

# Guide to income tax and benefits:

## 2023 tax year

### Introduction

This guide is intended to provide basic tax tips that may be particularly useful for people affected by dementia. It is a summary, not a complete list, meant to alert you to options you may want to discuss with the person preparing your taxes.

For complete information about personal tax matters, contact the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) by calling 1-800-959-8281 or visiting their website at [alzbc.org/cra](http://alzbc.org/cra). Income tax rules are complicated and subject to change every year, so we encourage you to speak to a professional.



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# Income tax and benefits

## Getting started

To begin, gather all necessary documents to complete your tax return. This includes:

- Tax slips showing your income and deductions made (for example: T4, T5).
- All supporting documents for any deductions you make or credits you plan to claim (for example: medical receipts, statements from a care facility or charitable donation receipts).
- Your most recent notice of assessment or reassessment, for carry-forward amounts or other amounts you may need to complete your return.

## Spouse or common-law partner amount

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You can claim this amount if at any time during the year you supported your spouse or common-law partner and their net income was less than \$15,000 (federal) or \$11,285 (B.C.).</li></ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only one of you can claim this amount for the other in the same year.</li><li>• Should be claimed by the higher-income spouse.</li></ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Line 30300</b> on the Federal Schedule 5 Form: <a href="https://alzbc.org/2T8GaW1">alzbc.org/2T8GaW1</a></li><li>• <b>Line 58120</b> on the BC428 British Columbia Tax Form: <a href="https://alzbc.org/2T5AXhl">alzbc.org/2T5AXhl</a></li></ul>



## Amount for an eligible dependant

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may claim this amount if at any time in the year you met <b>all</b> the following conditions at once:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You did not have a spouse or common-law partner or, if you did, you were not living with, supporting or being supported by that person.</li> <li>○ You supported a dependant in 2023.</li> <li>○ You lived with the dependant you supported (in most cases in Canada) in a home you maintained.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• You may qualify if the dependant is one of the following persons by blood, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ parent, grandparent.</li> <li>○ child, grandchild, brother, or sister <b>under 18 years of age</b>.</li> <li>○ child, grandchild, brother, or sister <b>18 years of age or older</b> and depends on you due to mental or physical impairment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The net income of the dependant must be less than \$15,000 (federal) or \$11,285 (B.C.).</li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You <b>cannot</b> claim this amount if:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The person was only visiting you.</li> <li>○ You or someone else is claiming a spouse or common-law partner amount for this dependant.</li> <li>○ Someone else is making a claim for the same dependant.</li> <li>○ Someone else in your household is making this claim.</li> <li>○ You had to make support payments for this dependant in 2023.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Line 30400</b> on the Federal Schedule 5 Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T8GaW1">alzbc.org/2T8GaW1</a></li> <li>• <b>Line 58160</b> on the BC428 British Columbia Tax Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T5AXhI">alzbc.org/2T5AXhI</a></li> </ul>

## Canada caregiver credit

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may qualify for this non-refundable tax credit if you have a spouse or common-law partner, minor child or eligible relative who is dependent on you because of a mental or physical infirmity at any time in the year.</li> <li>This tax credit can be claimed in addition to the spousal or eligible dependent tax credits.</li> <li>People living with dementia, in most circumstances, will qualify for the benefit.</li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A maximum amount of \$7,999 (Federal) and \$5,243 (B.C.) can be claimed by a caregiver in respect of each infirm dependant. This amount will be reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount of the dependant's net income above \$18,783 (Federal) and \$17,742 (B.C.); it will be fully reduced at \$26,782 (Federal) and \$22,985 (B.C.).</li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRA may ask for a signed statement from a medical practitioner indicating when the impairment began and expected duration of the impairment.</li> <li>This statement is not required if the individual is already approved for the Disability Tax Credit.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Line 30425</b> (for a spouse or common-law partner or for an eligible dependent age 18 or older), <b>30450</b> (for other infirm dependents age 18 or older) <b>and 30500</b> (for a minor child) on the Federal Schedule 5 Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T8GaW1">alzbc.org/2T8GaW1</a></li> <li><b>Line 58175</b> (Caregiver amount) on the BC428 British Columbia Tax Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T5AXhl">alzbc.org/2T5AXhl</a></li> </ul>

## Disability tax credit

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To claim this amount, a medical practitioner has to certify that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You have a severe and prolonged impairment in one category in the tax year;</li> <li>○ Impairment is prolonged if it has lasted, or is expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 12 months.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>○ You have significant limitations in two or more of the categories where at least 90 per cent of the time you are unable to, or take an inordinate amount of time to, perform basic activities of daily living.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Categories include: walking, dressing, hearing, speaking, vision, feeding, eliminating, mental functions, and life-sustaining therapy.</li> <li>● In most circumstances, people living with dementia will qualify for the benefit.</li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The maximum disability amount is \$9,428 (Federal) and \$8,986 (B.C.) for 2023.</li> <li>● In certain circumstances, some or all of this credit can be transferred from the person living with dementia, to a spouse, common-law partner or other supporting person.</li> <li>● The transferred amount can be split between several people, if they support the same dependent.</li> <li>● This amount may be affected by claims for <b>Attendant care</b> (see page 7).</li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Your doctor (or other qualified health-care provider) must certify that you meet certain conditions by completing the <b>T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate</b>: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2PAkhg6">alzbc.org/2PAkhg6</a></li> <li>● If claiming this amount for the first time, the Disability Tax Credit Certificate must be submitted to the CRA. Once approved, there is no need to submit this form each year unless asked.</li> <li>● There are two ways to complete the T2201:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Digital application for medical practitioners</b>: <a href="http://alzbc.org/3RtWxZW">alzbc.org/3RtWxZW</a></li> <li>○ Manual completion of paper form.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Ensure that the health-care provider dates the Disability Tax Credit Certificate to the year that the impairment began. CRA can adjust your previous returns if you would have qualified for the credit in those years. (Use the <b>Adjustment Request Form</b>: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2uAwFWa">alzbc.org/2uAwFWa</a>).</li> <li>● If the practitioner charges a fee for completing this form, you may be able to claim the amount as a <b>medical expense</b>.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Line 31600</b> (for self), <b>Line 31800</b> (if transferred to you) on the Income Tax and Benefit Return: <a href="http://alzbc.org/32yR62i">alzbc.org/32yR62i</a></li> <li>● <b>Line 58440</b> (for self), <b>Line 58480</b> (if transferred to you) on the BC428 British Columbia Tax Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T5AXhl">alzbc.org/2T5AXhl</a></li> </ul>

## Medical expenses

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may be able to claim a non-refundable tax credit for medical expenses incurred on behalf of yourself, your spouse or common-law partner, or your children (under age 18).</li> <li>You may also make a claim for medical expenses incurred by you for your children, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces or nephews who were residents of Canada and dependent on you for support during the year.</li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenses were paid for in any twelve-month period ending in 2023.</li> <li>You can only claim the part of an expense for which you have not been or will not be reimbursed.</li> <li>Some examples of eligible expenses are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payments to certain qualified practitioners.</li> <li>Walking aids and wheelchairs.</li> <li>Prescription medications, eyeglasses or contact lenses.</li> <li>Hearing aids.</li> <li>Personalized therapy plan for a mental or physical impairment.</li> <li>Ambulance service.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The tax credit is calculated based on the medical expenses incurred, minus the lesser of \$2,635 (Federal), \$2,491 (B.C.) or three per cent of net income.</li> <li>Visit the CRA's list of eligible medical expenses for more information: <a href="http://alzbc.org/3ahqKVs">alzbc.org/3ahqKVs</a></li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receipts may be requested.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lines 33099</b> for self and <b>33199</b> for other dependants on the Income Tax and Benefit Return: <a href="http://alzbc.org/32yR62i">alzbc.org/32yR62i</a></li> <li><b>Lines 58689 to 58729</b> on the BC428 British Columbia Tax Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T5AXhl">alzbc.org/2T5AXhl</a></li> </ul>



## Expenses for medical services not in your area

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can claim transportation and travel expenses, provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Substantially equivalent medical services were not available near your home.</li> <li>○ You took a reasonably direct travelling route.</li> <li>○ It is reasonable for you to have travelled to get the medical services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you had to travel at least 40 kilometres (one way) to get medical services, you may be able to claim the public transportation expenses you paid.</li> <li>• If you had to travel at least 80 kilometres (one way) from your home to get medical services, you may also be able to claim accommodation, meal and parking expenses, in addition to your transportation expenses, as medical expenses.</li> <li>• If a health-care provider certifies in writing that you were unable to travel by yourself, you can also claim the transportation and travel expenses of an attendant.</li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receipts may be requested.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <b>Medical expenses</b> (page 6).</li> </ul>

## Attendant care (at home or in long-term care)

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can claim amounts you or your spouse or common-law partner paid for attendant care or care in a facility of yourself, your spouse or common-law partner, or a dependant.</li> <li>• If you are receiving attendant care services in your home, you must either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Be eligible for the disability tax credit <b>OR</b></li> <li>○ Have a written certification from a medical practitioner that states the services are necessary.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You can claim the salaries and wages paid to all employees who perform certain specified duties or services as medical expense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For a full list of services you can claim, see the CRA Guide RC 4065 - Medical Expenses - 2023: <a href="http://alzbc.org/3HHwicG">alzbc.org/3HHwicG</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• An attendant who is hired privately will likely be considered an employee. For more information, refer to the CRA Guide's "Employee or Self-Employed" section: <a href="http://alzbc.org/3cfylFD">alzbc.org/3cfylFD</a></li> <li>• The attendant cannot be your spouse or common-law partner and were over 18 years of age when the amounts were paid.</li> <li>• If you are claiming expenses greater than \$10,000 (full-time care), the disability tax credit cannot also be claimed.</li> </ul>

Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To claim attendant care expenses paid to a care home, you must send the CRA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Receipts showing the name of the company or individual to whom the expense was paid. If attendant was an individual, the receipt must include their social insurance number.</li> <li>○ A detailed breakdown from the care home that clearly shows the amounts paid for staff salaries that apply to the attendant care services.</li> <li>○ The <b>T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate</b> (<a href="http://alzbc.org/2PAkhg6">alzbc.org/2PAkhg6</a>) or medical certification, depending on the expense type.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Line 33099</b> on the Income Tax and Benefit Return: <a href="http://alzbc.org/32yR62i">alzbc.org/32yR62i</a></li> <li>• <b>Line 58689</b> on the BC428 British Columbia Tax Form: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2T5AXhl">alzbc.org/2T5AXhl</a></li> </ul>

Refundable medical expense supplement

Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This refundable tax credit is available to working individuals with low-income (including the income of your spouse or common-law partner) and high medical expenses.</li> <li>• Your (self) employment income must be \$4,083 or more and your adjusted family net income is less than \$58,944.</li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The amount of this supplement is the lesser of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$1,399 OR</li> <li>○ 25 per cent of the medical expenses that qualify for the <b>Medical expenses</b> tax credit (see page 6).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The amount is reduced by five per cent of a combined family income greater than \$30,964 and eliminated when combined income reaches \$58,944.</li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receipts may be requested.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Line 45200</b> on the Income Tax and Benefit Return: <a href="http://alzbc.org/32yR62i">alzbc.org/32yR62i</a></li> </ul>

## Home accessibility tax credit

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You may be able to claim this amount if:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ You own a home in Canada and paid for eligible renovations to improve the safety or accessibility of your home.</li><li>○ You are 65 years of age or older, or eligible for the Disability Tax Credit, and the home is your main residence, or</li><li>○ You are the spouse or common-law partner of the qualifying individual.</li><li>○ The renovations are permanent and allow the individual to access the home or be more mobile/functional within the home.</li><li>○ The renovations reduce the risk of harm within the home or in accessing the home.</li></ul></li></ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You can claim up to \$20,000 in expenses, which would provide a tax credit of \$3,000.</li><li>• You may claim this for an eligible dependant under certain circumstances.</li><li>• Some prohibited expenses include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Annual and routine maintenance.</li><li>○ Household appliances.</li><li>○ Electronic entertainment devices.</li><li>○ Security monitoring, gardening, housekeeping services, etc.</li></ul></li></ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eligible expenses must be supported by acceptable documentation, such as agreements, invoices and receipts. They must clearly identify the type and quantity of goods bought or services provided.</li><li>• If work was performed by a family member, receipts for labour and materials must have a GST/HST number.</li></ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Line 31285</b> on the Federal Income Tax and Benefit Return: <a href="http://alzbc.org/32yR62i">alzbc.org/32yR62i</a></li></ul>

## B.C. home renovation tax credit for seniors and persons with disabilities

<p>Qualifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be able to claim eligible expenses for certain permanent home renovations that improve access and/or mobility or reduce the risk of harm within your principal residence.</li> <li>• You're eligible to claim the credit for the year if on the last day of the tax year you are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A B.C. resident <b>AND</b></li> <li>○ A senior (65 years of age or older) or a family member living with a senior <b>OR</b></li> <li>○ A person with a disability or a family member living with a person with a disability (for 2016 and later tax years.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum credit is \$1,000 per tax year, calculated as 10 per cent of the qualifying renovation expense (maximum \$10,000 in expenses).</li> <li>• See <b>Home accessibility tax credit</b> (page 9) for eligibility of expenses. Some examples of eligible expenses are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grab bars and handrails.</li> <li>○ Wheelchair ramps, lifts and elevators.</li> <li>○ Walk-in bathtubs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This credit can be split between eligible residents of the home to a maximum amount of the credit.</li> <li>• For seniors and family members living with seniors, your renovation expenses must have happened on or after April 1, 2012. Expenses made or incurred under an agreement entered into before this date don't qualify.</li> <li>• For people with disabilities and family members living with them, renovation expenses must happen on or after February 17, 2016. Expenses made or incurred under an agreement entered into before this date don't qualify.</li> </ul>
<p>Required forms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must retain documentation to support your claim, including receipts from suppliers and contractors. If work was performed by a family member, receipts for labour and materials must have a GST/HST number.</li> <li>• If you are claiming this amount as a person with a disability, you are required to provide a <b>T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate</b>: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2PAkhg6">alzbc.org/2PAkhg6</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>How to claim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Line 60480</b> on Schedule BC S12: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2VzIEyn">alzbc.org/2VzIEyn</a></li> </ul>

## B.C. renter's tax credit

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 2023 and after, you can claim the renter's tax credit if:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You occupied an eligible rental unit in B.C. under a tenancy agreement, license, sublease agreement or similar arrangement for at least 6 one-month periods. (More information at <a href="https://alzbc.org/3uSXgwV">alzbc.org/3uSXgwV</a>)</li> <li>○ Rent was paid for that rental unit. (More information at <a href="https://alzbc.org/3STGJki">alzbc.org/3STGJki</a>)</li> <li>○ You were a B.C. resident on December 31 <b>AND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 19 years of age or older <b>OR</b></li> <li>▪ A parent <b>OR</b></li> <li>▪ Cohabiting with a spouse or common-law partner.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• You cannot claim the renter's tax credit if:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Your cohabitating spouse or common-law partner has already claimed the credit for 2023.</li> <li>○ You were confined to a prison or similar institution on December 31 of 2023 for periods totaling more than six months during the year.</li> <li>○ You were an employee of a foreign country or resided with a family member or a servant of the employee of a foreign country in Canada.</li> <li>○ You die before the end of the year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent does NOT include amounts paid:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To non-arms length landlords (e.g. parents, siblings, relatives).</li> <li>○ Under a rent-to-own plan.</li> <li>○ By your employer for accommodation that is not required to be included in your income.</li> <li>○ For a campsite, moorage or manufactured home site (mobile home or trailer park pad).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The maximum renter's tax credit is \$400. The credit is reduced by 2% of the amount by which your 2023 adjusted family income exceeds \$60,000, and fully reduced to zero at \$80,000.</li> <li>• This credit is refundable even if there are no taxes owing.</li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may be asked to provide information such as the name of the person that you pay rent to, or proof of rent paid after you file your tax return.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Line 60576</b> on the BC479 British Columbia Credits Form: <a href="https://alzbc.org/3OZbnaY">alzbc.org/3OZbnaY</a></li> </ul>

## GST/HST-exempt goods and services

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some goods and services used by people living with dementia are exempt from GST/HST.</li> <li>• If you paid GST/HST in error, you can ask the supplier for a refund or a credit.</li> <li>• If you can't get a refund or a credit from the supplier (for example, if the supplier refuses or goes out of business), you can apply to CRA for a rebate by completing the <b>GST 189 General Application for GST/HST Rebates</b>: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2wRiZqA">alzbc.org/2wRiZqA</a></li> </ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some services are only exempt if they are publicly subsidized or funded.</li> <li>• Some examples of exempt expenses are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Certain health-care services.</li> <li>○ Home care services (such as cleaning and meal preparation).</li> <li>○ Personal care services (such as assistance with bathing, feeding, dressing and taking medication) provided to you in your place of residence.</li> <li>○ Care and supervision services.</li> <li>○ Home-delivered meals through certain programs.</li> <li>○ Certain medical devices and supplies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Required forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRA requires copies of proof of purchases, receipts or documents for purchases listed on your rebate application, along with your rebate claim.</li> </ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GST189 General Application for Rebate for GST/HST</b>: <a href="http://alzbc.org/2wRiZqA">alzbc.org/2wRiZqA</a></li> <li>• Refer to the CRA guide's "<b>Disability-Related Information</b>": <a href="http://alzbc.org/2TmBVoY">alzbc.org/2TmBVoY</a></li> </ul>

## Involuntary separation

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you and your common-law partner or spouse are living apart for reasons beyond your control, you may qualify for this tax relief measure. For example, if your partner has moved into long-term care and you continue to reside in the family home.</li><li>• One member of the couple must be 65 or older and be receiving the Old Age Security (OAS) pension.</li></ul>
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involuntary separation is a federal tax relief measure that can be used by spouses or common-law partners who are obligated to live apart. The separation must be due to reasons beyond the couple's control and not due to a breakdown in the relationship.</li><li>• When an involuntary separation is granted, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Allowance (ALW) payments are calculated based on individual income rather than combined income.</li><li>• Note: Declaring an involuntary separation may have an impact on other benefits. It's important to get advice from an accountant or tax specialist to ensure that it will be financially advantageous for you to do so.</li></ul>
Required forms	<p>To declare an involuntary separation, you will need to fill out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Statement - Spouses or Common-law Partners Living Apart for Reasons beyond their Control (ISP-3040 Form Detail):</b> <a href="http://alzbc.org/3wyxq1z">alzbc.org/3wyxq1z</a></li><li>• <b>Application for the Guaranteed Income Supplement:</b> <a href="http://alzbc.org/3uJWlyV">alzbc.org/3uJWlyV</a></li></ul>
How to claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mail your completed forms to the nearest Service Canada office, or to: BRITISH COLUMBIA AND YUKON Service Canada PO Box 1177 Station CSC Victoria BC V8W 2V2 CANADA</li><li>• For questions about the form or how to claim, call <b>Service Canada at: 1-800-277-9914</b>. Ensure you have your social insurance number ready when you call.</li></ul>

## How tax benefits and credits might affect you

The following scenarios are only intended to illustrate how some of the more commonly used tax benefits and credits might apply to a specific situation.

### Scenario 1 - Parent lives with adult child caregiver



Mary is separated from her partner and her children have left home and are no longer dependent on her. Her mother, Janet, is living with Alzheimer's disease and recently moved into a suite in Mary's house.

Janet qualifies for the Disability Tax Credit. To make the home safer and more accessible for her mother, Mary has incurred costs for home renovations, spending \$4,000 for the necessary upgrades. Janet also has significant medical expenses, which Mary has paid for, including prescriptions, a wheelchair and eyeglasses totaling \$3,500. Mary has also paid for a nurse to come to the home to care for Janet several days a week, costing \$8,000 in total.

#### **Mary's eligible credits include:**

- Canada caregiver credit.
- Amount for eligible dependant.
- Disability amount (transferred).
- Medical expenses:  $\$4,000 + \$3,500 + \$8,000 = \$15,500$ .
- Refundable medical expenses supplement (depends on Mary's income).
- Home accessibility tax credit of \$600.
- B.C. home renovation tax credit for seniors and persons with disabilities.

## Scenario 2 - Child assists with parent's care costs



Jim is married, with two children who still live at home and are dependent on him for support. Jim and his sister, Joan, learned last year that their father's dementia has advanced to the stage that he needs full-time care in a long-term care home.

Their father has very little income, so Joan and Jim have agreed to split the costs evenly. The cost of the care home is \$28,000 per year. Their father also spent \$1,800 of his own money on other medical expenses during the year (prescription glasses, supplies and medication).

### **Jim's eligible credits include:**

- Canada caregiver credit (either Jim or Joan, or it can be split).

### **Depending upon his father's income:**

- Medical expenses:  $\$28,000 + \$1,800 = \$29,800$  (split between Jim and Joan).
- Refundable medical expenses supplement (depends on Jim's income).

**Note:** Jim or Joan are not eligible to transfer their father's Disability Tax Credit because the deemed care costs were greater than \$9,428.

## Useful resources

### Resources related to getting authority to handle financial affairs

It is important for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease or another dementia to plan ahead for legal, financial and health-care matters by preparing an Enduring Power of Attorney and a Representation Agreement. It is strongly encouraged that families consult a lawyer or notary public for assistance with preparing legal documents.

#### **Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry**

- Nidus is currently the only community-based resource in Canada devoted to personal planning. Nidus is also the expert on Representation Agreements, which are a legal model for supported decision-making. The Personal Planning Registry is a secure online service for storing your important information and documents and making them available to others who need to know.
- Visit [nidus.ca](https://nidus.ca) or call **604-408-7414** for more information.

#### **Authorizing or cancelling a representative**

- Taxpayer information is considered confidential according to the CRA. Consent can be given for another person to act as a representative for income tax matters online at [alzbc.org/39QTiof](https://alzbc.org/39QTiof).
- If you have a legal representative (for example, Power of Attorney or Guardian), you do not need to fill this out.

#### **Agreement to administer federal pension benefits**

- You can apply to Employment and Social Development Canada to act as the trustee of Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS) benefits for a relative or friend who is incapable of managing their own affairs due to a mental or physical illness or impairment.
- For details, call **1-800-277-9914** or visit Service Canada Forms to access the **Certificate of Incapability form** ([alzbc.org/3RxcGxW](https://alzbc.org/3RxcGxW)) and the **Agreement to administer benefits under the Old Age Security Act and/or the Canada Pension Plan by a Private Trustee form (ISP-3506CPP Form Detail)**: [alzbc.org/3T7I5lu](https://alzbc.org/3T7I5lu)

## Additional resources and information

### Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- The objective of this program is to help people who are not able to prepare their income tax and benefit returns by themselves. In partnership with the CRA, community organizations host tax preparation clinics and arrange for volunteers to prepare tax returns for eligible individuals.
- For more information, call **1-800-959-8281** or visit [alzbc.org/32zBnQJ](https://alzbc.org/32zBnQJ). Appointments may take place by video conference or by phone.

### Employment Insurance (EI) compassionate care benefits

- EI compassionate care benefits are paid to people who must be away from work temporarily to provide care or support to a family member who is gravely ill and who has a significant risk of death within 26 weeks (six months). Unemployed persons on EI can also apply.
- A maximum of 26 weeks of compassionate care benefits may be paid to eligible people and can be shared with other family members. You may also be eligible if you are a close friend or neighbour and the gravely ill person considers you a family member.
- For more information, call **1-800-206-7218** or visit [alzbc.org/3abtW4L](https://alzbc.org/3abtW4L).

### EI Family Caregiver benefit

- In addition to the existing EI Compassionate Care Benefit, eligible caregivers may take up to 15 weeks off work to care for or support an adult family member who is critically ill or injured.
- For more information call **1-800-206-7218** or visit [alzbc.org/39b45d3](https://alzbc.org/39b45d3).

### Veterans Affairs Canada: Veterans Independence Program (VIP)

- Eligible veterans may receive financial assistance for personal care, housekeeping, grounds maintenance and/or other services under the VIP. Primary caregivers and low-income or disabled survivors of veterans who were receiving services under the VIP before they passed away or were admitted to a long-term care home may be eligible to continue to receive these services.
- For more information call **1-866-522-2122** or visit [alzbc.org/2TsDZLW](https://alzbc.org/2TsDZLW).

### Disability benefits help sheets

- Disability Alliance B.C. provides a series of help sheets that describe key disability programs and benefits in B.C.
- Call **1-800-663-1278** or visit [disabilityalliancebc.org](https://disabilityalliancebc.org) for more information.

# Alzheimer Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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300 - 828 West 8th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1E2

**Phone (toll-free):** 1-800-667-3742

**First Link® Dementia Helpline**

**English:** 1-800-936-6033

**Cantonese and Mandarin:** 1-833-674-5007

**Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu:** 1-833-674-5003

**Email:** [info@alzheimerbc.org](mailto:info@alzheimerbc.org)

**Website:** [www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org)

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