

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - February 18, 2021 - BC Recovery Benefit  
**Date:** Friday, February 19, 2021 at 11:32:31 AM Pacific Standard Time  
**From:** Ernie Baatz  
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**Attachments:** image001.png

## **BC Recovery Benefit Update – Good News!**

There is a recent update on the BC Government website, stating that people who are on the provincial Persons With Disabilities (PWD) benefit do not need to apply separately, to get their one-time \$500 benefit for singles or \$1000 benefit for families. If you have already applied, they will have that information and ensure you don't get paid twice.

### **From the website:**

#### **I'm on income assistance, disability assistance, seniors' supplement, hardship allowance or comfort allowance**

If you received a payment for income assistance, disability assistance, seniors' supplement, hardship allowance or comfort allowance anytime in December 2020 or January 2021, you automatically receive the full benefit amount.

- You don't need to do anything. You'll receive the benefit payment the same way you received your social support program payment

If you started receiving social support payments in February 2021 or later, you need to [apply for the benefit](#).

The BC Government reduced the COVID supplement from people's PWD payment from \$300 per month (from April to December), to \$150 (for January, February and March 2021). It is expected that government will announce a plan for the April PWD amounts in March.

More information [here about the BC Recovery Benefit](#). This benefit is available to **all** BC residents, so I encourage all employees and families to apply as well, if this will help them deal with the COVID pandemic.

## **Vaccine Consent Information**

We have been contacted by CLBC / Fraser Health with regular updates about vaccines and it appears that people living in staffed residential settings in the Fraser Health region will be getting their vaccines beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Their staff teams will be prioritized for vaccines as well. We have had less information from Vancouver Coastal Health on plans for vaccines in Vancouver, Richmond and the North Shore but have submitted our numbers of people served and their staff teams.

There is an update on how consent for vaccines can be provided when people need assistance with decision-making. The Public Guardian and Trustee has answered the following questions on their website:

### **Informed Consent and the COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs**

#### **Who has the legal authority to provide consent to the COVID-19 vaccine?**

[How does the PGT decide whether to provide consent to the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)

[Is there a prescribed consent form that must be signed?](#)

[Does consent to the COVID-19 vaccine expire after 21 days?](#)

[Can a physician provide consent on behalf of an adult?](#)

[Can a paid caregiver provide consent on behalf of an adult?](#)

[How do I contact the PGT?](#)

More information on their website:

<https://www.trustee.bc.ca/services/services-to-adults/Pages/InformedConsentandCOVID19Vaccine.aspx>

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## Ready for My Shot!

"I'm ready  
for my shot."

Gary, age 64

#ReadyForMyShot



We are a group of parents, siblings and caregivers of people with Down syndrome -- who have teamed up with fabulous self-advocates. We have been active to promote better policy for COVID vaccine prioritization for our people and others with

developmental disabilities.

This campaign was created by author and health care advocate [Sue Robins](#) and her husband Mike. Their son [Aaron](#) has Down syndrome.

**Every day we are joined by more and more advocates across Canada.**

Countries around the world and many US states already include vaccine priority for these vulnerable people. But here in Canada, **not one** provincial government has done the right thing and implemented the medically necessary policies to protect our families.

We are raising awareness on this issue and hope to count on your support!

For more information see our [Ready For My Shot one-pager \(.pdf\)](#)  
-- and please join our [email list](#) for updates.

Thanks to Shirley and Gary for meeting up with the photographer on the long weekend to roll up his sleeve and take photos!

## **How Charities are Serving their Communities during Covid**

Imagine Canada conducted a survey of charities from across Canada and published this second update on the challenges charities are facing due to the pandemic. Briefly, the survey shows that charities are experiencing higher demand, demand that is outpacing capacity for a significant minority of charities. Charities are significantly changing their activities, but they are increasingly being spread thin and staff are finding it difficult to maintain work-life balance. While the revenue picture is slightly more positive than earlier in the pandemic, it remains grave and depends heavily on government supports, which are playing a significant financial role.

You can read the full report here:

<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/sites/default/files/Sector-Monitor-Ongoing-Effects-COVID-19-Pandemic-EN.pdf>

At Spectrum, we have focused most of our efforts on keeping teams and the people they support safe and healthy. We have done this by keeping teams small, by providing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and communicating frequently with the information people need to keep safe and healthy. We have been provided with extra financial support from the Provincial and Federal government for specific purposes, but rely on our donors to contribute funds that allow us to respond to special requests and expenses outside of the government's criteria. Thank you to our monthly donors and our employees who are giving donations from their paycheques. These regular contributions definitely help us meet more of the needs of people we support and their families. You can find out more about donating to Spectrum at <https://www.spectrumsociety.org/donations/> .

Have a safe and quiet weekend!

**Ernie Baatz**

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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**Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe**