

# 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.

## MEDICAL EXPENSE CREDIT

An individual may claim a credit for any non-reimbursed medical expenses. The federal credit for 2012 consists of 15 per cent of expenses in excess of the lesser of \$2,109 or 3 per cent of the taxpayer's net income for the year. Such expenses may be incurred on the taxpayer's own behalf, or on behalf of their qualified dependant relatives.

The British Columbia credit is 5.06 per cent of medical expenses in excess of the lesser of \$2,020 or 3 per cent of the taxpayer's net income for the year. Such expenses may be incurred on the taxpayer's behalf, or on behalf of their qualified dependant relatives.

### ELIGIBLE MEDICAL EXPENSES

The list of expenses eligible for the federal medical expense tax credit includes the following:

- attendant care for workers with disabilities - up to two-thirds of earned income with no maximum
- full-time attendant care for individuals with severe and prolonged mental or physical impairments, including all expenses, with no maximum
- Sign Language interpreter fees
- a block, or annual fee, paid to a medical centre or physician to cover uninsured medical services
- expenses incurred for moving to accessible housing, to a maximum of \$2,000

- a device, such as a wheelchair, to assist an individual who is mobility-impaired
- 50 per cent of the cost of an air conditioner needed for a severe chronic ailment, to a maximum of \$1,000
- voice recognition software necessary to assist a person with a disability
- tutoring services from a non-related person for individuals with a certified learning disability or mental impairment
- various medical devices, along with accessories, required to assist with impaired seeing or hearing
- a portion of reasonable expenses relating to certain construction or renovation costs incurred to assist an individual with a severe disability gain access to, or be mobile or functional within, their principal place of residence

### TAX TIP

- In some jurisdictions, practitioners in so-called "alternative treatment" fields, such as naturopathy, chiropractic medicine, and massage therapy, among others, might qualify as authorized medical practitioners. Check to determine whether expenditures for the services you are receiving are covered for tax purposes.
- The cost of full-time care in a nursing home might also include care that is provided by professional other than those on staff.

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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### TAX TIP

#### MEDICAL EXPENSE CREDIT

• Taxpayers and their spouses can apportion the medical expenses claimed on behalf of each other to best minimize their overall tax liability. In some cases, it might be advantageous for the lower-income spouse to claim allowable medical expenses.

• A parent or other guardian that does not live with and/or

have legal custody of a child might still be able to claim certain medical expenses on their behalf. Even if the child is not wholly dependent on the taxpayer, if the taxpayer is providing for their essential needs, factors such as support payments and expenditures for security and education will also be taken into account when CRA decides whether they qualify to deduct such expenses.

• A pharmacist is considered by the Canada Revenue Agency to

be a medical practitioner. Therefore, if your pharmacist provides such services as running a disease management clinic or other activities for which a fee is payable, this may qualify as a deductible medical expense.

• A stroller designed specifically for a child with special mobility needs is considered equivalent to a wheelchair and therefore deductible as an eligible medical expense item for tax purposes.