

Who We Are

The **British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society** or **BCANDS**, is a non-political, community based, not-for-profit, charitable organization serving the unique and diverse needs of Aboriginal persons living with a disability within British Columbia.

Established in 1991, BCANDS enjoys a long and successful history in the delivery of disability services and works in partnership with a variety of organizations, governments, communities and other stakeholders to assist us in successfully meeting our clients goals.

BCANDS is the only stand-alone organization of it's type in Canada and is dedicated to improving the lives of Aboriginal persons living with a disability, through safe and responsive multi-disciplinary / sectorial disability case management services.

At BCANDS we believe that all Aboriginal persons living with a disability have the right to enjoy their life to it's fullest potential and the right to have the support necessary to access information, programs and services to assist in making that happen.

At BCANDS we don't always have the answers immediately, but we'll work with you and together find solutions to address your identified needs.

"A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disability but emphasizes your possibilities"



CONTACT BCANDS

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To request BCANDS assistance please call our office or complete our online "Request for Services" form at:

www.bcands.bc.ca



WWW.BCANDS.BC.CA

**British
Columbia
Aboriginal
Network on
Disability
Society**



**Aboriginal
Disability
Services**

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Can We Help?

Aboriginal persons in British Columbia and across Canada continue to deal with the generational effects that European colonization has had on all aspects of our lives.

It is well documented that the health and disability status of Aboriginal people in British Columbia and Canada is significantly lower than that of our non-Aboriginal population.

Many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities are additionally affected by minimal economic and employment opportunities, community remoteness, limited community access to necessary health and social services and their associated professionals, limited community amenities and so forth. Demands and expectations placed on community and organizational leadership are high with multiple priorities competing for limited financial resources.

Due to these diverse and ever increasing community and organizational priorities, the provision of specialized disability and support services may be minimal with only limited resources available, leaving the individual living with a disability, their family and support systems at times frustrated.

If this sounds familiar to you, or if you or a loved one are experiencing some of this frustration, know that you are not alone and that we may be able to help.

Disability Case Management

Through professional and dedicated BCANDS team members, our staff works with each client individually recognizing that their needs, goals and the challenges that they face are as unique as BCANDS itself and what works for one person, may not necessary work for the next.

When you request BCANDS disability services you will be asked to provide information relating to yourself, your disability and health condition and the assistance you are seeking from the Society. All information is held in strict confidence and can only be released to an external service provider with your consent and only that information which is necessary to assist in the successful attainment of your goals.

After the initial intake form is complete BCANDS team members will work with you to identify possible solutions both internally (BCANDS) and through external service providers. BCANDS will then assist and coordinate the appropriate next steps in moving towards meeting your identified goals / needs.

Time spent with each client varies depending on their needs and the availability of resources necessary to assist in reaching their goals. Sometimes resources are not available in our clients community or, depending on their needs, don't exist at all. This requires us to think differently, creatively and to be bold and brave enough to challenge ourselves to imagine the realm of possibilities and strong enough to see those possibilities come true.

Who We Work With

To help ensure that our clients needs are adequately addressed, BCANDS has developed many relationships working with a variety of disability / health stakeholders and service providers. These vital relationships assist us in helping our clients achieve their goals. Some of these partnerships include, but are not limited to;

- Aboriginal Health Agencies
- Aboriginal Community Organizations
- Band Councils / Programs
- Friendship Centers
- Provincial Health Authorities
- Provincial Ministries
- Federal and Provincial Governments
- Correctional Facilities
- Community Living British Columbia
- Universities / Schools
- Metis Nation British Columbia
- First Nations Health Society
- Assembly of First Nations
- Employment Agencies
- Community Based Health and Disability Organizations
- Private Disability / Health Service Providers
- Funding Organizations / Foundations
- Adaptive Technology Service Providers

