



August 9, 2016

Re: Changes to PWD rates and BC Bus Pass Program

As a Persons with Disabilities (PWD) income support client, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is sending this letter through your Band Social Development Worker (BSDW) to provide you with information about the changes to the on-reserve disability assistance rate, the Transportation Support Allowance and the BC Bus Pass program for Persons with Disabilities effective September 1, 2016.

How will this affect you?

- Starting September 1st, **all** individuals receiving on-reserve PWD income support will receive a rate increase of \$25 to their monthly PWD support allowance.
- In addition, a \$52 monthly Transportation Support Allowance (STA) **or** an in-kind monthly bus pass will be provided to all clients receiving on-reserve PWD assistance to assist with your transportation needs.

If you do NOT live in an area serviced by BC Transit or Translink:

You will automatically receive the \$25 monthly PWD rate increase and the \$52 Transportation Allowance added to your PWD support benefits, beginning September 1st, 2016, for a monthly total of \$77.

If you live in an area serviced by BC Transit or Translink, there are two options:

Option 1: I want to keep my bus pass

- You will no longer have to pay an annual \$45 administration fee.
- Inform your BSDW and continue to use the bus pass you already have.
- **You will not** receive the \$52 Transportation Support Allowance, but will receive the monthly \$25 increase to your disability assistance cheque.
- If you change your mind and want the Transportation Support Allowance instead of the bus pass, let your BSDW know when you submit your monthly renewal declaration so they can cancel your bus pass. You will then receive the \$52 Transportation Support Allowance on your next disability assistance cheque.

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Option 2: I want to cancel my bus pass and receive the \$52 Transportation Support Allowance

- **You must let your BSDW know as soon as possible** in order to receive your Transportation Support Allowance of \$52 starting September 1, 2016.
- Starting in September you will automatically receive \$52 on your disability assistance cheque, in addition to the \$25 income support increase, for a monthly total of \$77 monthly.
- If you choose to cancel your bus pass, **it will be valid until August 31, 2016**. After September 1, you can discard your bus pass as it will no longer be valid.
- If you change your mind and wish to receive the bus pass again instead of the \$52 Transportation Support Allowance, please let your BSDW know at the time of your monthly renewal. A new bus pass will be issued to you and will be valid the following month.

For more information, please contact your Band Social Development Worker.

Sincerely,

William McArthur
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