

# 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.

### CAREGIVER TAX CREDIT

The caregiver tax credit reduces federal tax by up to \$660 (15% of \$4,402) in 2012 for persons 18 years of age and over who are responsible for the in-home care of an infirm, dependent relative or parent/grandparent (including in-laws) who are at least 65 years of age. The maximum available credit decreases when the dependant's net income exceeds \$15,033 and is eliminated entirely when their income reaches \$19,435.

The BC provincial tax credit involves a maximum of \$215 (5.06% of \$4,250), which is reduced when net income exceeds \$14,385 and eliminated entirely when the dependant's income reaches \$18,635.

### TAX TIP

Two or more people might be entitled to claim a caregiver or Infirm Dependant Credit for the same person; in that situation, they must agree on how to apportion the total available deduction between themselves.

### CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Child support payments are treated differently from spousal support. Recipients do not include child support payments in their income, nor does the payer deduct such payments for tax purposes, if they originated pursuant to a written agreement or court order made on or after May 1, 1997, or before that date if the payment commencement date pursuant to the original agreement, or a varied version thereof, was on or after May 1, 1997.

Prior to that date, child support paid pursuant to a written agreement or court order was deductible by the payer and taxable to the recipient. Parents with existing agreements made before May 1, 1997, upon which payments had also commenced prior to that day, have the option of filing a joint election with the Canada Revenue Agency to apply the new tax treatment has been changed, however, parties will not be permitted to return to the old rules.

In order for an allowance to qualify as child support, it should generally be payable on a periodic basis (typically weekly or monthly), with provisions to continue for either an indefinite period or until the occurrence of a specified future event, such as a child attaining the age of majority.

### ISSUES RELATED TO SPOUSAL AND CHILD SUPPORT

Legal fees incurred by the recipient to establish spousal or child support are deductible.

Legal costs incurred to enforce pre-existing rights to interim or permanent support amounts, to increase spousal and/or child support once an original court-imposed settlement has been passed, or to defend against (but not for) the reduction of support payments (whether child support or otherwise) are all deductible, provided they are not incurred against an estate.

Support payments can be made directly to a child at the spouses' discretion.

Source: *Personal Tax Planning 2010/2011* 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.

### COMMUNITY OFFICE

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### TAX TIP

#### CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

• Be aware that, if you go to court and obtain an amending order to an existing agreement involving child support payments, the income tax rules attributable to each may be different, particularly if the original agreement was made prior to May 1, 1997, and the amendment occurred on or after that date.

#### ISSUES RELATED TO SPOUSAL AND CHILD SUPPORT

• Legal agreements should specify the breakdown, if any, between support payments that are for spousal support and child support. Otherwise, it will be assumed that for tax purposes they are all for child support and treated accordingly by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

• You may claim eligible support payments made to a payee living outside Canada if you have adequate proof of payment; in most cases, the CRA will ask for a court order and/or written agreement and payment receipts to allow this deduction.

Therefore, you should retain these documents in order to support your claim.