

member NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MANITOBANS WITH DISABILITIES

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IN THIS ISSUE

Parking Permit Holders Pay to Park

Registered Disability Savings Plan Offers Help for Financial Futures

New Caregiver Tax Credit Announced

Go Orderly is Going Strong

SMD Joins Others to Bring Down Barriers

Parking Permit Holders Pay to Park

Parking Permit holders are now expected to pay for parking at meters and in metered lots in downtown Winnipeg. The City's website, read as follows:

"...Parking is offered on a "pay as you go" daily or hourly basis provided they display their permit.

Although parking meters and pay stations often restrict time to two hour blocks, parking permit holders with disabilities are welcome to purchase up to four hours at any location. Where the machines offer only one or two hour parking periods, Parking Permit holders with disabilities are allowed 4 hours without penalty as long as payment is made."

The site goes on to say: "All customers, including those with disabilities, who use downtown meter parking regularly may purchase a hang tag style permit which is recognized at parking meters and pay stations. These permits are valid for 4 hours and can be suspended from the rear view mirror for regular daily use.

All customers, including those with disabilities, who use meters and pay stations infrequently may wish to purchase a book of 10 single use "scratch ticket" style coupons. The month and date should be scratched to validate and the coupon displayed on the vehicle dash. Coupons are valid for 3 years."

The site also elaborates on a number of payment options for downtown parking. Those who do not pay for their parking downtown will be ticketed by the Winnipeg Parking Authority.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to:

The Parking Store
495 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E4

<http://www.theparkingstore.winnipeg.ca/theparkingstore/where-can-i-park/disabled-parking.stm>

Hours: Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Daytime: 311
24 Hour: 204-986-6281
Fax: 204-986-5155
Email: 311@winnipeg.ca



Registered Disability Savings Plan Offers Help for Financial Futures

If you are a person with a disability or have a family member with a disability, and you are planning your future finances, it would be a good idea to look at the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

The Government of Canada first announced the RDSP in December, 2007 as a way to help people with a disability and their family members save for and plan their financial futures. What makes the RDSP particularly significant is the fact that a person's RDSP may be supplemented by the federal government through a Canada Disability Savings Grant and Canada Disability Savings Bond.

To be eligible to establish an RDSP, a person must be a Canadian resident who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit. The individual must also be under 60 years of age. (A parent, guardian or legal representative can establish an RDSP for minors and those unable to establish the RDSP for themselves.)

After the RDSP has been established, anyone can contribute to it, from the beneficiary him or herself to family members to friends. There's no limit on how much can be contributed in a year though there is a lifetime contribution limit of \$200,000.

While the contributions are not tax-deductible, they are allowed to grow on a tax deferred basis and can ultimately be used for whatever purpose the individual wants or needs, without restrictions.

Adding to the RDSP is the Disability Savings Grant, courtesy the Federal Government. Basically, the Government pays a grant to an RDSP, the amount being determined by the contributions made that year and the beneficiary's family income. For families with lower incomes, the Disability Savings Bond will provide \$1,000 per year for 20 years without any contribution being made by the beneficiary or the beneficiary's family, guardian or friends.

The RDSP demonstrates a strong commitment from government to people with disabilities. But more importantly, an RDSP represents a brighter financial outlook for thousands of people living with disabilities and their families.

For more detailed information on the specifics of an RDSP, including eligibility, Disability Savings Grants and Disability Savings Bonds, visit: **www.plan.ca or http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/disability_issues/disability_savings/index.shtml**



New Caregiver Tax Credit Announced

Recognizing the selfless and extraordinary support primary caregivers provide for their family members and loved ones, the Manitoba Government recently announced the introduction of the Primary Caregiver Tax Credit.

The new tax credit would provide up to \$1,020 to the identified primary caregiver of a spouse, relative, neighbour or friend who is a client of Manitoba Home Care. This is a particularly significant show of support as eligible primary caregivers are not compensated for their help.

It's no small role. A primary caregiver provides assistance with any and all kinds of daily tasks, from bathing, preparing meals and helping a person eat to obtaining medical care and coordinating additional support through community resources. Depending on their loved one's cognitive, behavioural or physical condition, it can be a full-time job – one requires a round-the-clock commitment.

The commitment of a primary caregiver can also be a financial one, particularly for those who purchase products or supplies for their loved ones, or drive them to and from various appointments. While these people are more than willing to put their loved ones' health and comfort ahead of their own financial considerations, the tax credit will help offset many of the day-to-day costs.

The new Primary Caregiver Tax Credit will ultimately provide some financial assistance to caregivers whose assistance to others is priceless.

*More information about the **Primary Caregiver Tax Credit** is available online at www.gov.mb.ca/finance/, by calling Manitoba Government Inquiry at 1-866-626-4862 or emailing Manitoba Health and Healthy Living at RssAffairs@gov.mb.ca. Program details for caregivers and their clients will be distributed through Manitoba Health and Healthy Living and regional health authorities.*

For information on claiming this tax credit through the income tax system, contact the Manitoba Tax Assistance Office at 204-948-2115 or 1-800-782-0771 (toll-free) or by email at TAO@gov.mb.ca.



Go Orderly is Going Strong

When it comes to mobility, it's not just about how you get somewhere. It's also about what happens after you arrive at your destination.

That's what they believe at Go Orderly, a new Winnipeg-based service that offers safe, comfortable transportation with attendant care. The service was developed by long-time orderly Jeff Middleton and quadriplegic Kevin Funk who, during their combined work and life experiences, saw a need for a different approach to transportation for those with limited mobility.

One of the biggest differences between Go Orderly and other, similar types of services is the fact that Go Orderly operates on the principle of true independence. While there are services that provide transportation with attendant care, they operate more like buses, setting the arrival and departure schedules for their clients. With Go Orderly, it's the client who sets the schedule, deciding not only where they want to go, but when they want to arrive and return home.

People can go shopping, visit family, attend special events and plan personal appointments on their own time and at their own pace – all with the comfort and confidence of knowing there is a certified home care attendant on hands at all times to provide any assistance required. It gives them the freedom and power to choose

if they want to participate in an activity or an event. It gives them the opportunity to get out of their homes and keep connected with others in their community.

Go Orderly, also benefits the larger community as well as its clients. There is an ever-increasing demand for hospital beds, but hospitals won't release many patients without assurances that there is home care in place to ensure their patients' continued well-being – and waiting lists for home care are growing longer. The longer a patient has to wait for home care, the longer the patient is in the hospital, making one less bed available for someone else.

Go Orderly bridges the gap in service between hospital and home care, by providing short-term in-home care services including dressing, meal preparation, assistance with personal grooming and even bathroom calls. Patients can be released earlier because they have home care in place, they are transported home with a certified attendant and they don't have to worry about the wait for longer-term care. Go Orderly will provide in-home service until regular home-care services can be established.

Go Orderly is an affordable new approach to transportation, and in-home care.

For more information including rates and service fees, call 783-7881 or 471-5116 or email goorderly@mts.net

SMD Joins Others to Bring Down Barriers

SMD has always promoted accessibility. Now SMD has joined a new provincial group to address accessibility issues on a whole new scale.

Barrier-Free Manitoba consists of several for profit and non-profit disability organizations, disability-related coalitions, stakeholder groups and individuals committed to addressing accessibility issues through provincial accessibility-rights legislation.

The goal is to advocate for strong and effective accessibility-rights that removes barriers faced by people with disabilities – barriers that may be keeping them from participating in and enjoying various aspects of life.

Whether it means improving access to employment, education, job training, communications, housing, transportation, health care and social services, or increasing a person's ability to enjoy goods or facilities, removing barriers results in greater opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities in their community.

The initiative is being led by a Steering Committee, with organizations supporting Barrier-Free Manitoba united by three common beliefs that guide the group's approach toward accessibility legislation:

- Ensuring accessibility is a basic matter of human rights

- Removing the barriers is an entirely realistic and attainable duty.
- Enacting such legislation is about doing what is right and doing what is reasonable.

Although the model for this type of legislation would be new to Manitoba, similar approaches have been used successfully in Ontario, as well as in the U.S., Australia and the United Kingdom.

SMD is proud to be part of this important initiative, and to be working with others to promote legislation that will make a real difference in the daily lives of everyone in Manitoba living with a disability.

Barrier-Free Manitoba welcomes the support of coalitions, agencies, organizations, as well as individuals, who endorse our broad goals and want to help make meaningful and enduring improvements in the lives of Manitobans with disabilities.

For more information on Barrier-Free Manitoba, contact:

**Barrier-Free Manitoba
RPO Box 65
971 Corydon Ave
Winnipeg, MB R3M 3S3**

Or visit the Barrier-Free Manitoba website: www.barrierfreemb.com

