



Prince Edward Island
Association for
Community Living
Diversity includes.

Join the Movement
www.peiacl.org

Navigating the System

Supporting Families

PEIACL seeks to promote and create a fair and inclusive community where everyone can participate and fulfil their potential. We celebrate individual differences and seek to ensure that everyone is treated with respect. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity where anyone with any form of intellectual disability—regardless of age, cultural background, gender expression, or sexual orientation—can belong and participate fully in all aspects of community life.

PEIACL’s main goal is to empower people with intellectual disabilities and their families and/or supports to lead the way in self-advocacy and advancing inclusion in their communities. We recognize the rights for everyone to have a full range of life choices, including access to education, affordable and appropriate housing, leisure options, gainful employment, and participation in the community.



We know that attempting to navigate the system of doctors, service providers, educators, community resources, family and tax information for individuals who have intellectual disabilities and their families and/or supports can be complex and confusing. Being able to clearly collect information around available services, community supports, service providers, and financial planning should be transparent.

This guide is a practical tool for individuals and supporting persons who need direction. Call us, we can help you navigate the system you are in.

Understanding Intellectual Disability

The terms ‘intellectual disability’ and ‘developmental disability’ are sometimes used interchangeably, however, ‘intellectual disability’ is more commonly used. It is a term that includes people who face challenges in learning and communication, people with Autism, Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and other neurodevelopmental conditions. An intellectual disability is something someone can be born with, or it can be acquired later in life.

PEIACL will assist anyone who has a minimum self-identified intellectual disability; however, additional supports are available and may require a formal diagnosis of ‘Intellectual Disability’ or ‘Autism Spectrum Disorder’ from a medical professional.



WHO WE HELP

The work that PEIACL does is guided by the work Inclusion Canada does, including Inclusion Canada Position Statements which make clear Inclusion’s position on thematic issues in various key priority areas, and bring detail to Inclusion Canada’s beliefs and values with respect to principles that we believe must guide the processes involved.

PEIACL OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS:
40 ENMAN CRESCENT
ROOM 273
CHARLOTTETOWN, PE
C1E 1E6

FIND US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, AND LINKEDIN:
@PEIACL | #PEIACL

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.PEIACL.ORG

PEIACL'S VISION

A Prince Edward Island in which people with intellectual disabilities and their families belong and participate fully in all aspects of community life.

PEIACL'S MISSION

PEIACL is a family-based association empowering people with intellectual disabilities and their families to lead the way in advancing inclusion in their own lives and in their communities. We do this by sharing information, fostering leadership for inclusion, facilitating networking, connecting people and opportunities, and promoting rights and values in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Navigating the System

Financial Support

There are both provincial and federal programs that offer financial components to qualifying individuals who have completed an assessment. Appropriate support can be provided with a better understanding of how the disability may affect the individual's activities of daily life.

PROVINCIAL

AccessAbility Supports is open to all Islanders with a qualifying disability and is intended to ensure that those individuals get the assistance they need to reach their full potential. Support varies for each person, but may include personal, housing, community, caregiver, and financial support.

For more information about AccessAbility Supports, call **902-620-3777** or toll-free in Prince Edward Island **1-877-569-0546**, or email DeptSDH@gov.pe.ca

Preschool Autism Funding: To be eligible for funding, preschool children must be diagnosed ASD and enrolled in the Early Years Autism Service. For referrals to this service, contact the Early Years Autism Manager at **902-368-4472**.

School Age Autism Funding is specifically intended for home or community support outside of school hours or during school vacation periods. For more information call toll-free **1-888-482-5330** or email autismfunding@gov.pe.ca



FEDERAL

Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

is a non-refundable tax credit that helps persons with disabilities, or their supporting person, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay. An individual may claim the disability amount once they are eligible for the DTC. This amount includes a supplement for persons under 18 years of age at the end of the year. For more information visit online at: <https://tinyurl.com/33wxfx7>

Registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a savings plan intended to help parents and others save for the long-term financial security of a person who is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC). Contributions to an RDSP are not tax deductible and can be made until the end of the year when the beneficiary turns 59. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8s7k8f>

Navigating the System

Financial Support



Our definition of family: two or more individuals living together or apart who are connected by blood, marriage, adoption, or a commitment to one another.

If you or someone you know needs an advocate or support and guidance while navigating various systems, please contact our Family Inclusion Facilitator at 902-439-4607 or familysupport@peiacl.org

PEIACL WHO WE ARE

Prince Edward Island Association for Community Living (PEIACL) is a member of Inclusion Canada, a national federation of 13 provincial-territorial member organization and over 300 local associations.

As a federation, we are committed to ensuring people with an intellectual disability realize the rights to which they are entitled under the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Guided by the needs of each individual, we provide support and advocacy services in various environments, such as schools, government offices, places of employment, and family homes. We offer:

- Active support at meetings in schools, family homes, AccessAbility and assured income, other NGO service providers, and support teams.
- Facilitation of partnerships between families and professionals.
- Workshop presentations and representation on committees.
- Information, resources, and contacts to a wide range of services and supports.

Support Match

If you or someone you know needs a Support Worker for respite or assistance caring for a loved one who has an intellectual disability, please contact our Support Match Coordinator at 902-388-5432 or supportmatch@peiacl.org

PEIACL can connect families to potential respite workers/staff through our database.

The goal of the Support Match Program is to recruit and assess potential support workers, then to connect these support workers with any individuals or families requiring support in caring for a loved one who has an intellectual disability. This provides relief and peace of mind as well as the opportunity for positive relationship-building between individuals and their matched workers.

The database is for individuals or those supporting someone with an intellectual disability who are seeking in-home support such as respite care, development of life skills, community access, or family support programs.



Navigating the System

READY WILLING & ABLE

If you would like to know more about how Ready, Willing & Able can be of help, please contact our Labour Market Facilitator, at 902-394-0350 or rwa@peiacl.org

RWA works directly with businesses that are looking to hire and tap into the talents and capabilities of an inclusive workforce. We then share these job opportunities with job seekers who have an intellectual disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder. We can help in the areas of:

- **Employment:** RWA helps connect individuals to employers that have available positions that need to be filled. These positions are real jobs with real responsibilities and real pay. RWA can also help with costs associated with having a job coach, specific work items (such as tools or clothing), and transportation.
- **Secondary Education:** RWA supplies additional supports to help with educational needs, including paying for a tutor or note-taker, or additional educational supplies.
- **Starting a business:** RWA can support entrepreneurs in developing a business plan to turn ideas into a reality.

READY, WILLING & ABLE

Is a national partnership of Inclusion Canada, the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA), and their member organizations. Funded by the Government of Canada and active in 20 communities across the country, RWA is designed to increase the labour force participation of people with an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



Additional Programming

Sign up for our newsletter and stay up to date with projects and programs PEIACL is offering. Contact us at 902-439-4607 or executivedirector@peiacl.org

In addition to our core supports, PEIACL often receives federal, provincial, and private funding for additional projects and programs that we offer throughout the year. With the goal of making Prince Edward Island more inclusive—at home, at school, in the workplace, and in the community.

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