# **NEW BRUNSWICK**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Workers' Compensation Act, RSNB 1973, c W-13	WorkSafeNB	NA	When prostheses, orthoses, or assistive devices are needed for the treatment or ongoing care of compensable injuries, WorkSafeNB approves devices that are medically effective and that directly improve functioning for:  • Return to work (RTW); and  • Activities of daily living (ADL)	http://canlii.ca/t/88r0

# QUEBEC

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Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Health Insurance Act, CQLR c A-29	The Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec	Devices that Compensate for Physical Deficiencies Program	The Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (the Régie) pays the entire cost of the wheelchair for individuals insured by the health plan under the Devices that Compensate for Physical Deficiencies Program.	http://canlii.ca/t/xjg
Automobile Insurance Act	NA	Regulation Respecting the Reimbursement of Certain Expenses, CQLR c A-25, r 14	Expenses incurred for the purchase of a wheelchair qualify for reimbursement when the following conditions are met:  (1) they are incurred for a medical reason resulting from the accident and are prescribed by a physician;  (2) an evaluation of the victim's needs was made by an occupational therapist in the employ of an establishment governed by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec on a form provided by the Société containing the following:  (a) the victim's name;  (b) the occupational therapist's name, the occupational therapist's evaluation and recommendation;  (c) the name of the supplier referred to in paragraph 3 and the supplier's tender specifying the cost and guarantee;  (3) 2 tenders based on the occupational therapist's evaluation were made by 2 wheelchair suppliers who are not related, unless only one wheelchair supplier was recommended by the occupational therapist on the form provided by the Société;  (4) the victim was authorized by the Société to purchase a wheelchair at a cost fixed by the latter from either of the tenderers; and  (5) the victim submitted an invoice to the Société for the purchase of the wheelchair. In addition to the elements required in a tender, the invoice shall contain the wheelchair manufacturer's code number, its components and accessories and the victim's or the mandatary's signature.	http://canlii.ca/t/7t1g

Regulation respecting medical aid, CQLR c A- 3.001, r 1	Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec (CSST) (Occupational Health and Safety Commission)	NA	The CSST covers the following medical assistance costs for a worker who is the victim of a work-related accident or disease:  • the services of health professionals; • care or treatment provided by a public health institution; • medicine and other pharmaceutical products; • prostheses and ortheses; • any care, treatment, technical aid or expenses determined by regulation by the CSST.	http://canlii.ca/t/xhp http://canlii.ca/t/11gq
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# **ONTARIO**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
1 Act, 1997	Community and Social Services	Employment Support	The Ontario Disability Support Program Employment Supports help people who have a disability and can and want to work get ready for work and find a job, or start their own business. Employment supports such as job coaching, on-the-job training, software and mobility devices, and transportation assistance may be provided in order to remove barriers to the person's competitive employment and assist the person in attaining his or her competitive employment goal.	http://canlii.ca/t/rnz
Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997	Ministry of Health and Long Term Care	Assistive Devices Program	Eligibility includes any Ontario resident who has a valid Ontario Health card issued in their name and has a physical disability of six months or longer. Equipment cannot be required exclusively for sports, work or school. ADP does not pay for equipment available under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board or to Group "A" veterans for their pensioned benefits. There are specific eligibility criteria which apply to each device category. If you are receiving Ontario Disability Support Program Income Support, you are eligible for the Assistive Devices Program under the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.  ADP pays up to 75 per cent of the cost of equipment, such as artificial limbs, orthopaedic braces, wheelchairs and breathing aids. In most cases, the client pays a share of the cost at time of purchase and the vendor bills ADP the balance. For ADP supply categories where grants are paid,	http://canlii.ca/t/2x2

Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997	Community and Social Services	Disability-related benefits: Hearing aids and mobility devices	the client pays 100 per cent of the cost to the vendor. If you are receiving social assistance benefits under Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD), you may be eligible to receive more money.  If you are receiving Ontario Disability Support Program Income Support, you may be able to get additional help with your hearing aids and mobility devices.  Dependent children 18 years of age or over are not eligible but may get help from Ontario Works discretionary benefits. The Ontario Disability Support Program can also provide help with the cost of batteries and repairs for mobility devices if no other funding is available. Here are some examples of mobility devices:  • manual or electric wheelchairs  • scooters  • walkers  • lifting devices	http://canlii.ca/t/2x2
Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997 Reg 222/98	Community and Social Services	NA	Benefits shall be paid with respect to each of the members of a recipient's benefit unit if the Director is satisfied that he or she meets the criteria for them and income support is being paid on his or her behalf. An amount may be approved by the Director for dental services, dentures, prosthetic devices including eye glasses, clothing, wheelchairs and wheelchair accessories	http://www.canlii.org/en/on /laws/regu/o-reg-222- 98/latest/o-reg-222-98.html
Ontario Works Act, 1997, SO 1997, c 25, Sch A	Community and Social Services	Ontario Works	<ul> <li>live in Ontario</li> <li>need money right away to help pay for food and shelter, and</li> <li>be willing to take part in activities that will help you find a job.</li> <li>The Assistive Devices Program of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care pays for 75% of the cost of an assistive device. If you do not have coverage for the remaining 25% and are receiving Ontario Works benefits, Ontario Works may pay for it. Ontario Works may also help you with the cost of an assessment for an assistive device.</li> </ul>	http://canlii.ca/t/2x1

Insurance Act	NA	Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule, O Reg 34/10	Subject to section 18, medical benefits shall pay for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the insured person as a result of the accident for, wheelchairs or other mobility devices, prostheses, orthotics and other assistive device.	http://canlii.ca/t/8ms
Act, 1997 S.O. 1997, CHAPTER 16 Schedule A	Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Ontario	Health Care Equipment and Supplies	Individuals receiving benefits from WSIB are eligible for health care equipment/supplies include but are not limited to wheelchair, wheelchair accessories, crutches, tips, back rests (e.g., Obus formes/seats), wrist supports/splints, genito-urinary (G.U.) supplies, toilet seats, commodes, tub stools, grab bars, and walkers and accessories. The Nurse consultant must authorize wheelchair and wheelchair accessories.	https://www.canlii.org/en/on/law s/stat/so-1997-c-16-sch- a/latest/so-1997-c-16-sch-

# **MANITOBA**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
The Manitoba Assistance Act, CCSM c A150	Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade	The Employment and Income Assistance Program	The Employment and Income Assistance Program (EIA) provides financial help to Manitobans who have no other way to support themselves or their families, including a person with a physical or mental incapacity or disorder. For people who are able to work, EIA will help them go back to work by providing supports to employment. EIA provides benefits (money) to help with health-related supplies or equipment not provided by other programs (Mobility equipment devices) and repairs – cost of approved items that are not covered by the Manitoba Wheelchair Program).	http://canlii.ca/t/8gw5
Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act, CCSM c P215	NA	Automobile Insurance Coverage Regulation, Man Reg 290/88 R	Will provide reimbursement to the insured for costs incurred from time to time by the insured for a wheelchair with required attachments.	http://canlii.ca/t/8gkv http://canlii.ca/t/8g48

The Workers Compensation Act, CCSM c W200	Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba	NA	Costs directly related to your workplace injury may also be covered. They include artificial limbs, braces, crutches, canes, hearing aids, wheelchairs and other aids - the reasonable repair and maintenance of these items is also covered.	http://canlii.ca/t/8gnn	
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# **SASKATCHEWAN**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
The Adoption Act, 1998, SS 1998	Social Services	The Adoption Regulations	Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) provides the bulk of mobility services and funding for mobility needs in the province. The Adoption Program there is an Assisted Adoption Program serve families who have children who have been in the care of or placed for adoption through the MSS. They may qualify to apply for additional assistance to cover the equipment, including wheelchairs. Families who adopt internationally or privately do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Assisted Adoption Program.	http://canlii.ca/t/vl7
The Department of Health Act, RSS 1978/ The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Regulations, 1976, Sask Reg 292/76	Health	Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL)	The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Program (SAIL) provides benefits that assist people with physical disabilities achieve a more active and independent lifestyle and to assist people in the management of certain chronic health conditions. Dependent on health coverage and program eligibility criteria, clients have access to the free loan of equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, cushions, paediatric mobility aids. The equipment is owned by the program and clients must return the equipment to a Special Needs Equipment Depot when they no longer require it. Repairs and maintenance of loaned equipment are also a benefit.	http://canlii.ca/t/wd8 http://canlii.ca/t/v99
Insurance Act, RSS 1978, CA-35	NA	Regulations, RRS c A-35 Reg 3	Individuals injured in an automobile accident- If the insurer considers it necessary or advisable for the rehabilitation of the insured, the insurer may provide the insured with a mobility device which includes, wheelchairs and accessories or mobility aids and accessories.	http://canlii.ca/t/wvk

R-17	Ministry of Health	Saskatchewan Abilities Council	Equipment Loan Program, funded by Saskatchewan Health. Available for Saskatchewan residents with a valid Saskatchewan Health Services card. Equipment must be requisitioned by an authorized healthcare professional. A variety of mobility (wheelchairs, walkers etc.) and environmental equipment (hospital beds, commodes etc.) are available for loan.	http://canlii.ca/t/wn4
for Disability Regulations, 2012, RRS c S-8 Reg 11	Social Services	Income Support for People with Disabilities	Wheelchair/Mobility Scooter repairs required for mobility purposes related to a disability. Funds may be provided for reasonable repairs, including batteries, for equipment beneficiaries own if Saskatchewan Aids for Independent Living (SAIL) or Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) is not a resource.	http://canlii.ca/t/8r4t
The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013, SS 2013, c W- 17.11	Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board	NA	Every worker who is entitled to compensation is entitled without charge to: (a) any medical aid that may be necessary as a result of the injury; (b) any other treatment by a health care professional; (c) any prosthetics or apparatus that may be necessary as a result of the injury, and to have any prosthetic limbs and eyes and any surgical appliances such as belts, braces, supports and orthopaedic shoes repaired, maintained and renewed when necessary by reason of accident or ordinary wear and tear.	http://canlii.ca/t/8sdp

# **ALBERTA**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
rable inequal Act, אכא בסטט אחוסברנט אומא to Daily Living and Extended Health Benefits Regulation Reg 236/1985	Health	The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program	The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program helps Albertans with a long-term disability, chronic illness or terminal illness to maintain their independence at home, in lodges or group homes by providing financial assistance to buy medical equipment and supplies. Equipment includes:  • Walkers and walking aids  • Wheelchair cushions and accessories  • Wheelchairs – manual and power*  * Equipment might not be new	http://canlii.ca/t/81pf http://canlii.ca/t/82fr
Insurance Act, RSA 2000, c I-3	NA	Benefits Regulations, Alta Reg 352/1972	Will cover all reasonable expenses incurred within 2 years from the date of the accident as a result of those injuries for necessary medical, surgical, chiropractic, dental, hospital, psychological, physical therapy, occupational therapy, massage therapy, acupuncture, professional nursing and ambulance services and, in addition, for other services and supplies that are, in the opinion of the insured person's attending physician and in the opinion of the Insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment or rehabilitation of the injured person, to the limit of \$50 000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/81wn http://canlii.ca/t/82df
Workers' Compensation Act, RSA 2000, c W-15/ Workers'Compensation Regulatipon 325/2002	Workers' Compensation Board Alberta	NA	For injured workers, the board may pay for a medical aid device which can include, scooters, wheelchairs (manual or electric), wheel chair accessories and walkers, if needed. If any apparatus or appliance, or the cost of any apparatus or appliance, is provided by the Board pursuant to subsection (1), the Board shall also provide for or pay for the cost of the repair, maintenance and replacement of that apparatus or appliance if it is in need of repair, maintenance or replacement by reason of accident or ordinary wear and tear and if the disability in respect of which the apparatus or appliance was provided continues.	http://canlii.ca/t/8201

# **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation, BC Reg 265/2002	Ministry of Housing and Social Development	Medical Equipment and Devices	The Minister may provide medical equipment and devices to or for a family unit or for a person who is disabled and where the device is required for basic mobility. Medical equipment and devices for medically essential needs are available to clients who are eligible for general health supplements. Includes scooters, wheelchairs, and wheelchair seating systems.	http://canlii.ca/t/52gsr
Assistance Regulation, BC Reg 263/2002	Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation	Assistance for Persons with Disabilities	The Minister may provide medical equipment and devices to or for a person who receives income assistance (subject to certain criteria). Includes scooters, wheelchairs, and wheelchair seating systems.	http://canlii.ca/t/52gt5
BC Reg 447/83, Part 7 — Accident Benefits	N/A	N/A	Where, in the opinion of the corporation's medical adviser, provision of any one or more of the following is likely to promote the rehabilitation of an insured who is injured in an accident for which benefits are provided under this Part, the corporation may provide reimbursement to the insured for costs incurred from time to time by the insured for the purchase and reasonable repair, adjustment or replacement for a wheelchair.	http://canlii.ca/t/85qt
Compensation Act, RSBC 1996, c 492	Workers' Compensation Board of BC	WorkSafe BC	Medical services and supplies that may be reimbursed including artificial limbs, canes, dentures, hearing aids, wheelchairs, eyeglasses, crutches, back and leg braces, and some orthotics	http://canlii.ca/t/8 4 <u>82</u>

# YUKON

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Benefits Regulation, YOIC 1994/169	Health and Social Services	Pharmacare	A person who is a Yukon resident and: a) is at least 65 years old; or b) is at least 60 years old and whose spouse is a Yukon resident who is at least 65 years old; and (c) is enrolled in the Health Care Insurance Plan; is eligible for benefits under this Regulation. This includes walking aids and wheelchairs.	http://canlii.ca/t/8jjs
Benefits Regulation, YOIC 1994/168	Health and Social Services	Chronic Disease Program	If you receive health insurance benefits through your employer or a third party insurance agency – claims must be submitted to these insurers first. The Chronic Disease Program is the payer of last resort. Financial assistance is provided for prescription drugs, medical surgical supplies, medical equipment, food supplements or prostheses that are medically required for the management of a condition, and are recommended by a medical practitioner licensed to practice in the Yukon.  Medical equipment includes manually operated wheelchairs and walking aids.	http://canlii.ca/t/8js8
Workers' Compensation Act, SY 2008, c 12	Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board	NA	The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board provides devices the injured worker will require to be restored to pre-injury levels of daily living. Wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters are all devices that may be considered when making this determination.	http://canlii.ca/t/8lt9

# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Insurance Act, RSNWT 1988, c I-4	NA	NA	All reasonable expenses incurred within four years from the date of the accident as a result of such injury for necessary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, where the chiropractic services are recommended by a legally qualified medical practitioner, hospital professional nursing and ambulance service and for any other service within the meaning of insured services under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act and for such other services and supplies which are, in the opinion of the legally qualified medical practitioner of the insured person's choice and that of the Insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment, occupational retraining or rehabilitation of said person, to the limit of \$25,000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/8j07
Workers' Compensation Act, SNWT 2007, c 21	Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission	NA	If related to a worker's injury, the WSCC may pay for hospital expenses, health care costs, prescriptions, rehabilitation, dental treatment, mobility aids (includes wheelchairs, or walkers), and eyeglasses. In addition, we may provide clothing, transportation, and living allowances.	http://canlii.ca/t/8h

# **NUNAVUT**

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
Insurance Act, RSNWT (Nu) 1988, c I-4	NA	NA	All reasonable expenses incurred within four years from the date of the accident as a result of such injury for necessary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, where the chiropractic services are recommended by a legally qualified medical practitioner, hospital, professional nursing and ambulance service and for any other service within the meaning of insured services under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act and for such other services and supplies which are, in the opinion of the legally qualified medical practitioner of the insured person's choice and that of the Insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment, occupational retraining or rehabilitation of said person, to the limit of \$25,000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/8l8j
Workers' Compensation Act, SNu 2007,c.15	Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission	NA	If related to a worker's injury, the WSCC may pay for hospital expenses, health care costs, prescriptions, rehabilitation, dental treatment, mobility aids (includes wheelchairs or walkers), and eyeglasses. In addition, we may provide clothing, transportation, and living allowances.	http://canlii.ca/t/8lvc

# **Disability Service Offices**

For more information about the programs listed above, or any other disability policy, please consult the office in the jurisdiction you are interested in.

### **FEDERAL**

Social Development for Disability Programs
Office for Disability Issues
Employment and Social Development Canada
105 Hotel de Ville Street, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9
Toll-free: 1-800-622-6232

**Employment and Social Development** 

Phone: 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY: 1-800-926-9105

Honorable Pierre Poilievre, Minister of Employment and Social Development Rm 680, La Promenade Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Phone: (613) 992-2772 Fax: (613) 992-1209

### **ALBERTA**

Alberta Supports Contact Centre
Toll Free: 1-877-644-9992 Fax: (780) 422-9681 Email: ei.ascc.m@gov.ab.ca

Provincial Disability Supports Initiatives 10th Floor, Milner Building, 10040 104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0Z2 Phone: (780) 415-0915 Fax: (780) 427-9145

Honorable Heather Klimchuk 224 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Phone: (780) 643-6210 Fax: (780) 643-6214

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Service BC

Victoria: (250) 387-6121 Vancouver: (604) 660-2421 Elsewhere in BC: 1 800 663-7867 Outside BC: 1 604 660-2421 Email: EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation PO BOX 9933 STN PROV GOVT VICTORIA, BC V8W 9R2

Michelle Stillwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation Unit 2B-1209 Island Highway East, Parksville, BC V9P 1R5 Phone: (250) 248-2625 Fax: (250) 248-2787 Email: Michelle.Stilwell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

### **MANITOBA**

Manitoba Family Services

General Intake Line Phone: (204) 945-1335 Email: mgi@gov.mb.ca

Disabilities Issues Office

630 - 240 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C oJ7

www.gov.mb.ca/dio Phone: (204) 945-7613 Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069, Ext. 7613

Honorable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities

Phone: (204) 945-4173 Fax: (204) 945-5149

Email: minfs@leg.gov.mb.ca minhcd@leg.gov.mb.ca

# **NEW BRUNSWICK**

Department of Social Development

Phone: 1-866-426-5191 Toll Free: 1-866-426-5191

Fax: (506) 856-3193 E-mail: sd-ds@gnb.ca Website: www.gnb.ca/0017/index-e.asp

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Phone: (506) 444-3000 Toll Free: 1-800-442-4412 Email: pcsdp@gnb.ca

Honorable Cathy Rogers, Healthy and Inclusive Communities Place 2000 250 King Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 9M9

### NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Advanced Education and Skills

P.O. Box 8700 3rd Floor, West Block, Confederation Building, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6 Phone: (709) 729-2480 Email: aesweb@gov.nl.ca

Honorable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development Minister of Advanced Education and Skills

Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Phone: (709) 729-3580 Fax: (709) 729-6996 Email: clydejackman@gov.nl.ca

# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Department of Health and Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9 Email: hsa@gov.nt.ca.

**NWT Disabilities Council** 

Suite 116, 5102 50th Avenue, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 3S8

Phone: (867) 873-8230 Toll Free: 1-800-491-8885 Fax: (867) 873-4124 Email: admin@nwtdc.net

Honorable Glen Abernethy, Minister of Health & Social Services, Minister Responsible for Seniors, Disabilities P.O. Box 1320; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 669-2388 Fax: (867) 873-0306 Email: glen abernethy@gov.nt.ca

### **NOVA SCOTIA**

Department of Community Services

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1177 Phone: (902) 424-6111

Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission

MacDonald Building, 2131 Gottingen Street, PO Box 222, CRO, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4 Phone: (902) 424-8280 TTY: (902) 424-2667 Toll free in NS: 1-877-996-9954 Fax: (902) 424-0592

Honorable Joanne Bernard, Minister of Community Services

**Department of Community Services** 

8th Floor, Nelson Place, 5675 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H1

Phone: 1-877-424-1177 Fax: (902) 424-3287 Email: DCSMIN@novascotia.ca

### **NUNAVUT**

Government of Nunavut

P.O. Box 1000 Station 200, Iqaluit, Nunavut, XoA oHo

Toll free: 1-877-212-6438 Tel: (867) 975-6000 Fax: (867) 975-6099

Website: www.gov.nu.ca Email: info@gov.nu.ca

Honorable Jeannie Ugyuk, Minister of Family Services

Phone: 975-5026 Fax: 975-5042 Email: Jeannie Ugyuk@netsilikmla.ca

### **ONTARIO**

Ontario Public Works

Ministry of Government Services

77 Wellesley Street West, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Toronto ON M7A 1N3

Phone: (416) 326-8555 Toll-free: 1-800-268-1142

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services

80 Grosvenor St, Hepburn Block, 6th Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1E9

Phone: 416-325-5666 Toll Free: 1-888-789-4199 TTY Toll Free: 1-800-387-5559

Honorable Helena Jaczek, Ministry of Community and Social Services

6th Floor, Hepburn Block, 8o Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Phone: (416) 325-5225 Fax: (416) 325-3347

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Disability Support Program** 

Second Floor, Jones Building

11 Kent Street, PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 7N8

Phone: (902) 620-3777 Toll-free: 1-866-594-3777 Fax: (902) 894-0242

Disability Advisory Council

5 Lower Malpeque Road, Unit #2, Landmark Plaza, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1E 1R4

Phone: 902-892-9149 Toll Free: 1-888-473-4263 (1-888-4PEICOD ) Fax: 902-566-1919

Email: admin@peicod.pe.ca

Honorable Valerie E. Docherty, Minister of Community Services and Seniors and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Second Floor, Jones Building, 11 Kent Street, PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 7N8 Phone: (902) 620-3777 Toll-free: 1-866-594-3777 Fax: (902) 894-0242

# **QUEBEC**

Office des personnes handicapées du Québec 309, rue Brock, Drummondville, Québec J2B 1C5 Toll Free: 1 800 567-1465 TTY: 1 800 567-1477 Fax: (819) 475-8753

Honorable Gaétan Barrette, Minister of Health and Social Services Édifice Catherine-de-Longpré 1075, chemin Sainte-Foy, 15e étage, Québec, G1S 2M1 Website: www.msss.gouv.qc.ca

### **SASKATCHEWAN**

Office of Disability Issues 1920 Broad Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, S4P 3V6 Phone: (306) 787-7283 Fax: (306) 798-4450 Email: odi@gov.sk.ca

Hon. Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services Room 303, Legislative Building, 2405 Legislative Drive, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, S4S oB3 Phone: (306) 787-3661 Fax: (306) 787-0656 Email: ss.minister@gov.sk.ca

### YUKON

Community Adult Services Unit 3168 3rd Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Phone: (867) 667-5674 or 1-800-661-0408 extension 5674 Fax: (867) 393-6278

Workplace Diversity Employment Office, Public Service Commission P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 Email: wdeo@gov.yk.ca Phone: (867) 667-5898 Toll Free in Yukon: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5898 Fax: (867) 456-3973 TDD: (867) 667-5864

Hon. Mike Nixon, Minister of Health and Social Services
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 633-7973 Fax: (867) 393-6252 E-mail: mike.nixon@gov.yk.ca