

# Support Groups & Related Organizations

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## **Pacific Training Centre for the Blind (PTCB)**

**778-817-0482**

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 of charge, 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](http://www.pacifictrainingcentre.ca)**

## **White Cane Club SHOAL Community Centre**

**250-656-5537**

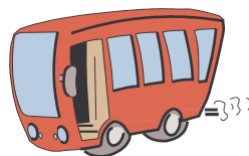
10030 Resthaven Drive

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](http://www.beaconcs.ca)**

## Transportation



*Transportation options  
and related services.*

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## **BC Transit Information**

### **BC Transit**

**250-382-6161**

BC Transit offers a discounted monthly pass for passengers 65 years of age or older. The passes are \$45 and are available from bus pass vendors located throughout Greater Victoria.

**[www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com)**

### **Greater Victoria & Area**

#### **BC Bus Pass Program 1-866-866-0800**

Ministry of Social Development

and Poverty Reduction

PO Box 9985 STN Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9R6

The Bus Pass Program enables all qualified low-income senior citizens and persons who are disabled to buy a yearly bus pass at an affordable price. These passes may be used on all conventional transit services but are not valid on handyDART.

**[www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca)**

## **handyDART Registration, Information and Booking Line 250-727-7811**

The handy DART is a BC Transit service for people with permanent or temporary disabilities that prevent them from using fixed-route transit without assistance from another person. This custom transit service uses specially equipped vehicles and provides door-to-door service.

**[www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com)**

## **Taxi Saver Program 250-995-5618**

A person must be permanently registered with handyDART before being allowed to purchase Taxi Saver program coupons. The coupons are to be used only when handyDART service is not available and individuals are to contact the taxi company directly to book their taxi ride.

**[www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com)**

## **Driver Safety**

### **Driver Medical Fitness 250-387-7747 or 1-855-387-7747**

At age 80 and every two years thereafter, all B.C. drivers must have their physician complete a Driver's Medical Examination Report (DMER), which is then submitted to RoadSafetyBC. RoadSafetyBC will mail you information about this process prior to your 80th birthday. As your birthday approaches, you will then be mailed the DMER to take to your physician for completion. Drivers are responsible for the cost of having this DMER completed, and the fees vary by doctor. Depending on the medical information provided on the DMER, you may be required to submit additional medical information, or you may be referred to complete an Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA) to help determine your ability to drive safely. There is no fee charged to the driver for the ERA.

**[www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc](http://www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc)**

## **Driving Services**

### **Driving Miss Daisy**

**Victoria, Saanich**

**& Sidney .....250-588-4638**

**Westshore & Sooke..... 250-813-0440**

Fee-based assistance and accompaniment services to seniors and those with disabilities.

**[www.drivingmissdaisy.ca](http://www.drivingmissdaisy.ca)**

## **Ferry Travel**

### **BC Ferry Corporation 1-888-223-3779**

BC Seniors (age 65 or greater) travel free on the ferry Monday through Thursday except holidays on presentation of a BC Services Card, a BC Gold Care Card, a BC Driver's License, a BC Identification Card, or a Birth Certificate. If you are presenting a Birth Certificate, proof of residency in BC is required. The BC Seniors discount applies only to the passenger fare. Note - the free fare is not applicable to all routes, however, a special discount on BC senior's passenger fares may apply to those routes. Persons with special needs may contact customer service to request assistance with boarding and disembarking.

**[www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com)**

## **Medical Transfers**

### **Medi-Van Canada Inc. 250-389-0948**

Non-emergency stretcher and wheelchair service. Operates locally and provides services anywhere in North America.

**[www.medivancanada.com](http://www.medivancanada.com)**

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## Parking Permits

### **Beacon Community Services Volunteer Services** 250-656-5537

SHOAL Community Centre  
10030 Resthaven Drive  
Sidney, BC V8L-3G4  
Satellite office for Victoria Disability Resource Centre. Permanent, temporary, organizational and visitor handicapped parking permits available. Physicians signed order required. Payment by cash, debit, cheque or credit card.

**www.beaconcs.ca**

### **Victoria Disability Resource Centre** 250-595-0044

817A Fort Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1H6  
Permanent, temporary, organization, and visitor parking permits for persons who have disabilities that limit their mobility. Application form available at doctors' offices, in person at our office, on our website, or by fax or email. Must be filled out by physician (signed and stamped). Processing fee of \$25 in our office or \$27 through the mail.

**www.drcvictoria.com**

### **Wescom Medi-Lend Society at Priory Hospital** 250-478-5373

567 Goldstream Avenue  
Victoria, BC V9B 2W4  
Satellite office for Disability Resource Centre. Parking permits for persons with disabilities.

## Travel Subsidies

### **Health Insurance BC Travel Assistance Program (TAP)** 1-800-663-7100

Alleviates some of the transportation costs for eligible B.C. residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community. Coordinated by the Ministry of Health. Application forms can be obtained from your physician or specialty clinic.

## Volunteer Drivers

*The following agencies offer transportation by volunteer drivers for medical appointments and other activities as drivers are available.*

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**Beacon Community  
Services (Sidney).....250-656-5537**  
**www.beaconcs.ca**

**Cancer DriveLine Society..... 778-265-0906**  
For patients undergoing cancer treatment only.  
**www.cancerdriveline.ca**

**Capital City (Victoria)  
Volunteers .....250-388-7844**  
**www.capitalcityvolunteers.org**

**James Bay  
Community Project.....250-388-7844**  
**www.jbcp.bc.ca**

**Metchosin Seniors  
Resource Centre..... 250-478-5150**  
Metchosin Better at Home program. Metchosin residents only.  
**www.metchosinseniors.ca**

## Oak Bay Volunteer

Services.....250-595-1034  
[www.oakbayvolunteers.org](http://www.oakbayvolunteers.org)

## Pender Island Community

Support .....250-629-3346  
[www.penderislandhealth.ca](http://www.penderislandhealth.ca)

## Saanich Volunteer

Services.....250-595-8008  
[www.saanichvolunteers.org](http://www.saanichvolunteers.org)

## Salt Spring Seniors

Services Society .....250-537-4635  
[www.saltspringseniorscentre.ca](http://www.saltspringseniorscentre.ca)

## Sooke Community

Assistance Society .....250-389-4661  
Sooke residents only. Medical appointments only,  
by donation.

## West Shore Better

at Home..... 778-677-3540  
Langford and Colwood residents only.

### TIP!

If you want help planning your bus route phone the busline at **250-382-6161** and a BC Transit agent will assist you.

Go to [www.accessvictoria.ca](http://www.accessvictoria.ca) for information on accessible transit.



## Veterans Services

*Services for Veterans and their family.*

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### Remembrance Day Committee

**Victoria Poppy Fund 250-386-2533**

411 Gorge Road East

Victoria, BC V8T 2W1

Emergency assistance with shelter, food, fuel, clothing, prescriptions and transportation for ex-service members and dependents in need.

### Veterans Affairs

**Canada**

**1-866-522-2122**

For eligible clients provides the Veterans Independence Program, Pensions for Life Program, funeral and burial grants, war veterans allowance, widows, and widowers and orphans and civilian war allowance, long term care subsidy, and medical equipment such as walkers and bathing equipment. Counselling services at the VAC Assistance Line at 1-800-268-7708 provides immediate support for Veterans in need of emotional support.

**[www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)**

**Veterans Health Centre 250-658-3270**

Veterans Memorial Lodge

4579 Chatterton Way

Victoria, BC V8X 4Y7

Provides health and leisure services for eligible veterans living at home. Services include activities, exercise programs, bathing, care partners education and support groups, health promotion programs, information on community resources, nutritious meals and snacks and an overnight respite program. Veterans Affairs Canada determines eligibility to attend the programs.

**[www.broadmeadcare.com](http://www.broadmeadcare.com)**