

Support Groups & Related Organizations



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Wide range of support groups and related organizations listed by topic.

Advocacy

Beacon Community Services Volunteer Services 250-656-5537

SHOAL Community Centre
10030 Resthaven Drive
Sidney, BC V8L 3G4

Volunteers provide guidance, information, and assistance navigating government and community resources to support seniors on the Saanich Peninsula as they seek solutions to basic housing, financial and health related situations. Appointments are available Monday & Thursday 1pm to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

www.beacons.ca

Island Health (South) 250-370-8323 Patient Care Quality Office

Mailing Address:

Patient Care Quality Office RJH Memorial Pavilion
Watson Wing Room 315
1952 Bay Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1J8

Registers complaints and resolves public enquiries and complaints about patient care services provided by the Island Health (South).

www.islandhealth.ca

Seniors Entitlement Service

250-388-7696

Quadra Village Community Centre
901 Kings Road
Victoria, BC V9A 7L9

Provides trained volunteer advocates to serve Greater Victoria area seniors (55+); problem-solving, system navigation (financial, housing, health care, legal), information and referrals, support to address elder abuse and/or unexpected hardships. Advocates provide both in-person and online services. Drop in for information and/or contact us to book an appointment.

www.qvcc.ca

Together Against Poverty Society

250-361-3521

828 View Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1K2

Provides free face-to-face legal advocacy for people with income assistance, provincial and federal disability benefits, employment standards and tenancy issues. Provides income tax preparation on Thursdays. Community Public Legal Education sessions available upon request.

www.tapsbc.ca

Vancouver Island

Human Rights Coalition 250-382-3012

418-620 View Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1J6

A non-profit advocacy coalition which assists individuals who have experienced discrimination and wish to file a complaint under the BC Human Rights Code. Also, provides information to the public on human rights issues and referrals to other organizations.

www.vihrc.org

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society

We support lesbians' health and social needs as we age. Contact email: secretary@vlscs.ca
www.vlscs.ca

Aging Research and Information

University of Victoria 250-721-6369 Institute on Aging & Lifelong Health (IALH)

R Hut, Room 103
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 3P5

IALH undertakes and supports health and aging-related research. Our aim is to increase innovation, impact, and productivity influencing aging and health outcomes. The Institute distributes information in many ways including workshops, lectures, and seminars.

www.uvic.ca/aging

Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias

Alzheimer Resource Centre Alzheimer Society of BC 250-382-2052 202-306 Burnside Road West Victoria, BC V8Z 1M1

Through the First Link referral and outreach service, people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, their families and caregivers are connected to informational resources, support groups, one-to-one support and education programs that cover all stages of the disease, coping strategies and tips for living well. Minds in Motion, a fitness and social program for people with early symptoms and a care partner, is offered in partnership with community centres.

www.alzheimerbc.org

Dementia Helpline 1-800-936-6033

A province-wide support and information service for anyone with questions about dementia, including people with dementia, their caregivers, family and friends, professionals, and the public. Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Silver Threads Service Memory PLUS 250-382-3151

Memory PLUS (Practice, Laughter, Useful Strategies) is a weekly program designed for individuals to learn tools and specific strategies to proactively improve memory. Various locations. Call for schedule.

www.silverthreads.ca

Voices in Motion Choirs

A non-profit society providing an un-auditioned community choir for people with memory loss, their caregivers, friends, family, and students. People sing, socialize, develop their vocal skills, and perform in concert. These life-giving moments of music foster increased socialization, cognitive function, meaningfulness, and a multigenerational appreciation of others. No one is turned away.

www.voiceinmotionchoirs.org

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Society of BC 1-800-708-3228

Support group, information and programs for people living with ALS and their families.

www.alsbc.ca

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Animal Therapy Visiting Pets

**Pacific Animal
Therapy Society** 250-590-9082

550-2950 Douglas Street

Victoria, BC V8T 4N4

Volunteers visit with pets at facilities where residents benefit from interaction with pets. Home visits can be arranged.

www.patspets.ca

Arthritis

**Arthritis Society
Information Line** 1-800-321-1433

For general information about arthritis, local programs and services, community resources. Support and guidance to the health care system.

www.arthritis.ca/bc

Brain Injury

**Victoria Brain Injury
Society** 250-598-9339

C, D & E 830 Pembroke Street

Victoria, BC V8T 1H9

Individual case management, support groups and education.

www.vbis.ca

Cancer

**BC Cancer Agency
Vancouver Island
Centre** 250-519-5500
1-800-670-3322

2410 Lee Avenue

Victoria, BC V8R 6V5

Appointments by referral from physician. Provides consultation, follow-up, and treatment with radiation and chemotherapy.

www.bccancer.bc.ca

**Canadian Cancer Society
Cancer Information
Support Line** 1-888-939-3333

101-1537 Hillside Avenue

Victoria, BC V8T 2C1

Organization of volunteers whose mission is to eradicate cancer and enhance the quality of life for people living with cancer. Invests in cancer research, provides information on all cancers, delivers community-based programs, and leads cancer prevention initiatives.

www.cancer.ca

**InspireHealth Supportive Cancer Care
Victoria Centre** 250-595-7125

212 - 2187 Oak Bay Avenue

Victoria, BC V8R 1G1

A non-profit supportive cancer care organization partially funded and approved by the B.C. Ministry of Health. Services are offered at no cost and without referral to anyone with a current or past diagnosis of cancer. Our cancer rehabilitation services support and educate people during and after cancer treatment, by offering individualized exercise therapy, stress management, nutrition, and counselling services. Services are free for anyone who has or has had cancer, as well as their support (friends and family). Programs and appointments are also available by telephone and videoconference.

www.inspirehealth.ca

Island Prostate Centre 250-388-0214

100-1121 Yates Street

Victoria, BC V8N 3N1

Pre and post treatment counselling for prostate cancer treatment.

Support Groups & Related Organizations

YWCA Encore

A breast cancer support group that helps survivors regain some strength, flexibility, movement after breast cancer treatments. Eight-week, free program offered at the YM-YWCA.

Victoria 250-386-7511
851 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1E5

Langford 250-386-7511
1319 Westhills Drive
Langford, BC V9B 0S2

Cancer Screening

Colon Cancer Screening 1-877-702-6566

Visit your health care provider to get a lab order for a free at home test kit. Ages 50 to 74.

www.screeningbc.ca/colon

Mammography Screening

Self-referral clinics - routine screening for women 40 years of age and older for the early detection of breast cancer. No cost. Residents of the Gulf Islands should call 1-800-663-9203.

www.screeningbc.ca/breast

Victoria 250-952-4232
305-1990 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8R 6V4

Victoria General Hospital 250-727-4338
1 Hospital Way
Victoria, BC V8Z 6R5

Caregivers

Family Caregivers of BC 250-384-0408 Caregiver Support Line 1-877-520-3267

6-3318 Oak Street

Victoria, BC V8X 1R1

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals in BC who are caregivers of adult family members or friends through support, education, and engagement. Services include Caregiver Support Line, help navigating the health care system, caregiver support groups, education for family caregivers and health professionals through our newsletter, website, webinars, workshops, virtual support, blog, and community outreach.

www.familycaregiversbc.ca

Diabetes

Diabetes Education & Supply Centre 250-477-1881

Heart Pharmacy IDA

3643 Shelbourne Street

Victoria, BC V8P4H1

Provides care and education to Diabetes patients in the community with two Certified Diabetes Educators (no need for a doctor's referral). Includes diabetic foot care, insulin administration, heart health, and medication optimization, a selection of diabetes supplies, pump supplies, strips, compression stockings, specialized socks, slippers, and wound care supplies.

www.heartpharmacy.com

Disability

Action Committee for People with Disabilities 250-383-4105

948 View Street

Victoria, BC V8V 3L5

General information, referral, advocacy, and housing information.

www.actioncommittee.ca

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Disability Alliance

BC Society 1-800-663-1278

A provincial and cross-disability organization that supports people with all disabilities to live with dignity, independence, and as equal and full participants in society.

www.disabilityalliancebc.org

Garth Homer Society 250-475-2270

813 Darwin Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 2X7

Provides adults with developmental disabilities opportunities to increase their independence and involvement in the community.

www.garthhomer.com

Tetra Society 1-877-688-8762

Tetra is a B.C. non-profit organization founded in 1987, dedicated to assisting people with disabilities achieve an independent and fulfilling life, one assistive device at a time.

www.tetrasociety.org

Victoria Disability Resource Centre

250-595-0044

817A Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1H6

Assists people with all types of disabilities to achieve and maintain independence. Provides parking permits for people with disabilities, peer support, information and referral, skills development, and more.

www.drcvictoria.com

Elder Abuse Support

Island Health (South)

Community Access Line 250-388-2273
1-888-533-2273

Island Health is a designated agency for accepting reports of adult and elder abuse and neglect. Anonymous calls are accepted. See page 41 for more details.

www.islandhealth.ca

Community Response Network (CRN)

Victoria.....250-896-8577

Saanich Peninsula..... 778-677-4880

Westshore250-858-5373

Provides free education on bullying, abuse, neglect and self neglect of seniors and vulnerable adults. Taking a collaborative approach with community members and businesses to improve the community response to these issues.

www.bccrns.ca

Cridge Transition

House for Women 250-479-3963

A temporary shelter for women with or without children who are experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships.

www.cridge.org

Seniors Abuse and Information Line (SAIL)

1-866-437-1940
TTY 1-855-306-1443

A safe place for older adults and those who care about them to talk to someone about situations of abuse and mistreatment. Operated by Seniors First BC, a charitable, non-profit, provincial society which helps and support to older adults and third parties assisting older adults, who are dealing with abuse or mistreatment as well as assistance to navigate systems that impact older adults. Services are provided through a helpline, victim services, legal advocates, and an elder law clinic. Information and training on abuse prevention is also provided through educational and outreach programs.

www.seniorsfirstbc.ca

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Sooke Transition House Society

250-642-2591

PO Box 527

Sooke, BC V9Z 1H5

Emergency shelter for women and their children who are in crisis resulting from family violence. Provides advocacy, counselling, education, and prevention.

www.sooketransitionhousesociety.com

Vancouver Island

Crisis Line

1-888-494-3888

24/7 confidential phone support provided by trained Crisis Line workers plus online emotional support via crisis chat services daily from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Crisis Text Program is available daily from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. by texting 250-800-3806. If you have unlimited coverage for SMS text messages with your mobile service provider, the texting service will be free of charge. For more information see Crisis Intervention on page 13.

www.viccrisis.ca

Victoria Women's Transition House

24 Hour Crisis Line: 250-385-6611

Community Office: 250-592-2927

100-3060 Cedar Hill Road

Victoria, BC V8T 3J5

Support group and one to one counselling for women over 50 who are experiencing or have experienced abuse by a partner or adult children.

www.transitionhouse.net

Gastrointestinal

Gastrointestinal Society 1-866-600-4875

231-3665 Kingsway

Vancouver, BC V5R 5W2

Provides general information about gastrointestinal diseases and disorders.

www.badgut.org

Grandparents

Parent Support Services

Society of BC

1-855-464-9777

Free, province-wide, confidential support circles for grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship caregivers. Childcare subsidies available on request. If you are raising the child of a relative and need advocacy support, including legal information and referrals, call the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Line at 1-855-474-9777.

www.parentsupportbc.ca

Hearing

**Island Deaf & Hard of
Hearing Centre**

250-592-8144

TTY 250-592-8147

130-1555 McKenzie Avenue

Victoria, BC V8N 1A4

Non-profit agency that provides no cost hearing assessment and FREE refurbished hearing aids for low-income individuals through the Sound of Change program. Unbiased hearing information given and assistive devices available to reduce barriers for individuals with hearing loss at home or work. Provides aural rehabilitation and individual and/or family support to better understand and cope with hearing loss; full audiology clinic available for all your hearing loss needs; speech-reading classes available throughout the year. If you have hearing aids that are no longer being used, donations are gladly accepted for the Sounds of Change Program.

www.idhhc.ca

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Heart

First Open Heart Society of BC 250-595-1931

1580 Pembroke Street
Victoria, BC V8R 1W2

Supports open heart surgery patients and families before and after surgery. Operates the Victoria Heart House, a bed and breakfast facility for out-of-town guests visiting their loved ones going through heart related surgery. To book a room at Victoria Heart House contact the number above

www.fohs.ca

Island Heart to Heart 778-678-8423

Provides educational and support programs for people with heart disease, and their families. Health care professionals discuss various aspects of heart disease, and the small group setting allows for informal discussions of common concerns.

www.islandhearttoheart.ca

Hepatitis, HIV & AIDS

AVI Health & Community Services 250-384-2366

3rd Floor, 713 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1M8

Formerly AIDS Vancouver Island. We serve the needs of people infected and affected by HIV and hepatitis C. Intake assessment and referral, support groups, counselling, educational workshops, harm reduction services, safer sex supplies, helpline, recruiting and training of volunteers.

www.avi.org

Hepatitis C Education & Prevention Society (HepCBC) 1-888-411-7578

Peer-support via phone, email, or Zoom video conference, and community education about preventing or living with serious liver disease. Focused on hepatitis C and hepatitis B, we offer multiple services and publications for both recently diagnosed and long-term patients and caregivers.

www.hepcbc.ca

Vancouver Island Persons Living With HIV/AIDS Society (VPWAS) 250-382-7927
1-877-382-7927

205-1120 Yates Street
Victoria, BC V8V 3M9

Peer-based support programs and services for people living with HIV/AIDS, their families, and friends. Peer support, Peer Navigation, education, and treatment information.

www.vpwas.org

Incontinence

Canadian Continence Foundation 1-800-265-9575

Information and newsletter on incontinence.

www.canadiancontinence.ca

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Kidney

**Kidney Foundation of Canada
BC & Yukon Branch** 1-800-567-8112
200 - 4940 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 4K6
Services for kidney patients and their families.
Educational materials, kids camp, kidney suites,
living organ donor reimbursement and financial
assistance for kidney patients who qualify.
www.kidney.bc.ca

**Vancouver Island Kidney
Patients Association** 250-661-8380
PO Box 5145 STN B
Victoria, BC V8R 6N4
Dialysis, pre-dialysis, transplant and post-
transplant assistance and support provided by
volunteers.
www.vikpa.org

Lung

BC Lung Association 1-888-566-5864
Through the BC Lung Association's Lung Patient
Support Communities, lung patients and their
caregivers can interact directly with other people
facing similar health challenges. The Better
Breathers Online and In-Person Support Groups
for people living with chronic lung conditions
including but limited to COPD, asthma, and
chronic bronchitis. The Pulmonary Fibrosis Online
and In-Person Support Groups for people living
with Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) including but
not limited to pulmonary fibrosis.
www.lung.ca

Lupus

Lupus Society of BC 1-866-585-8787
Contact the society for support and information
in your area.
www.bclupus.org

Mental Health

**FOM Music Society
Friends of Music** 250-592-5114
Eric Martin Theatre
2328 Trent Street
Victoria, BC V8R 4Z3
An inclusive organization that welcomes all music
lovers as we create musical opportunities for people
recovering from Mental Illness or Addictions.
Choose from concerts, open mic, performance
groups, jazz improv, fundamentals and beginner
lessons in guitar, ukulele, or band instrumentals.
Newsletter with a calendar of activities is posted
on our website. Use the Fort Street entrance.
www.friendsofmusic.ca

**Mental Health Recovery
Partners South Island** 250-384-4225
941 Kings Road
Victoria, BC V8T 1W7
Support for family members and people with
serious and persistent mental illness, with or
without addictions.
www.mhrp.ca

Multiple Sclerosis

**Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
Vancouver Island** 250-388-6496
306-3301 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 3L2
Free services include equipment provision,
information and support, advocacy, education,
self help groups, newsletters, wellness programs,
referrals, and more.
www.mssociety.ca

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis Canada 1-800-463-6842
Educates, empowers, and supports individuals in the risk-reduction and treatment of osteoporosis.
www.osteoporosis.ca

Ostomy

Victoria Ostomy 778-426-4576
Peer Support Group meetings assist in the rehabilitation of persons having an ostomy. Meets once a month except for the summer.
www.ostomycanada.ca

Parkinson's

Parkinson Wellness Projects 250-360-6800
202-1640 Oak Bay Ave
Victoria, BC V8R 1B2
Offers individual and family consultations with an experienced medical professional, various support groups, both peer led and professionally facilitated that serve Victoria, Sidney and the West Shore areas, exercise programs, educational workshops and conferences. In-service presentations reach out to local senior living residences, nursing homes and other interested community groups. A newsletter and a resource library are available to all clients.
www.parkinsonwellness.ca

Scoliosis

Canadian Scoliosis 250-652-2698
A registered charity providing information and support for Canadians suffering scoliosis. Online with Facebook only.
(Search Scoliosis Canada).

Stroke Recovery

Heart and Stroke 250-410-8091
1-888-473-4636
106-1001 Cloverdale Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 4C9
Offers health information and referral services and community-based program, virtually and in-person. Sessions are geared to explore the challenges of stroke recovery, concepts of self-management and peer-support to take back control of their health and healthy habits. Programs are offered on Vancouver Island by trained volunteers and stroke survivors.
www.heartandstroke.ca

**Stroke Recovery Association
Saanich Peninsula** 250-652-3016
9300 Willingdon Road
Sidney, BC V8L 5V6
Programs include supervised exercise therapy, speech/conversation group guided by a registered speech language pathologist, a caregiver support group, entertainment, and social support. We meet Mondays, except in August and on holidays from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
www.spstrokerecovery.org

**Stroke Recovery
Association Victoria** 250-383-2623
2964 Richmond Road
Victoria, BC V8R 4V1
A registered society offering re-socialization programs including speech, physical, and music therapies. Spousal support groups, caregiver counselling and entertainment for all. Meets every Friday 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. except July, August, and holidays.
www.victoriastrokerecovery.org

Support Groups & Related Organizations

Tourette Syndrome

**Tourette Syndrome
Foundation of Canada** 1-800-361-3120

Victoria Chapter
3511 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8Z 7H6
Education, meetings and help for families and patients.
www.tourette.ca

Vision

**Alliance for Equality of
Blind Canadians** 1-800-561-4774

A consumer group of the blind, partially sighted, and deaf-blind adults, parents of the aforementioned and other interested individuals, with a common goal to preserve and enhance the rights of such persons through public education, advocacy, and other initiatives.
www.blindcanadians.ca

**Canadian National Institute
for the Blind (CNIB)** 250-595-1100

102-1675 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8N 2G5
Services free-of-charge to all Canadians with vision loss; vision rehabilitation and low vision services, adaptive technology resources and training, digital library services, daily living skills, safe travel skills, adjustment to vision loss courses, and volunteer services. Provides Bus Identification Cards for legally blind people.
www.cnib.ca

**Pacific Training Centre
for the Blind (PTCB)** 778-881-0482

817A Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1H6
A charitable society (located at the Victoria Disability Resource Centre) which offers blindness skills training in tactile skills: including Braille; orientation and travel training with the long white cane; daily living skills such as cooking; and technology such as computer and iPhone use without sight. Free to anyone experiencing vision loss. No medical referral is required. The instructors are blind, have a wealth of lived experience to share and promote a positive approach to blindness. Training is held in a class setting, enabling students to chat with their peers and discuss concerns with others who know what they are dealing with. Students are assessed and training is individualized according to each student's goals and abilities.
www.pacifictrainingcentre.ca

**White Cane Club SHOAL
Community Centre** 250-656-5537

10030 Resthaven Drive
Sidney, BC V8L 3G4
For those with vision impairment, this support group meets the first Thursday of the month, September - June, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
www.beaconcs.ca