

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)**

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.

NON-TAXABLE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM EMPLOYMENT INCOME

Although most benefits derived from employment must be included in personal income, there are several exceptions. These include:

- employer-sponsored training costs that are work related;
- employer mandated medical exam required as a condition of employment;
- subsidized meals available to all employees, provided a reasonable charge is made to cover direct costs;
- reimbursement of moving expenses upon relocation;
- a reasonable per-kilometre automobile allowance;
- exclusive on-site child care services provided by employers to all employees for minimal or no cost.

TAX TIP - TAXABLE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM EMPLOYMENT INCOME

- The Canada Revenue Agency has ruled that there is no taxable benefit to an employee in a situation where their employer arranges for them to purchase discounted fitness pass memberships from a third party;
- If your employer provides you with an allowance to purchase an electronic device for use at work, this amount is generally considered a taxable benefit.

INCOME SPLITTING

Income splitting with a spouse or other family members in situations where this is legally permitted can be an effective way of saving the family unit tax - sometimes a very substantial amount. However, there are stringent rules in place designed to prevent income splitting in certain instances, so it is necessary to know where these opportunities exist and where they do not, in order to carry out proper tax planning.

TAX TIP - INCOME SPLITTING

- If you earn more than your spouse, you could reduce your family's combined tax bill by paying your spouse's expenses, thus allowing them to save their money for investment purposes. The income and gains from these investments would then be taxed in your spouse's hands at their (presumably lower) tax rate. This strategy will also help you even out future retirement income if you have been able to invest in a tax-deferred retirement plan and your spouse has not.

SPOUSAL OR COMMON-LAW PARTNER CREDIT

Individuals supporting a spouse or common-law partner whose net income is less than \$10,822 may claim the federal spousal credit.

If a spouse/common law partner has no income they can get the full 15% credit for the \$10,822 tax bracket, for a credit of \$1623. The credit decreases as they earn more income, down to no credit if they earn \$10,822 or more.

TAX TIP - SPOUSAL OR COMMON-LAW PARTNER CREDIT

- You may claim an amount for your dependent spouse or common-law partner even if she or he did not live in Canada during the year. To do so, you must supply proof of that support, such as a cancelled cheque or money order receipt, etc., in the name of the eligible payee. The documents submitted should also contain detailed information, such as the recipient's name, address and date of transfer. If you lived separate and apart from your spouse for all or any part of a year for reasons other than a marriage breakdown, you may still be entitled to claim the spousal credit.

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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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2012?

• **Family caregiver amount** – If you have a dependant with a physical or mental impairment, you may be able to claim up to an additional \$2,000 when you claim certain non-refundable tax credits.

For 2012 and subsequent years, if you have a dependant with an impairment in physical or mental functions, you may be eligible to claim an additional amount of \$2,000 for one or more of the following non-refundable tax credits (Schedule 1, Federal Tax):

- spouse or common-law partner amount (line 303);
- amount for an eligible dependant (line 305);
- amount for children born in 1995 or later (line 367); and
- caregiver amount (line 315).

The dependant with the impairment must be:

- an individual 18 years of age or older and dependent on you because of an impairment in physical or mental functions; or
- a child under 18 years of age, with an impairment in physical or mental functions. The impairment must be prolonged and indefinite and the child must be dependent on you for assistance in attending to personal needs and care when compared to children of the same age.

Note

The maximum amount for infirm dependants age 18 or older (line 306) includes the additional amount of \$2,000 for the FCA.

Source: Canada Revenue Agency.