



Canadian Disability Participation Project



Canadian Disability Policy Alliance
Alliance Canadienne concernant
les politiques reliées au handicap

POLICY GOVERNING SUPPORT FOR MOBILITY AIDS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CANADA

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Introduction

A supportive disability policy environment is one of the factors that has been identified as essential to full participation and community integration for people with disabilities. It is therefore necessary to understand the policy context within which people with disabilities operate and attempt to carve out a life for themselves in the community.

The **Canadian Disability Policy Alliance** is a national collaboration of disability researchers, community organizations, and federal and provincial policy-makers, aimed at creating and mobilizing knowledge to enhance disability policy in Canada, to promote equity and opportunity for disabled Canadians. The Alliance is a partner in the Canadian Disability Participation Partnership, led by Dr. Kathleen Martin-Ginis and funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. Within this 7-year project, the CDPA has undertaken to provide assistance to the three research teams (Employment, Mobility and Sport/Recreation) on policy-related aspects of their work. This is the second of three cross-jurisdictional scans of legislation governing the provision of goods and services to people with disabilities in Canada. This scan focuses on legislation governing **funding for mobility aids (specifically wheelchairs and scooters) for people with disabilities** across Canada. These policy scans have grown out of the two major reports we produced by the CDPA in 2008 and 2013. These can be found on the CDPA website (www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca). The full reports provide a broader perspective on disability policy across sectors and across the country.

For the purposes of this report, **policy** is defined as a purposeful set of actions by government aimed at addressing identified social problems (Boyce et al., 2001). Those actions can be formal, explicit, and (to a greater or lesser degree) enforceable, such as legislation, regulations and government programs. They can be moderately formal, such as election promises, throne speeches, position papers or policy reports. These are explicit statements of government intent, but they have not been authorized as law by parliament. At the other end of the spectrum, policy declarations can be informal expressions by political actors of where government is going and what ideals or values it embraces. In this document, we focus on formal policy; that is, legislation, regulations, and government programs.

Disability policy is defined by Bickenbach (1993) as policy that responds to the questions:

- What does it mean to have a disability in this society?
- What is society committed to doing for those who have a disability?

Disability policy may be enacted for a number of reasons; for example:

- To voluntarily provide service to others deemed less fortunate;
- To fulfil an acknowledged need;
- To compensate for a loss;
- To invest in anticipation of a return in the form of contribution to society;

- To redistribute wealth or capital (Bickenbach, 1993).

Typically, disability policy has at least one of the following three objectives:

- Equity – to prevent discrimination and to ensure equal opportunity;
- Access – to permit entry or access to venues, goods and services;
- Support – to provide material support, such as equipment, personal care, financial supports, therapy, counselling, service (McColl & Jongbloed, 2006).

We use the term “disability policy” as if it referred to an entity that was widely recognized and acknowledged as such. In fact, disability policy is perceived by people with disabilities as being impenetrable and unnecessarily complex, with little in the way of a coherent underlying ideology or policy framework (Boyce et al., 2001; McColl & Jongbloed, 2006). Policy of interest to people with disabilities ranges across jurisdictions, across sectors within government, and across programs within ministries. It is a patchwork of legislation, regulations, programs, providers and entitlements that requires considerable probing to reveal, and considerable patience to understand. Disability policy in Canada has been described as conflicting, fragmented, incoherent, not user-friendly, a “hit-or-miss” affair (Boyce et al., 2001; Prince, 2004; Cameron & Valentine 2001). According to Lande (1998), disability policy has been the victim of vague statutory definitions and capricious judicial opinions leading to flawed case law.

The disability policy environment in Canada is dominated by several major statutes and programs at the federal level. The federal government has taken a leadership role in setting standards and providing for the necessities of people with disabilities, beginnings as a system for injured workers and veterans (Crichton & Jongbloed, 1997; Torjman, 2001). Although legislation has been referred to as a “blunt tool” with which to remedy social problems, it is the skeleton of a system of policy. In Canada, statutes like the Constitution Act, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canada Health Act, the Employment Equity Act and the Human Rights Act form the basis upon which disability programs and entitlements rely (Cameron & Valentine 2001). Layered on top of those laws are a set of programs offered by government aimed at addressing the social and economic needs of people with disabilities. For example, the Canada Pension Plan Disability program provides a disability income benefit; Revenue Canada provides a disability tax credit; the Office of Disability Issues within Resource Development Canada provides standards and ideological guidance about disability; Statistics Canada collects information about disability; Employment Insurance provides benefits to disabled workers. These are just a few examples of the web of services and programs concerning disability at the federal level.

According to the Constitution Act in Canada (and before that the British North America Act of 1867), most services to individual citizens are delivered at the provincial level. Therefore in each province and territory, there are also laws and programs that have major implications for the lives of people with disabilities. Social security, health, education, housing, transportation, child care, adaptive

equipment, personal care and vocational programs are all examples of provincial jurisdiction over issues affecting people with disabilities.

The political scene in Canada has been dominated in recent years by tensions between the federal and provincial/territorial governments as to who does what and where the resources for specific commitments should come from. As far as disability policy is concerned, it has been designated as one of a small set of items over which federal-provincial tensions must be resolved (Cameron & Valentine 2001).

There is concern that a weakened position for the federal government relative to the provinces is not in the best interests of people with disabilities (Torjman, 2001). Historically, the disability community has been served well by its relationship with the federal government. Several key successes have resulted in a legacy of legislation and political culture that have advanced the cause of disabled people (Crichton & Jongbloed, 1998; Torjman, 2001). The same cannot be said, however, for the provincial governments. Recent trends toward delisting insured health services, cutting welfare rolls, decreasing commitments to home health services and to municipalities have adversely affected the social service net for provincial populations as a whole. Whenever this happens, it is a relative certainty that those who are the most disadvantaged, and thus the most dependent upon those services, suffer most. Arguably, many people with disabilities are among those most in need, and thus are disproportionately disadvantaged by such measures (Cameron & Valentine, 2001). A survey conducted by the Office of Disability Issues (Prince, 2009) shows that Canadians believe that governments ought to be responsible for the provision of supports such as health, education, transportation, housing and special needs. Whereas families, informal networks and the voluntary sector can be expected to provide general supports, these specific programs are part of what Canadians believe is the government's job.

There have been a number of suggestions in the literature that we are at a crossroads in disability policy in Canada (McColl & Jongbloed, 2006; Boyce, Boyce, & Krogh, 2006). Colleagues at various levels of government agree that the main reason for deficiencies in disability policy is the lack of a sound evidence base upon which to build disability policy. Difficult questions and ideological tensions persist about how disability policy should be framed (Prince, 2004). These issues have made it difficult for policy-makers to relate to the disability community and to achieve consensus on the needs of people with disabilities (Joiner, 2006; Prince, 2006). Furthermore, the debate is typically highly polarized, and inflamed by the rhetoric of rights (Bickenbach, 2006). A number of areas exist where there are strong disagreements about how disabled citizens should be viewed, what they need and how they can be best served by governments in Canada (McColl & Jongbloed, 2006).

Standing in the way of the development of coherent and equitable disability policy is a lack of evidence upon which to base responses to questions like the following:

- *What is the best way to provide services to people with disabilities – a minority group approach or a universalist approach?*

- *What should be the target of disability policy – disabled people themselves or the society that presents obstacles to inclusion and integration?*
- *Is the identity of the disability community sufficiently clear to evoke a clear policy response?*
- *Is there public support for disability issues, or is the majority of the electorate perceived by policy makers to be either indifferent or opposed to further disability policy initiatives?*

The Canadian Disability Policy Alliance operates on the basis of three assumptions about policy:

1. The policy environment is perfectly designed to produce the problems that people experience in their daily lives. In other words, if a particular constituency within the disability community experiences a persistent problem, it can almost certainly be traced back to a flaw, weakness, gap or inconsistency in the policy framework.
2. We need to assemble and use the evidence that has already been and continues to be created to make a strong, credible, evidence-based case for change.
3. We need people with a variety of different skill sets in order to be successful in making meaningful change in the policy environment – research, knowledge translation, advocacy, communication, evaluation, and leadership.

The purpose of this research is to produce a comprehensive survey of policy related to funding for mobility aids available to people with disabilities in Canada.

Methodology

The methodology for the scan was similar to a scoping review of academic literature (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brien, 2010). The scoping review typically unfolds in five stages:

1. Identify the research question
2. Identify all relevant studies
3. Select the studies for detailed analysis
4. Chart the data according to key concepts
5. Collate and summarize the findings of the selected studies.

1. Identify the research question

The research question for this study was:

What policy exists at federal, provincial and territorial levels in Canada that explicitly addresses FUNDING FOR WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS for people with disabilities?

2. Identify all relevant data

For each jurisdiction (federal, 10 provinces and 3 territories), the search began on the government home page with the search terms: **disability, wheelchair, mobility aid, benefits**. This approach typically revealed if there was a Disability Issues office or a similar department in government. If such an office existed, the search proceeded to identify programs, benefits and services that were

available to citizens. The links at the disability office site would lead to programs offered in various departments, i.e. education, parking, housing, employment or income assistance.

The purpose of the search was to identify legislation, regulations and programs governing the provision of funding for mobility aids. For this scan, the emphasis was on funding for wheelchairs and scooters, including purchase, loan, repair and maintenance. We did not focus on funding for other mobility devices, such as canes, crutches or walkers, and we did not focus on wheelchair modifications or accessories. Funding for wheelchairs was most commonly located under the Health Ministry, but was also often found under Labour or Employment as part of workers' compensation, or under Transportation as part of automobile insurance.

The second step of the methodology was to consult the *Canadian Legal Information Institute* (CanLII; <http://www.canlii.org/en/>). CanLII is a non-profit organization managed by the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, with the goal to make Canadian law accessible for free on the Internet. The following search terms were used to identify legislation and regulations related to this topic:

- **Wheelchair, disability, medical, rehabilitation, device, aid, equipment, assistive, scooter, mobility, insurance.**

3. Select data for detailed analysis

The next step was to begin to select information to populate tables for each of the ten provincial, three territorial, and the federal jurisdiction. All publicly-available information that was provided free-of-charge by the government was collected and archived for further analysis.

4. Chart the data according to key concepts

For each jurisdiction, an attempt was made to provide comprehensive information on:

- existing legislation, regulations or explicit policy statements
- bureaucracies or agencies charged with administering the policy
- a description of the service, program or entitlement
- contact information for further inquiries.

5. Collate and summarize the findings of the selected studies.

In order to fully exploit the data assembled, the next step would be detailed policy analyses and cross-jurisdictional comparisons of the policy context in Canada. These will be conducted as specific research projects dictate.

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The Disability Policy Lens

As a tool for policy analysis, these questions are intended to provide a quick, easy guide for analyzing disability policy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to these questions, but each has important implications for people with disabilities. For more information, please see www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca or McColl & Jongbloed (2006) *Disability & social policy in Canada* (2nd ed.)

1. Does the policy specifically mention people with disabilities? Are there provisions pertaining specifically to disabled people?
2. If so, how is disability defined? Who is included / excluded from consideration under the policy? Who decides who qualifies as disabled? Does the definition conform with a particular model of disability (eg., biomedical, social, charitable)?
3. What does the policy aim to achieve?
 - a. Equity – freedom from discrimination
 - b. Access – ability to participate
 - c. Support – resources to address special needs
4. Does the policy aim to enforce individual rights or collective responsibilities?
5. Does the policy aim to provide for a special need associated with a disability, or does it aim to provide the same thing to all citizens? Does it aim to achieve:
 - a. Outcome equity – whatever it takes to achieve equal outcomes with non-disabled;
 - b. Vertical equity – special considerations to create equal opportunity for disabled people;
 - c. Horizontal equity – equal treatment; treating disabled people the same as everyone else.
6. Does the policy view disabled people collectively as a minority group, or does it aim to structure society so as to ensure universal access / coverage?
7. How does the policy relate to other policies (legislation, regulations, programs) in the jurisdiction – in the same Ministry, in other Ministries; including both disability-specific and non-disability-specific policy? What about other jurisdictions (national, provincial, regional, municipal)? (For a review of disability policy by jurisdiction across Canada, see: <http://www.disabilitypolicyalliance.ca/resources/reports/a-scoping-review-of-disability-policy-in-canada.html>; watch this space for the 2nd ed. (2013) in September)
8. Who wins and who loses when this policy is implemented? How is the allocation of scarce resources affected by this policy? What is the impact on: other disability groups; Business / private sector; Other minority groups; Other citizens generally / taxpayers; Other?
9. How did this policy come into effect? What is the history associated with it? Who were the champions / detractors? Where might one anticipate support / opposition?

FEDERAL

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act, SC 2005</i>	<i>Veterans Affairs</i>	<i>Disability Award</i>	The Disability Award provides injured Canadian Forces members or Veterans with a tax-free cash award for an injury or illness resulting from military service. The Disability Award is designed to provide immediate financial support to those who have been injured while serving our country. Includes Aids for Daily Living (walkers/canes) and Special Equipment (walkers/wheelchairs/powered mobility devices).	http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/disability-benefits/disability-award
<i>Income Tax Act, RSC 1985</i>	<i>Canada Revenue Agency</i>	NA	If you are a person with a disability or you support someone with a disability, you may be able to claim deductions and tax credits for disability supports deduction, includes: Scooter – the amount paid for a scooter that is used instead of a wheelchair. Walking aids – the amount paid for devices designed exclusively to help a person who has a mobility impairment – prescription required. Wheelchairs and wheelchair carriers	http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmptng/ddctns/Ins300-350/330/llwxpns-eng.html#walking

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Health and Community Services Act, SNL 1995</i>	<i>Department of Health and Community Services</i>	<i>Special Child Welfare Allowance Program</i>	This program provides assistance with the cost of services/supports to families with a child (under the age of eighteen years) who has a physical or intellectual disability living at home. The assistance is designed to enable families to purchase items (includes wheelchairs) and/or services, which are necessary due to the child's disability. The amount of monthly assistance for each family is determined through a financial needs test.	http://canlii.ca/t/89vn
		<i>Special Assistance Program – Medical equipment and supplies</i>	The Special Assistance Program is a provincial program, which provides basic medical supplies and equipment to assist with activities of daily living for individuals living in the community who meet the eligibility criteria for the program. Benefits of the program include medical supplies (such as dressings, catheters and incontinent supplies); oxygen and related equipment and supplies; orthotics such as braces and burn garments, and equipment such as wheelchairs, commodes or walkers.	http://canlii.ca/t/89vn
<i>Income and Employment Support Act, SNL 2002</i>	<i>Department of Advanced Education and Skills</i>	<i>Employability Assistance for Persons with Disabilities</i>	This program is designed to assist individuals with a disability acquire the skills, experience and support necessary to successfully prepare for, enter or remain in the work force. Services include technical aids and other supports to assist individuals obtain access to job opportunities and training. This program is cost-shared with Human Resources Social Development Canada.	http://canlii.ca/t/89t7
		<i>Supports to Employment for Persons with Disabilities</i>	This initiative responds to the disability related support needs of adults with disabilities who wish to participate in or maintain employment and includes work place accommodations, work place adaptation, assistive devices such as hearing aids, visual scanners, readers, technical equipment, assistive technology such as computer aides or software which can be used by persons with disabilities to aid in getting and maintaining employment.	http://canlii.ca/t/89t7

<i>Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act, RSNL 1990, c W-11</i>	<i>Workplace Health, Safety & Compensation Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	<i>Health Care Entitlement</i>	<p>Prescribed Treatments, Devices and Accessories (can include wheelchairs; power and manual, scooters, or walkers). The Commission will pay for treatments, devices and accessories prescribed by licensed health care providers, as long as the treatment, device or accessory, in the opinion of the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. will improve or maintain the worker's functional abilities; b. will improve the likelihood of early and safe return to work; c. will minimize the risk of further injury or aggravation of the original injury; or, d. will reduce the severity of symptoms where the work injury has a significant impact on the activities of daily living. <p>The Commission will cover the cost of repair or replacement, as appropriate, for a health care device where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The device is still necessary for the compensable condition; and, b. The need for repair or replacement is not the result of intentional mistreatment of the device. <p>The Commission will cover the cost for repair or replacement which is not covered by the existing warranty for the device.</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/8b5n
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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, RSPEI 1988; Social Assistance Act, RSPEI 1988</i>	<i>Department of Community Services and Seniors</i>	<i>Disability Support Program</i>	<p>The purpose of The Disability Support Program (DSP) is to assist with personal planning and to help meet the needs related to an individual's disability. These supports are needs based, and they are not intended to provide income. Supports can take a number of different forms, including technical aids (including wheel chairs) and other devices.</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/8dgh

<i>Insurance Act, RSPEI 1988, c I-4</i>	NA	NA	<p>All reasonable expenses incurred within four years from the date of the accident as a result of such injury for necessary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, hospital, professional nursing and ambulance service and for any other service within the meaning of basic health services or insured services under the Health Services Payment Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. H-2 or the Hospital and Diagnostic Services Insurance Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. H-8 and for such other services and supplies which are, in the opinion of the physician of the insured person's choice and that of the insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment, occupational retraining or rehabilitation of said person, to the limit of \$50,000 per person.</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/8dlh7
<i>Workers Compensation Act, RSPEI 1988, c W-7.1</i>	<i>Workers Compensation Board of PEI</i>	NA	<p>The Workers Compensation Board will authorize the payment of an assistive device where all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the need for the assistive device resulted from the compensable work injury; b) it is medically effective in the treatment or ongoing care of a compensable work injury; c) the cost does not exceed what the Workers Compensation Board considers to be reasonable and proper; d) it is recommended by an approved health care provider, pursuant to Workers Compensation Board policy, POL - 64, "Health Care Providers"; and e) the Workers Compensation Board has determined the worker has sustained an impairment as a result of the compensable work injury <p>The worker is responsible for the day –to –day care of the assistive device. The Workers Compensation Board may pay for repairs or replacement over time. "Assistive Device" means a device that increases the worker's ability to perform activities of daily living and improve independence. Examples of assistive devices include wheelchairs, commodes, raised toilet seats, modified work tools, and adaptive technology components.</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/8d8k

NOVA SCOTIA

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Employment Support and Income Assistance Regulations, NS Reg 25/2001</i>	<i>Community Services</i>	<i>Employment Support Services/ Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities</i>	<p>To be eligible to benefit from a program funded under LMAPD an individual must: be considered a person having a disability (physical, mental health, learning, cognitive, intellectual) and there is a realistic possibility of attaching to the labour market as a direct result of receiving goods or services through an LMAPD funded program.</p> <p>individuals who have made a claim under the Worker's Compensation Act, Veteran's Rehabilitation Act (Canada), Canada Pension Plan, or through private insurance companies are not eligible.</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/8745
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, SNS 1994-95, c 10</i>	<i>Workers Compensation Board of Nova Scotia</i>	NA	In general, the WCB covers costs for pre-approved services and personal equipment other health care items (crutches, braces, artificial limbs, wheelchairs, etc.) and maintenance and repair.	http://canlii.ca/t/87dx

NEW BRUNSWICK

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, RSNB 1973, c W-13</i>	<i>WorkSafeNB</i>	NA	<p>When prostheses, orthoses, or assistive devices are needed for the treatment or ongoing care of compensable injuries, WorkSafeNB approves devices that are medically effective and that directly improve functioning for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to work (RTW); and • Activities of daily living (ADL) 	http://canlii.ca/t/88r0

QUEBEC

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Health Insurance Act, CQLR c A-29</i>	<i>The Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec</i>	<i>Devices that Compensate for Physical Deficiencies Program</i>	The Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (the Régie) pays the entire cost of the wheelchair for individuals insured by the health plan under the Devices that Compensate for Physical Deficiencies Program.	http://canlii.ca/t/xig
<i>Automobile Insurance Act</i>	NA	<i>Regulation Respecting the Reimbursement of Certain Expenses, CQLR c A-25, r 14</i>	<p>Expenses incurred for the purchase of a wheelchair qualify for reimbursement when the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) they are incurred for a medical reason resulting from the accident and are prescribed by a physician; (2) an evaluation of the victim's needs was made by an occupational therapist in the employ of an establishment governed by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec on a form provided by the Société containing the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the victim's name; (b) the occupational therapist's name, the occupational therapist's evaluation and recommendation; (c) the name of the supplier referred to in paragraph 3 and the supplier's tender specifying the cost and guarantee; (3) 2 tenders based on the occupational therapist's evaluation were made by 2 wheelchair suppliers who are not related, unless only one wheelchair supplier was recommended by the occupational therapist on the form provided by the Société; (4) the victim was authorized by the Société to purchase a wheelchair at a cost fixed by the latter from either of the tenderers; and (5) the victim submitted an invoice to the Société for the purchase of the wheelchair. In addition to the elements required in a tender, the invoice shall contain the wheelchair manufacturer's code number, its components and accessories and the victim's or the mandatary's signature. 	http://canlii.ca/t/7t1g

<i>Workers' Compensation Act, CQLR c A-3 Regulation respecting medical aid, CQLR c A-3.001, r 1</i>	<i>Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec (CSST) (Occupational Health and Safety Commission)</i>	NA	<p>The CSST covers the following medical assistance costs for a worker who is the victim of a work-related accident or disease :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the services of health professionals; care or treatment provided by a public health institution; medicine and other pharmaceutical products; prostheses and orthoses; any care, treatment, technical aid or expenses determined by regulation by the CSST. 	http://canlii.ca/t/xhp http://canlii.ca/t/11gg
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ONTARIO

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997</i>	<i>Community and Social Services</i>	<i>Employment Support</i>	The Ontario Disability Support Program Employment Supports help people who have a disability and can and want to work get ready for work and find a job, or start their own business. Employment supports such as job coaching, on-the-job training, software and mobility devices, and transportation assistance may be provided in order to remove barriers to the person's competitive employment and assist the person in attaining his or her competitive employment goal.	http://canlii.ca/t/rnz
	<i>Ministry of Health and Long Term Care</i>	<i>Assistive Devices Program</i>	Eligibility includes any Ontario resident who has a valid Ontario Health card issued in their name and has a physical disability of six months or longer. Equipment cannot be required exclusively for sports, work or school. ADP does not pay for equipment available under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board or to Group "A" veterans for their pensioned benefits. There are specific eligibility criteria which apply to each device category. If you are receiving Ontario Disability Support Program Income Support, you are eligible for the Assistive Devices Program under the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. ADP pays up to 75 per cent of the cost of equipment, such as artificial limbs, orthopaedic braces, wheelchairs and breathing aids. In most cases, the client pays a share of the cost at time of purchase and the vendor bills ADP the balance. For ADP supply categories where grants are	http://canlii.ca/t/2x2

			paid, the client pays 100 per cent of the cost to the vendor. If you are receiving social assistance benefits under Ontario Works (OW), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Assistance to Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD), you may be eligible to receive more money.	
<i>Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997</i>	<i>Community and Social Services</i>	<i>Disability-related benefits: Hearing aids and mobility devices</i>	<p>If you are receiving Ontario Disability Support Program Income Support, you may be able to get additional help with your hearing aids and mobility devices. Dependent children 18 years of age or over are not eligible but may get help from Ontario Works discretionary benefits. The Ontario Disability Support Program can also provide help with the cost of batteries and repairs for mobility devices if no other funding is available. Here are some examples of mobility devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manual or electric wheelchairs • scooters • walkers • lifting devices 	http://canlii.ca/t/2x2
<i>Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997 Reg 222/98</i>	<i>Community and Social Services</i>	NA	Benefits shall be paid with respect to each of the members of a recipient's benefit unit if the Director is satisfied that he or she meets the criteria for them and income support is being paid on his or her behalf. An amount may be approved by the Director for dental services, dentures, prosthetic devices including eye glasses, clothing, wheelchairs and wheelchair accessories	http://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/regu/o-reg-222-98/latest/o-reg-222-98.html
<i>Ontario Works Act, 1997, SO 1997, c 25, Sch A</i>	<i>Community and Social Services</i>	<i>Ontario Works</i>	<p>To be eligible for Ontario Works, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live in Ontario • need money right away to help pay for food and shelter, and • be willing to take part in activities that will help you find a job. <p>The Assistive Devices Program of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care pays for 75% of the cost of an assistive device. If you do not have coverage for the remaining 25% and are receiving Ontario Works benefits, Ontario Works may pay for it. Ontario Works may also help you with the cost of an assessment for an assistive device.</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/2x1

<i>Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 S.O. 1997, CHAPTER 16 Schedule A</i>	<i>Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Ontario</i>	<i>Health Care Equipment and Supplies</i>	Individuals receiving benefits from WSIB are eligible for health care equipment/supplies include but are not limited to wheelchair, wheelchair accessories, crutches, tips, back rests (e.g., Obus formes/seats), wrist supports/splints, genito-urinary (G.U.) supplies, toilet seats, commodes, tub stools, grab bars, and walkers and accessories. The Nurse consultant must authorize wheelchair and wheelchair accessories.	https://www.canlii.org/en/on/la/ws/stat/so-1997-c-16-sch-a/latest/so-1997-c-16-sch-a
<i>Insurance Act</i>	NA	<i>Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule, O Reg 34/10</i>	Subject to section 18, medical benefits shall pay for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the insured person as a result of the accident for, wheelchairs or other mobility devices, prostheses, orthotics and other assistive device.	http://canlii.ca/t/8ms8

MANITOBA

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>The Manitoba Assistance Act, CCSM c A150</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade</i>	<i>The Employment and Income Assistance Program</i>	The Employment and Income Assistance Program (EIA) provides financial help to Manitobans who have no other way to support themselves or their families, including a person with a physical or mental incapacity or disorder. For people who are able to work, EIA will help them go back to work by providing supports to employment. EIA provides benefits (money) to help with health-related supplies or equipment not provided by other programs (Mobility equipment devices) and repairs – cost of approved items that are not covered by the Manitoba Wheelchair Program).	http://canlii.ca/t/8gw5
<i>Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act, CCSM c P215</i>	NA	<i>Automobile Insurance Coverage Regulation, Man Reg 290/88 R</i>	Will provide reimbursement to the insured for costs incurred from time to time by the insured for a wheelchair with required attachments.	http://canlii.ca/t/8gkv http://canlii.ca/t/8g48

<i>The Workers Compensation Act, CCSM c W200</i>	<i>Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba</i>	NA	Costs directly related to your workplace injury may also be covered. They include artificial limbs, braces, crutches, canes, hearing aids, wheelchairs and other aids - the reasonable repair and maintenance of these items is also covered.	http://canlii.ca/t/8gnn
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SASKATCHEWAN

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>The Adoption Act, 1998, SS 1998</i>	<i>Social Services</i>	<i>The Adoption Regulations</i>	Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) provides the bulk of mobility services and funding for mobility needs in the province. The Adoption Program there is an Assisted Adoption Program serve families who have children who have been in the care of or placed for adoption through the MSS. They may qualify to apply for additional assistance to cover the equipment, including wheelchairs. Families who adopt internationally or privately do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Assisted Adoption Program.	http://canlii.ca/t/v17
<i>The Department of Health Act, RSS 1978/ The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Regulations, 1976, Sask Reg 292/76</i>	<i>Health</i>	<i>Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL)</i>	The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living Program (SAIL) provides benefits that assist people with physical disabilities achieve a more active and independent lifestyle and to assist people in the management of certain chronic health conditions. Dependent on health coverage and program eligibility criteria, clients have access to the free loan of equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, cushions, paediatric mobility aids. The equipment is owned by the program and clients must return the equipment to a Special Needs Equipment Depot when they no longer require it. Repairs and maintenance of loaned equipment are also a benefit.	http://canlii.ca/t/wd8 http://canlii.ca/t/v99
<i>The Automobile Accident Insurance Act, RSS 1978, c A-35</i>	NA	<i>Personal Injury Benefits Regulations, RRS c A-35 Reg 3</i>	Individuals injured in an automobile accident- If the insurer considers it necessary or advisable for the rehabilitation of the insured, the insurer may provide the insured with a mobility device which includes, wheelchairs and accessories or mobility aids and accessories.	http://canlii.ca/t/vwk

<i>The Rehabilitation Act, RSS 1978, c R-17</i>	<i>Ministry of Health</i>	<i>Saskatchewan Abilities Council</i>	Equipment Loan Program, funded by Saskatchewan Health. Available for Saskatchewan residents with a valid Saskatchewan Health Services card. Equipment must be requisitioned by an authorized healthcare professional. A variety of mobility (wheelchairs, walkers etc.) and environmental equipment (hospital beds, commodes etc.) are available for loan.	http://canlii.ca/t/wn4
<i>The Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability Regulations, 2012, RRS c S-8 Reg 11</i>	<i>Social Services</i>	<i>Income Support for People with Disabilities</i>	Wheelchair/Mobility Scooter repairs required for mobility purposes related to a disability. Funds may be provided for reasonable repairs, including batteries, for equipment beneficiaries own if Saskatchewan Aids for Independent Living (SAIL) or Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) is not a resource.	http://canlii.ca/t/8r4t
<i>The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013, SS 2013, c W-17.11</i>	<i>Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board</i>	<i>NA</i>	Every worker who is entitled to compensation is entitled without charge to: (a) any medical aid that may be necessary as a result of the injury; (b) any other treatment by a health care professional; (c) any prosthetics or apparatus that may be necessary as a result of the injury, and to have any prosthetic limbs and eyes and any surgical appliances such as belts, braces, supports and orthopaedic shoes repaired, maintained and renewed when necessary by reason of accident or ordinary wear and tear.	http://canlii.ca/t/8sdp

ALBERTA

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Public Health Act, RSA 2000 /Alberta Aids to Daily Living and Extended Health Benefits Regulation Reg 236/1985</i>	Health	<i>The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program</i>	<p>The Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) program helps Albertans with a long-term disability, chronic illness or terminal illness to maintain their independence at home, in lodges or group homes by providing financial assistance to buy medical equipment and supplies. Equipment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkers and walking aids • Wheelchair cushions and accessories • Wheelchairs – manual and power* <p>* Equipment might not be new</p>	http://canlii.ca/t/81pf http://canlii.ca/t/82fr
<i>Insurance Act, RSA 2000, c I-3</i>	NA	<i>Automobile Accident Insurance Benefits Regulations, Alta Reg 352/1972</i>	Will cover all reasonable expenses incurred within 2 years from the date of the accident as a result of those injuries for necessary medical, surgical, chiropractic, dental, hospital, psychological, physical therapy, occupational therapy, massage therapy, acupuncture, professional nursing and ambulance services and, in addition, for other services and supplies that are, in the opinion of the insured person's attending physician and in the opinion of the Insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment or rehabilitation of the injured person, to the limit of \$50 000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/81wn http://canlii.ca/t/82df
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, RSA 2000, c W-15/ Workers' Compensation Regulation 325/2002</i>	<i>Workers' Compensation Board Alberta</i>	NA	For injured workers, the board may pay for a medical aid device which can include, scooters, wheelchairs (manual or electric), wheel chair accessories and walkers, if needed. If any apparatus or appliance, or the cost of any apparatus or appliance, is provided by the Board pursuant to subsection (1), the Board shall also provide for or pay for the cost of the repair, maintenance and replacement of that apparatus or appliance if it is in need of repair, maintenance or replacement by reason of accident or ordinary wear and tear and if the disability in respect of which the apparatus or appliance was provided continues.	http://canlii.ca/t/8201

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation, BC Reg 265/2002</i>	<i>Ministry of Housing and Social Development</i>	<i>Medical Equipment and Devices</i>	The Minister may provide medical equipment and devices to or for a family unit or for a person who is disabled and where the device is required for basic mobility. Medical equipment and devices for medically essential needs are available to clients who are eligible for general health supplements. Includes scooters, wheelchairs, and wheelchair seating systems.	http://canlii.ca/t/52gsr
<i>Employment and Assistance Regulation, BC Reg 263/2002</i>	<i>Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation</i>	<i>Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities</i>	The Minister may provide medical equipment and devices to or for a person who receives income assistance (subject to certain criteria). Includes scooters, wheelchairs, and wheelchair seating systems.	http://canlii.ca/t/52gt5
<i>Insurance (Vehicle) Regulation, BC Reg 447/83, Part 7 — Accident Benefits</i>	N/A	N/A	Where, in the opinion of the corporation's medical adviser, provision of any one or more of the following is likely to promote the rehabilitation of an insured who is injured in an accident for which benefits are provided under this Part, the corporation may provide reimbursement to the insured for costs incurred from time to time by the insured for the purchase and reasonable repair, adjustment or replacement for a wheelchair.	http://canlii.ca/t/85qt
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, RSBC 1996, c 492</i>	<i>Workers' Compensation Board of BC</i>	<i>WorkSafe BC</i>	Medical services and supplies that may be reimbursed including artificial limbs, canes, dentures, hearing aids, wheelchairs, eyeglasses, crutches, back and leg braces, and some orthotics	http://canlii.ca/t/84g2

YUKON

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Extended Health Care Benefits Regulation, YOIC 1994/169</i>	<i>Health and Social Services</i>	<i>Pharmacare</i>	A person who is a Yukon resident and: a) is at least 65 years old; or b) is at least 60 years old and whose spouse is a Yukon resident who is at least 65 years old; and (c) is enrolled in the Health Care Insurance Plan; is eligible for benefits under this Regulation. This includes walking aids and wheelchairs.	http://canlii.ca/t/8jjs
<i>Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Regulation, YOIC 1994/168</i>	<i>Health and Social Services</i>	<i>Chronic Disease Program</i>	If you receive health insurance benefits through your employer or a third party insurance agency – claims must be submitted to these insurers first. The Chronic Disease Program is the payer of last resort. Financial assistance is provided for prescription drugs, medical surgical supplies, medical equipment, food supplements or prostheses that are medically required for the management of a condition, and are recommended by a medical practitioner licensed to practice in the Yukon. Medical equipment includes manually operated wheelchairs and walking aids.	http://canlii.ca/t/8js8
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, SY 2008, c 12</i>	<i>Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board</i>	NA	The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board provides devices the injured worker will require to be restored to pre-injury levels of daily living. Wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters are all devices that may be considered when making this determination.	http://canlii.ca/t/8lt9

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Insurance Act, RSNWT 1988, c I-4</i>	NA	NA	All reasonable expenses incurred within four years from the date of the accident as a result of such injury for necessary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, where the chiropractic services are recommended by a legally qualified medical practitioner, hospital professional nursing and ambulance service and for any other service within the meaning of insured services under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act and for such other services and supplies which are, in the opinion of the legally qualified medical practitioner of the insured person's choice and that of the Insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment, occupational retraining or rehabilitation of said person, to the limit of \$25,000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/8j07
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, SNWT 2007, c 21</i>	<i>Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission</i>	NA	If related to a worker's injury, the WSCC may pay for hospital expenses, health care costs, prescriptions, rehabilitation, dental treatment, mobility aids (includes wheelchairs, or walkers), and eyeglasses. In addition, we may provide clothing, transportation, and living allowances.	http://canlii.ca/t/8hv8

NUNAVUT

Statute	Governing Body	Regulation/ Program	Description	Website
<i>Insurance Act, RSNWT (Nu) 1988, c I-4</i>	NA	NA	All reasonable expenses incurred within four years from the date of the accident as a result of such injury for necessary medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, where the chiropractic services are recommended by a legally qualified medical practitioner, hospital, professional nursing and ambulance service and for any other service within the meaning of insured services under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act and for such other services and supplies which are, in the opinion of the legally qualified medical practitioner of the insured person's choice and that of the Insurer's medical advisor, essential for the treatment, occupational retraining or rehabilitation of said person, to the limit of \$25,000 per person.	http://canlii.ca/t/8l8j
<i>Workers' Compensation Act, SNU 2007, c.15</i>	<i>Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission</i>	NA	If related to a worker's injury, the WSCC may pay for hospital expenses, health care costs, prescriptions, rehabilitation, dental treatment, mobility aids (includes wheelchairs or walkers), and eyeglasses. In addition, we may provide clothing, transportation, and living allowances.	http://canlii.ca/t/8lvc

Disability Service Offices

For more information about the programs listed above, or any other disability policy, please consult the office in the jurisdiction you are interested in.

FEDERAL

Social Development for Disability Programs
Office for Disability Issues
Employment and Social Development Canada
105 Hotel de Ville Street, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9
Toll-free: 1-800-622-6232

Employment and Social Development
Phone: 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) TTY: 1-800-926-9105

Honorable Pierre Poilievre, Minister of Employment and Social Development
Rm 680, La Promenade Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Phone: (613) 992-2772 Fax: (613) 992-1209

ALBERTA

Alberta Supports Contact Centre
Toll Free: 1-877-644-9992 Fax: (780) 422-9681 Email: ei.ascc.m@gov.ab.ca

Provincial Disability Supports Initiatives
10th Floor, Milner Building, 10040 104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0Z2
Phone: (780) 415-0915 Fax: (780) 427-9145

Honorable Heather Klimchuk
224 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6
Phone: (780) 643-6210 Fax: (780) 643-6214

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Service BC
Victoria: (250) 387-6121 Vancouver: (604) 660-2421 Elsewhere in BC: 1 800 663-7867 Outside BC: 1 604 660-2421
Email: EnquiryBC@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation
PO BOX 9933 STN PROV GOVT VICTORIA, BC V8W 9R2

Michelle Stillwell, Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation
Unit 2B-1209 Island Highway East, Parksville, BC V9P 1R5
Phone: (250) 248-2625 Fax: (250) 248-2787 Email: Michelle.Stilwell.MLA@leg.bc.ca

MANITOBA

Manitoba Family Services

General Intake Line Phone: (204) 945-1335 Email: mgf@gov.mb.ca

Disabilities Issues Office

630 - 240 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0J7

www.gov.mb.ca/dio Phone: (204) 945-7613 Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069, Ext. 7613

Honorable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities

Phone: (204) 945-4173 Fax: (204) 945-5149

Email: minfs@leg.gov.mb.ca minhcd@leg.gov.mb.ca

NEW BRUNSWICK

Department of Social Development

Phone: 1-866-426-5191 Toll Free: 1-866-426-5191

Fax: (506) 856-3193 E-mail: sd-ds@gnb.ca Website: www.gnb.ca/0017/index-e.asp

Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons

Phone: (506) 444-3000 Toll Free: 1-800-442-4412 Email: pcsd@gnb.ca

Honorable Cathy Rogers, Healthy and Inclusive Communities

Place 2000 250 King Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 9M9

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Advanced Education and Skills

P.O. Box 8700 3rd Floor, West Block, Confederation Building, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6

Phone: (709) 729-2480 Email: aesweb@gov.nl.ca

Honorable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development Minister of Advanced Education and Skills

Department of Advanced Education and Skills

Phone: (709) 729-3580 Fax: (709) 729-6996 Email: clydejackman@gov.nl.ca

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Department of Health and Social Services

Government of the Northwest Territories

P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9

Email: hsa@gov.nt.ca

NWT Disabilities Council

Suite 116, 5102 50th Avenue, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 3S8

Phone: (867) 873-8230 Toll Free: 1-800-491-8885 Fax: (867) 873-4124 Email: admin@nwtdc.net

Honorable Glen Abernethy, Minister of Health & Social Services, Minister Responsible for Seniors, Disabilities

P.O. Box 1320; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9

Phone: (867) 669-2388 Fax: (867) 873-0306 Email: glen_abernethy@gov.nt.ca

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Community Services

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1177 Phone: (902) 424-6111

Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission

MacDonald Building, 2131 Gottingen Street, PO Box 222, CRO, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2M4

Phone: (902) 424-8280 TTY: (902) 424-2667 Toll free in NS: 1-877-996-9954 Fax: (902) 424-0592

Honorable Joanne Bernard, Minister of Community Services

Department of Community Services

8th Floor, Nelson Place, 5675 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H1

Phone: 1-877-424-1177 Fax: (902) 424-3287 Email: DCSMIN@novascotia.ca

NUNAVUT

Government of Nunavut

P.O. Box 1000 Station 200, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Toll free: 1-877-212-6438 Tel: (867) 975-6000 Fax: (867) 975-6099

Website: www.gov.nu.ca Email: info@gov.nu.ca

Honorable Jeannie Ugyuk, Minister of Family Services

Phone: 975-5026 Fax: 975-5042 Email: JeannieUgyuk@netsilikmla.ca

ONTARIO

Ontario Public Works

Ministry of Government Services

77 Wellesley Street West, 8th Floor, Ferguson Block, Toronto ON M7A 1N3

Phone: (416) 326-8555 Toll-free: 1-800-268-1142

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services

80 Grosvenor St, Hepburn Block, 6th Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1E9

Phone: 416-325-5666 Toll Free: 1-888-789-4199 TTY Toll Free: 1-800-387-5559

Honorable Helena Jaczek, Ministry of Community and Social Services

6th Floor, Hepburn Block, 80 Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Phone: (416) 325-5225 Fax: (416) 325-3347

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Disability Support Program

Second Floor, Jones Building

11 Kent Street, PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 7N8

Phone: (902) 620-3777 Toll-free: 1-866-594-3777 Fax: (902) 894-0242

Disability Advisory Council

5 Lower Malpeque Road, Unit #2, Landmark Plaza, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1E 1R4

Phone: 902-892-9149 Toll Free: 1-888-473-4263 (1-888-4PEICOD) Fax: 902-566-1919

Email: admin@peicod.pe.ca

Honorable Valerie E. Docherty, Minister of Community Services and Seniors and
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Second Floor, Jones Building, 11 Kent Street, PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 7N8
Phone: (902) 620-3777 Toll-free: 1-866-594-3777 Fax: (902) 894-0242

QUEBEC

Office des personnes handicapées du Québec
309, rue Brock, Drummondville, Québec J2B 1C5
Toll Free: 1 800 567-1465 TTY: 1 800 567-1477 Fax: (819) 475-8753

Honorable Gaétan Barrette, Minister of Health and Social Services
Édifice Catherine-de-Longpré
1075, chemin Sainte-Foy, 15e étage, Québec, G1S 2M1
Website: www.msss.gouv.qc.ca

SASKATCHEWAN

Office of Disability Issues
1920 Broad Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, S4P 3V6
Phone: (306) 787-7283 Fax: (306) 798-4450 Email: odi@gov.sk.ca

Hon. Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services
Room 303, Legislative Building, 2405 Legislative Drive, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, S4S 0B3
Phone: (306) 787-3661 Fax: (306) 787-0656 Email: ss.minister@gov.sk.ca

YUKON

Community Adult Services Unit
3168 3rd Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon
Phone: (867) 667-5674 or 1-800-661-0408 extension 5674 Fax: (867) 393-6278

Workplace Diversity Employment Office, Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6
Email: wdeo@gov.yk.ca Phone: (867) 667-5898 Toll Free in Yukon: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5898 Fax: (867) 456-3973
TDD: (867) 667-5864

Hon. Mike Nixon, Minister of Health and Social Services
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 633-7973 Fax: (867) 393-6252 E-mail: mike.nixon@gov.yk.ca