



Prince Edward Island
Association for
Community Living
Diversity includes.

Navigating the System

PEI Association for Community Living

PEIACL seeks to promote and create a fair and inclusive community where everyone can participate and fulfill 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 recognizes the right 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 an intellectual disability and their families and/or supporters 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. Please reach out and 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.



PEIACL'S VISION

A Prince Edward Island in which people with an intellectual disability 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 an intellectual disability 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).

PEIACL OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS:

40 ENMAN CRESCENT ROOM
273 CHARLOTTETOWN, PE
C1E 1E6

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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 **1-866-594-3777**, or email DeptSDS@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 or more information, contact the Autism Funding Coordinator **902-438-4854** or email earlyyearsautism@gov.pe.ca

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 designed to support individuals with disabilities or their supporting persons by reducing the amount of income tax payable. Once eligible for the DTC, an individual can claim the disability amount, which includes an additional supplement for individuals under 18 years old at the end of the year. For detailed information and eligibility criteria, you can visit the official website through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/33wxfxn7>

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>

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 (UNCRPD).

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Supporting Families

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, support and/or guidance while navigating various systems, please contact our Family Inclusion Facilitator at 902-439-4607 or familysupport@peiacl.org

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:

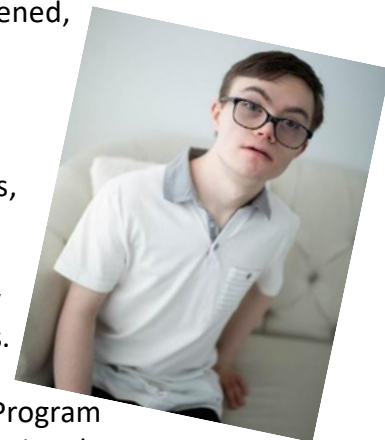
- Active support at meetings in schools, family homes, AccessAbility and assured income, other NGO service providers, and support teams.
- Facilitation of partnerships between families and professionals.
- Workshop presentations and representation on committees.
- Information, resources, and contacts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

Support Match

The Support Match Program helps connect individuals with an intellectual disability with Support Workers who have been interviewed, screened, and placed in the Database.

Support workers can provide a number of supports to individuals including but not limited to; Respite care, development of life skills, enhanced social connections, job coaching and unique support requirements.

This ensures that individuals with an intellectual disability receive the necessary support to thrive in their daily lives. By fostering positive relationships between individuals and their matched support workers, the Support Match Program can offer both relief and peace of mind to families, enhancing the overall well-being of everyone involved.



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

The Work that we do

Is guided by Inclusion Canada's position statements on thematic issues in various key priority areas that are grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD), and informed by people with an intellectual disability, and their families.

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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 our partnering employment organizations, supporting job seekers who have an intellectual disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder. We can help in the areas of:

- **Employment:** RWA facilitates the connection between employers with job openings and qualified job seekers. 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.
- **Business Supports:** Visit The Inclusive Workplace for more information and supports. at <https://theinclusiveworkplace.ca/en/home>

READY, WILLING & ABLE

Is a national partnership of Inclusion Canada (formerly the Canadian Association for Community Living), the Autism Alliance of Canada (Formerly Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance), and their member organizations. Funded by the Government of Canada, RWA is designed to increase the labour force participation of people with an intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



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Additional Programming

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.

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