

# PETER JULIAN

Member of Parliament • Burnaby–New Westminster

• “One of the region’s hardest working politicians, Peter Julian” ~ The Georgia Straight Newspaper

• Peter Julian among “Seven standouts on Parliament Hill in 2012” ~ Chantal Hébert, National political columnist



## The 8th Annual Disability Tax Credit Community Seminars

Join Peter on April 4th in Burnaby and on April 6th in New Westminster and find out how hundreds of your neighbours have benefited from these seminars.

In our community, thousands of people with disabilities may be eligible for an important tax credit that often includes a significant tax refund from the Canadian Revenue Agency. Many Burnaby-New Westminster residents could be eligible for a tax refund under the Income Tax Act.

Some of you may already know that the Income Tax Act provides a non-refundable Disability Tax Credit to all eligible individuals. My office wants to make sure that every eligible Burnaby-New Westminster resident knows how to access this legitimate entitlement under the Income Tax Act. To that end, we are offering workshops to assist people to avail themselves of the Disability Tax Credit, which can amount to up to \$1380 per year, and can be claimed retroactively for up to 10 years. While the Income Tax Act stipulates that this is a non-refundable tax credit, it is transferable to spouses and other family members if the income of the relative, with a disability or infirmity, is too low.

If you’d like to learn more about the Disability Tax Credit, please contact my office at 604-775-5707.

Sincerely,

“I attended a meeting chaired by Peter Julian, MP for Burnaby-New Westminster in spring 2009. It was a well prepared information meeting re: Disability Tax Credit. Since I had a disability since 1960, I did not know there would be some relief from the Federal Government until our MP held those meetings. I was able, after my doctor witnessed the Form T2201 that I was markedly disabled, to get a Tax Credit for the (only) preceding ten years. My Tax Credit amounted to \$ 13,012.52. Thank you Mr. Julian, for caring”. Sincerely, George

## You or someone you know may be eligible for a DISABILITY TAX CREDIT retroactive for up to ten years.

Please join Peter for his 8th Annual Disability Tax Credit Community Seminars at the following wheelchair accessible locations:

*Sign Language interpreters will be in attendance*

**Thursday, April 4th, 2013  
with Kennedy Stewart, MP (Burnaby-Douglas)**

**6:00PM – 8:00PM  
at Bonsor Recreation Complex (6550 Bonsor in the Arts Room in Burnaby)**

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**Saturday, April 6th, 2013  
with Fin Donnelly, MP (New Westminster-Coquitlam)**

**10:00AM - 12:00PM  
at Century House (located at 620 Eighth Street in New Westminster)**



Photo - Peter seen here at last year’s community information session on Disability Tax Credits.



**BACK PAGE**-What’s New for 2012 Tax Returns from the Canada Revenue Agency plus general tax tips, courtesy of *Certified General Accountants Association of Canada*.

### About your tax return - Service dates

- Early February 2013, the 2012 *General Income Tax and Benefit packages* for BC are available from any postal outlet or Service Canada office near you.
- February 11 - First day you can use NETFILE.

**Important dates** Generally, your tax return for 2012 has to be filed on or before April 30, 2013.

**Note:** If you file your return after April 30, 2013, your GST/HST credit (including any related provincial credit), Canada

child tax benefit payments (including those from certain related provincial or territorial programs), and old age security benefit payments may be delayed.

**Payment to CRA** As long as you file your return on time and pay by April 30, 2013, CRA will not charge interest on your balance owing.

**Please note:** If a person passes away between January 1 and October 31, the due date for the amount owing is April 30 of the following year. If a person

passes away between November 1 and December 31, the due date for the amount owing is six months after the date of death.

For additional information:

Individual income tax enquiries  
1.800.959.8281

Businesses and self-employed individuals 1.800.959.5525

Source: Canada Revenue Agency.

### STUDENT LOAN INTEREST TAX CREDIT

- A 15 per cent federal tax credit and a provincial/territorial tax credit are available on the repayment of interest on federally or provincially approved student loans. The BC tax credit corresponds to the rate in the lowest tax bracket for that jurisdiction. For each \$100 in 2012 the Provincial tax credit amounts to a maximum provincial credit of \$5.06.
- To be eligible, however, students must consolidate their loans with an authorized lender after graduating, and assume responsibility for payment interest by the first day of the seventh month following completion of their studies.
- Students have the option of applying that non-transferable credit to the current year. They can also carry it forward or spread it over any one of the next 5 taxation years.

### PENSION INCOME CREDIT

- The federal government allows a 15 per cent federal tax credit on up to \$2,000 of eligible pension income (non-indexed). In 2012, this amounts to a maximum of \$300.
- BC provides a maximum provincial credit of \$1,000 at their applicable provincial maximum credit of \$51.
- Taxpayers may also transfer to their return any unused pension income credit belonging to their spouse or common-law partner.
- Since 2007, the federal government allows taxpayers to split qualified pension income with their spouse or common-law partner, by allocating to them up to one-half of their qualified income. When pension income has been allocated in such fashion, both partners must make a joint election on Form T1032 - *Joint Election to Split Pension Income*. BC has followed suit with parallel measures.
- Amounts transferred to spouses under the age of 65 might not be eligible for the pension deduction.

#### TAX TIP - PENSION INCOME CREDIT

- If you are at least 65, consider creating pension income by converting part of your RRSP to a life annuity or an RRIF if your financial circumstances warrant such a move.
- Contributing to a spousal RRSP also creates potential pension income for your spouse or common-law partner.

### CREDIT FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT PASS

- A federal non-refundable tax credit is available for individuals who purchase eligible weekly (involving at least 4 consecutive weekly passes per month), monthly or longer transit passes. In some instances, even shorter duration passes or electronic payments cards might be acceptable.
- Public transit could include local bus, streetcar, subway, commuter train or bus, or local ferry. This credit applies at the rate of 15% for 2012.

#### TAX TIP - CREDIT FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT PASS

- Save applicable public transit passes and purchase receipts in order to verify the expenses you are claiming for this tax credit.
- If you need to take your car on a ferry for which you pay monthly or longer fees, you may claim a credit for the ferry costs relating directly to the costs to transport you and/or family.

Source: *Personal Tax Planning 2012/2013* has been updated by Jeff Buckstein, Certified General Accountants Association of Canada (CGA). You can reach the CGA at 604.669.3555. Their head Office is located in Burnaby, BC (Suite 100, 4200 North Fraser Way).

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Please call, write or visit our community office. We're here to help you with:

- issues related to federal government services such as Citizenship and Immigration, Employment Insurance, Revenue Canada and Canada Student Loans.
- arranging special messages for important occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries.
- providing referrals to other services offered in the community.

[www.peterjulian.ca](http://www.peterjulian.ca)

### COMMUNITY OFFICE

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## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012?

• **Working income tax benefit (WITB)** – Working individuals and families with low income may be able to claim this refundable tax credit. The WITB includes a supplement for individuals who qualify for the disability amount. Eligible individuals and families may also apply for advance payments.

The working income tax benefit (WITB) is a refundable tax credit intended to provide tax relief for eligible working low-income individuals and families who are already in the workforce and to encourage other Canadians to enter the workforce.

You can claim the WITB on line 453 of your 2012 income tax and benefit return.

However, eligible individuals and families may be able to apply for the 2013 advance payments.

You are eligible for the WITB if:

- You are 19 years of age or older on December 31st; and
- You are a resident of Canada for income tax purposes throughout the year.

Source: Canada Revenue Agency