

PETER JULIAN

Member of Parliament • Burnaby–New Westminister

• “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 Westminister 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 Westminister 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 Westminister 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 Westminister 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)**

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

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



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.

Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) Contribution Limit

The maximum annual contribution limit has been increased to \$22,970 for 2012, up from \$22,450 for 2011. The annual maximum contribution limit is indexed to the increase in the average wage.

Contributions to a personal RRSP may be made until the end of the calendar year in which the taxpayer turns 71.

TAX TIP - RRSP

Individuals with low earned income that precludes owing any tax should still consider filing a tax return in order to create RRSP contribution room. Eighteen per cent of earned income from the previous year is eligible to be contributed to an RRSP.

You don't have to deduct an RRSP contribution the year in which it is made; instead you can carry it forward for deduction in a future period when you have income placing you in a higher tax bracket. Be sure you have utilized all personal tax credits before deducting your RRSP contribution.

Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) Education Withdrawals

Individuals are able to withdraw money from their RRSP for qualifying full-time education and training for either themselves or their spouse/common-law partner, (but not both at the same time), on a tax-free basis.

For individuals with disabilities, this provision covers both full- or part-time education and training.

This provision is known as the Lifelong Learning Plan (LLP).

LLP withdrawals may not exceed \$10,000 in a year and \$20,000 over a 4-year period. Taxpayers can participate in the plan as many times as they wish, but may not start a new plan before the end of the year in which all repayments are made for previous withdrawals.

TAX TIP - RRSP EDUCATION WITHDRAWALS

Students in medical residency programs that last for at least 3 months and qualify for the tuition fees tax credit may also participate in the LLP program.

Registered Retirement Income Funds, Annuities, and Retirement Options

Individuals are required to terminate their RRSP plans by the end of the year during which they turn 71. When terminating an RRSP, there are 3 alternatives to choose from:

- withdraw the funds, in which case the total amount withdrawn is included in the plan holder's annual income.
- purchase an annuity that provides a regular income for a defined period that may include their lifetime, the joint lifetime of themselves and their spouse/common-law partner, a fixed period, or combinations thereof. The annuity payments will be taxed as received.
- Transfer an RRSP into a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), which is similar to an RRSP in that the plans' funds and income earned remain untaxed until withdrawn. Taxpayers may continue to exercise authority over investment decisions.

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

COMMUNITY OFFICE

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TAX TIP

RRIF (Registered retirement income fund)

• When deciding whether to convert your RRSP into an RRIF, retirement annuity, or a combination of both, there are a number of factors to consider.

• If you are holding an RRIF, for instance, you are able to remain active in making investment decisions.

• With an annuity, however, you are transferring autonomy of the underlying investment portfolio to

financial professionals who, in turn, assume the risk and provide you with a steady income for a fixed period of time or the rest of your natural life. Also, while you can convert all or part of your RRIF funds to a retirement annuity at any time, once annuities have been established, they are permanent.

TAX TIP

• Don't forget that significant taxation implications, a potential change in eligibility for various means-tested federal benefits, and the possible loss of creditor protection might result from withdrawing funds out of various locked-in accounts.