

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.

STUDENT TAX INFORMATION

- Post-secondary students who are not otherwise reimbursed for the cost of their courses, or who have received financial assistance such as a grant, benefit or other allowance, are generally entitled to a credit for the cost of the courses and certain related school fees they or their families must pay.

- In order to qualify, full-time students must generally be taking courses of at least three consecutive weeks involving at least 10

hours of study per week for the duration of the course at a designated educational institution.

- Typically this is at a university, college, or other school in Canada that offers courses at a post-secondary level, or internationally at a university or in a university-related course that leads to a degree.

- In 2012, full-time students may claim a federal tuition credit of 15% of \$400 per month, or \$60. The education credit is

allowable only if they are attending a designated educational institution as defined by the federal government.

- In BC, students may claim a monthly provincial credit of up to 5.06% of \$200, or \$10.

- To qualify for these credits, students need not be in full-time attendance, but only enrolled as full-time students. Students with disabilities may also be enrolled part-time to qualify for a full-time credit.

EDUCATION, TUITION OR TEXTBOOK TAX CREDIT

To qualify for an education, tuition, or textbook tax credit, Canadian students attending an eligible post-secondary educational institution outside of Canada must take a course of at least three consecutive weeks' duration leading up to a degree at a designated university. Qualified Canadian students who live near the U.S. border and commute to an eligible school offering post-secondary education in the U.S. do not have to be enrolled in a course of at least three weeks' duration leading up to a degree.

- The tuition tax credit has no minimum duration requirement for a qualified program that is taken

form an eligible Canadian institution.

- In BC, residents may also claim the tuition fee credit, based on a percentage of eligible tuition fees. In BC, students may claim a monthly provincial credit of up to 5.06% of \$200, or \$10.

- To qualify for these credits, students need not be in full-time attendance, but only enrolled as full-time students. Students with disabilities may also be enrolled part-time to qualify for a full-time credit.

- Part-time students may claim a monthly provincial credit of up to 5.06% of \$60, or \$3.

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-TUITION FEES AND EDUCATION TAX CREDITS

- Mandatory computer service fees eligible for the tuition credit may also include use of a laptop computer and applicable software.

- If you reside in Canada near the U.S. border and are registered in and commute to a designated educational institution in the United States, you might be able to claim and/or transfer a tuition credit for a course of any duration.

- Tuition fees paid to obtain up to 110 hours of instruction for a commercial pilot's license or to become a professional flying instructor also qualify as eligible tuition fees provided they are taken at a certified flying school or club.

- Fees for your child's extracurricular classes may also be eligible for the tuition credit if your child is at least 16 years of age, and if the classes are taken through a certified educational institution in Canada and provide occupational skills. Dance or skating

lessons are examples of classes that might qualify. If your child is under 16, certain courses may still qualify provided they are post-secondary equivalency level courses taken through a certified educational institution in Canada, like a music academy.

- The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has ruled that students may deduct tuition fees paid to an accredited post-secondary institution for audit/hearer courses in which they attend lectures, but do not write examinations, or receive credit.