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# Staying in Touch

Annual Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) Newsletter

No. 12, February 2013

***Welcome to the February 2013 issue of Staying in Touch! Read on to learn about some of the benefits and services you and your family may be eligible to receive.***

## Are you raising children?

The Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) **children's benefit** is a monthly benefit for those receiving CPPD who have dependent children under age 18 (or between 18 and 25 and attending school full-time). The benefit amount for 2013 is \$228.66. These benefits are not automatic. When a child newly enters your custody through birth, adoption, marriage or a common-law relationship, you or your child must apply.

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) **Child Rearing Provision** helps ensure that you get the highest possible CPP payment. Caring for young children can mean leaving the workforce or working fewer hours. If your earnings stopped or were lower because you were raising your children under the age of seven, you can ask the CPP to exclude that period from the calculation of your CPP benefit.

For more information on the children's benefit or the Child Rearing Provision, visit [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call **1-800-277-9914**.

**For important information about when you need to contact Service Canada, please see page 4.**



The Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) is a non-taxable amount paid monthly to eligible families raising children under the age of 18.

### The CCTB may include:

- the **National Child Benefit Supplement**, a monthly supplement for low-income families; and
- the **Child Disability Benefit**, a monthly benefit calculated per child under the age of 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment, and who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.

The **Universal Child Care Benefit** is a taxable benefit paid monthly to families for each child under the age of six.

For more information on these benefits, visit [cra.gc.ca/benefits](http://cra.gc.ca/benefits) or call the Canada Revenue Agency at **1-800-387-1193**.

## Participating in work and your community

***In 2012, about 5 000 CPPD recipients told us they had returned to work; of those, almost half continued to work regularly enough to stop receiving the CPPD benefit.***

**Earnings exemption** – You will need to contact us when your work-related earnings exceed \$5,100 in 2013 (gross income before taxes, whether you were an employee or self-employed). This is not a point at which your benefits will be stopped; rather, it is an opportunity for us to offer you support to help you continue working, if you are able.

**Work trial** – Once you have earned \$5,100 and are working regularly, you may be able to participate in a work trial for up to three months while you continue to receive CPPD benefits. This trial provides you time to test your ability to work on a regular basis.

**Automatic reinstatement** – This provision helps take the risk out of returning to work. You can have your benefits quickly reinstated within two years if your disability recurs and you can no longer work. Please contact us when you return to work to take advantage of this provision. You will need to contact Service Canada within one year of stopping work. There is no limit to the number of times you can request reinstatement. More than 3 400 beneficiaries have had their benefits reinstated since the launch of automatic reinstatement eight years ago.

**School or training** – Thinking of upgrading your skills? [CanLearn.ca](http://CanLearn.ca) provides information about services that can help you decide what and where to study and how to cover the costs. Please note, you must tell us if you receive any pay as part of your education or training program, or if you successfully complete a school, university, trade, technical training or rehabilitation program.

**Volunteer** – You can volunteer without affecting your CPPD benefits. Volunteering is a great way to make a difference in your life and community.

**CPPD Vocational Rehabilitation Program** – This program can help you prepare for regular employment. If you qualify, you can obtain career counselling, retraining and help with your job search.

**Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities** – This program can help you prepare for, obtain or maintain employment or self-employment. You can contact an organization currently funded under the Opportunities Fund to determine the location(s) and types of services offered. For a list of funded organizations, visit [servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/of/](http://servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/of/).

For more information on these programs and services, visit [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call **1-800-277-9914**. For the Opportunities Fund only, call **1 800 0-Canada** (1-800-622-6232) (TTY: 1-800-926-9105).

### \*TOM'S STORY

While Tom enjoyed working in construction, years of struggling with back and neck pain as well as numbness in his hands and legs, meant he had to stop working.

Tom started receiving CPPD benefits, but his desire to feel productive and help his two adult children with their finances left him wanting to return to work. Six months after going on disability, Tom contacted Service Canada to report that his former employer had offered to rehire him as a driller/blaster, tailoring his duties to his disability.

*\*Name has been altered to respect privacy.*

He accepted a three-month trial with the understanding that his upcoming surgery would determine the long-term success of his return to work.

While Tom's surgery went well and he was able to start working full-time, ongoing post-operative problems meant he eventually had to stop working again. Through automatic reinstatement, Tom started receiving CPPD benefits again in a timely manner. "I was served well by the CPPD professionals I was in contact with, appreciating their understanding and the help they provided me."



## Important information

### Save on your income tax

The **disability amount** is a non-refundable tax credit used to reduce the amount of income tax you need to pay. You may be able to claim the disability amount if you are eligible for the **Disability Tax Credit (DTC)**. To be eligible for the DTC, the Canada Revenue Agency has to review and approve Form T2201, *Disability Tax Credit Certificate*. Even if you do not take advantage of the disability amount, you should still apply since eligibility for the DTC is a requirement for several other programs and benefits.

The **Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB)** is a refundable tax credit intended to provide tax relief for eligible working low-income individuals and families who are already in the workforce and to encourage other Canadians to enter the workforce. Individuals who qualify for the WITB and the DTC may also be eligible for the WITB disability supplement.

For more information on the DTC and WITB, visit [cra.gc.ca](http://cra.gc.ca) or call the Canada Revenue Agency at **1-800-959-8281** (TTY: 1-800-665-0354).

## Planning for your future

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) helps people with disabilities and their families save for the future. Canadian residents who are eligible for the Disability Tax Credit can open an RDSP up until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 59.

The Government of Canada offers a matching grant of up to \$3,500 a year on eligible contributions. For low- and modest-income Canadians, a bond of up to a \$1,000 a year may be available even if no contribution is made. Grants and bonds will be paid until the end of the calendar year in which the beneficiary turns 49.

For more information, and to learn about Budget 2012 enhancements to the RDSP, visit [disabilitysavings.gc.ca](http://disabilitysavings.gc.ca) or call **1 800 0-Canada** (1-800-622-6232).

## When you reach 65

Once you reach 65, your CPPD benefit will automatically change to a CPP retirement pension, which will likely be less than your disability benefit. However, you may then apply for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and, depending on your income, the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Your spouse may also be eligible for the Allowance benefit. You will receive an application form for OAS at least six months before you turn 65.

To learn more about recent changes to the CPP and OAS, visit [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call **1-800-277-9914**.

### DOES A FAMILY MEMBER REQUIRE CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE?

When someone must take time off work to provide care or support to a gravely ill family member who is at risk of dying within 26 weeks, he or she may be eligible for Employment Insurance **compassionate care benefits**. These benefits may be paid up to a maximum of six weeks. Visit [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call **1-800-206-7218** (TTY: 1-800-529-3742) for more information.





## Important information

### While receiving CPPD benefits, what are my responsibilities?

Notify us if:

- your work-related earnings exceed \$5,100 in 2013;
- your return to work was unsuccessful;
- your medical condition has improved;
- a child enters or leaves your custody;
- you are in a paid education or training program, or you successfully complete a school, university, trade, technical training or rehabilitation program; or
- your address, phone number or direct deposit information changes.

By reporting these changes, you will avoid any disruptions to your CPPD payments and receive all the benefits for which you are eligible. You will also avoid having to repay any amount you were not eligible to receive.

**Administrative Penalties** – If you knowingly provide false or misleading information, or omit information on your CPP or OAS application, you may be subject to a monetary penalty and will be required to pay back any benefits you received that you would not have been entitled to otherwise. If you fail to establish a repayment schedule or adhere to it, you will also be charged interest. Disclosing and correcting inaccurate or incomplete information may exempt you from a penalty or prosecution. If you would like to come forward, please contact Service Canada.

CPPD benefits are **taxable**. We will not deduct income tax from your monthly payment unless you request it. To arrange to have income tax withheld from your CPPD, visit [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call **1-800-277-9914** (TTY: 1-800-255-4786) to complete and return Form ISP-3520, *Request for Voluntary Federal Income Tax Deductions*.

## SERVICE CANADA CONTACT INFORMATION

CPP and  
OAS benefits,  
including  
CPPD

**CLICK:** [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca)

**CALL:** **1-800-277-9914** (toll-free in Canada and the United States) or **1-613-957-1954** (call collect from outside Canada and the United States)

**1-800-255-4786** (TTY)

**Visit:** a Service Canada Centre

**Mail:** Service Canada  
PO Box 8522  
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H9  
CANADA

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