

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - October 29, 2020  
**Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 10:59:43 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Ernie Baatz  
**To:** Ernie Baatz  
**Attachments:** image001.png

## Staying Safe and Healthy

The basics of keeping the people we support, our teams and your families Healthy and Safe are important to practice every day:

- Stay home if you are sick – Call 811 for further directions
- Wash your hands regularly
- Keep your distance – at least two metres or six feet from people outside your bubble
- Wear a mask on transit, in stores, in all indoor public spaces.
- Keep your social bubble small – But stay connected with friends and family. Phone, video chat, go for a walk outside – it is so important to keep in touch.

**Thank you to everyone for the care you are taking in your every day activities. You are helping us all stay safe and healthy!**

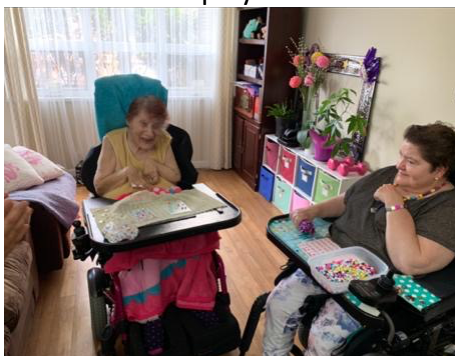
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## Staying Safe and Healthy (AND CONNECTED) in Your Neighbourhood

In the Spring, we collected ideas on ways to stay close to home so that we were safe and healthy, but still reaching out to friends and family in fun ways to stay Connected. Here is the webpage of ideas we collected:

<https://www.spectrumsociety.org/corona-virus-covid-19-updates/ways-to-stay-home-stay-safe-in-your-neighbourhood/>

Barb and Veronica experimented with ZOOM Bingo and had a great time. Give them a call if you want to know how to play.



What have you been doing to stay connected with friends and family while staying close to home?

**Dear Canada;**

You can send a Postcard to Canada on this website: <https://dearcanadians.ca>

The site has postcards from Canadians with their own pictures uploaded on the front, and a comment on the back.

- Their hopes for Canada
- Their favourite Quarantine Moment
- A poem.

You can send a card too. They will be archived by Historica Canada as documentation of how Canadians coped with COVID-19.

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## **Questions About the Disability Tax Credit**

### **What is the disability tax credit?**

The disability tax credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that helps persons with disabilities or their supporting persons reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay. An individual may claim the disability amount once they are eligible for the DTC. This amount includes a supplement for persons under 18 years of age at the end of the year.

The purpose of the DTC is to provide for greater tax equity by allowing some relief for disability costs, since these are unavoidable additional expenses that other taxpayers don't have to face.

Being eligible for the DTC can open the door to other federal, provincial, or territorial programs such as the [registered disability savings plan](#), the [working income tax benefit](#), and the [child disability benefit](#).

([More information here on the Government of Canada website](#))

### **Why are people interested in applying for the Disability Tax Credit now?**

The Canadian Government announced a one-time \$600 payment to people with disabilities in response to COVID-19, to help with extra expenses, but it is only being paid to people who have applied for the Disability Tax Credit. The deadline to apply has been extended to December 31, 2020.

### **Because I have disability benefits in BC (PWD), does that mean I have the Disability Tax Credit?**

No, they are two separate programs with different eligibility criteria and different benefits.

### **Where can I get assistance with applying for the Disability Tax Credit?**

These three organizations have funding to assist people to begin a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), and one of the criteria for beginning an RDSP is getting the Disability Tax Credit.

**Plan Institute:**

If you need assistance applying or have questions about the DTC, please call our helpline at 1-844-311-7526 or email [info@rdsp.com](mailto:info@rdsp.com).

**Disability Alliance of BC:**

For help with the DTC and RDSP or to request a workshop, please call 604-872-1278; 1-800-663-1278 or email [rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org](mailto:rdsp@disabilityalliancebc.org).

**BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society:**

Indigenous people living in British Columbia who are looking for information surrounding the RDSP and DTC can connect with one of [BCANDS's](http://bcands.org) Indigenous RDSP Navigators at [rdsp1@bcands.bc.ca](mailto:rdsp1@bcands.bc.ca), (250) 381-7303 – Ext: 204, or toll free: 1-888-815-5511 – Ext: 204.

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**Pandemic Pay Update**

I have heard that some agencies are now receiving approval of their Pandemic Pay Invoices and receiving the funding. Spectrum has not received this approval yet. Once the invoice is approved, the funding will be sent to Spectrum (7 to 10 days) and then we can schedule the payment to our employees. Pandemic Pay is a joint Federal (75%) and Provincial (25%) project to recognize the extra efforts that community social services employees provided. It will pay an extra \$4 per hour of direct support for the sixteen week period beginning March 15, 2020. More info on [pandemic pay here on the government website](#).

We will let you know when we get our invoice approved.

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**CLBC Service Provider Conference Call now posted on website**

The conference call from October 26, 2020 was recorded and is now available for your listening pleasure at:

<https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/for-service-providers/information-about-the-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-for-clbc-funded-service-providers/teleconference-calls-service-providers/>

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

