

Tax & Other Financial Resources

Tax filing season can be a stressful time, especially when medical expenses and other financial expenditures related to caregiving can make filing taxes seem daunting. The following publication has been produced to act as a guide to **some** of the online resources currently available, and includes tips, a checklist of terms, and links to related programs and services. For a list of organizations that offer tax assistance, please contact the Dementia Helpline at 1-800-936-6033.

Tax & Other Financial Resources

The publication "Financial Planning Tips," is **no longer produced** in hardcopy format, but similar information is now available online. The list below has been prepared to act as a guide to **some** of the online resources currently available related to financial matters. For an additional list of organizations that offer tax assistance, please contact the Dementia Helpline at 1-800-936-6033.

Income tax rules are complicated and change every year, so we encourage you to get professional help with your taxes. To obtain complete information see the [Canada Revenue Agency](#). The following list of terms might be helpful to consider:

[T2201 - Disability Tax Credit](#) - The Disability Tax credit is subject to certain conditions but may be claimed by persons with disabilities, or by their spouses, partners or other supporting relatives.

[Medical Expenses Tax Credit](#) - There are a range of disability-related items that can be claimed as medical expenses, such as payments to medical practitioners and hospitals, care due to a lack of normal mental capacity, products required because of incontinence, home modifications, etc. For a complete list, consult the Canada Revenue Agency website.

[T1013- Authorizing or Canceling a Representative](#) - Taxpayer information is considered confidential according to Revenue Canada, and consent can be given for another person to act as a representative for income tax matters by filling out a T1013 form.

[Line 315- Caregiver Amount](#) - The Caregiver Amount may be claimed if your relative or the relative of your spouse or common-law partner is living in your home and dependent on you due to a mental or physical infirmity.

Financial Links and Resources

[Community Volunteer Income Tax Program](#) - Volunteers can help you complete your income tax and benefit return if your income is low and your tax situation is simple.

[Disability Benefits Checklist](#) - Provided by Povnet

[Disability Benefits Help Sheets](#) - Provided by the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities

[Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Services](#) - Compassionate care benefits may be paid up to a maximum of 6 weeks to a person who has to be absent from work to provide care or support to a gravely ill family member at risk of dying within 26 weeks. Unemployed persons on EI can also ask for this type of benefit.

[Frequently Asked Questions about Disability Tax Credit](#) - Provided by the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

[Telefile- Service for Seniors](#) - Allows seniors to file their 2004 tax return for free using a touch-tone telephone. Clients are not required to enter their income, deductions, or non-refundable tax credit amounts (spousal income may be required). During the assessment process, the client's income will be included automatically using Agency information. As well, the

client will be allowed the basic personal amount, age amount and, if applicable, the disability amount.

[Tips For Filling Out the Disability Tax Credit Form](#) – Provided by the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

[Veterans Independence Program](#) - Primary caregivers of all veterans who were receiving housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services under the VIP program before they passed away or were admitted to a long-term care facility may now be eligible to continue to receive these services for life. Primary caregivers include eligible spouses, common-law partners and others.

Getting the Authority to Handle Financial Affairs

It is important for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease to plan ahead for legal and financial matters by preparing an enduring Power of Attorney and/or a Representation Agreement. It is advisable to go to a lawyer or notary public for assistance in setting up legal documents. The following websites provide some information on getting the authority to handle financial affairs. For more information, contact your local [Alzheimer Resource Centre](#).

[The People's Law School](#) – Provides information on Power of Attorney and Representation Agreements

The [Representation Agreement Resource Centre \(RARC\)](#) is a non-profit society that offers information regarding enduring power of attorney and making and registering a representation agreement.

[A Guide To Making Representation Agreements](#) –Publication provided by the Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia.

[Human Resources Canada- Application to Become Trustee of Pension Cheques-](#)
You can apply to Human Resources (HR) Canada to become trustee of pension cheques for a friend or relative who has become incapable. This only applies to the Canada Pension (CPP) and Old Age Pension (OAP).