



2021 Bursary Award Recipients

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities would like to congratulate 12 post secondary students for being recipients of our Education for Life Bursaries for the year 2021. There were many deserving applicants from which to choose, and our final decisions were not easily made. Over the past 20 years that VAD has awarded bursaries, we are continually inspired by the broad range of studies that people with disabilities are choosing to pursue.

Elsa Marie Lodewyk Memorial Bursary \$1000.00

Elsa Marie Lodewyk was born on April 18, 1992, with severe Cerebral Palsy and was not expected to live for even a few days. She had a strong will to live, though, and lived a full life for almost 19 years. Elsa's disabilities meant that she needed help from many people – her parents, siblings, teachers, schoolmates, caregivers, doctors and nurses. She touched the lives of many people with her gentle spirit and had many friends. Elsa showed that life is not what we accomplish but more about our relationships, listening and being a friend. Even though Elsa could not speak, she was able to contribute to the lives of many people and her life had a positive impact on many.

The Elsa Marie Lodewyk Memorial Bursary was established by her family to reflect Elsa's generosity, kindness and gentleness. She would have been thrilled to know that she was helping another person with a disability.

To the Bursary Recipient: Just like Elsa, your life, too, will have more of an impact on others than you could ever imagine. We hope that this bursary will encourage you to live your life to the fullest and to be all that you can be.

Robertson-Wesley United Church Bursary \$1000.00

RWUC has a long history and passion for "outreach" service. The E.I. Clarke Memorial Fund was started in 1968 as a memorial to Edwin and Jean Clarke by their son. The intention of this fund is to allow the family to continue to provide service to the community that they were so passionate about – The Oliver community, and Edmonton. The Wesley Fund was established in 1971



when the Wesley United Church building was sold. The proceeds of this sale were invested and the proceeds are intended for outreach projects in our community.

On behalf of Voice of Albertans with Disabilities, congratulations on moving forward in your chosen field. Good luck with your studies. A total of ten \$500 bursaries, and two \$1000 bursaries were awarded. Due to privacy concerns, the names of the award winners have been withheld.

1. Applied Science, U of BC
2. Bachelor of Nursing, U of Calgary
3. Non-Destructive Testing, SAIT
4. Behavioural Sciences, Ambrose University
5. Pharmacist Technician, Red Deer College
6. Health Care Aide, Lethbridge College
7. Mathematics, U of Alberta
8. Biological Sciences, U of Calgary
9. Nursing, Mount Royal
10. Disabilities Studies, Bow Valley College
11. Bachelor Arts, U of Alberta
12. Bachelor Commerce, U of Calgary

Taxes: Home Accessibility Expenses

To claim Home accessibility expenses, an individual must:

- own a home in Canada
- have paid for eligible renovations

To claim the amounts for eligible renovations, an individual must be:

- 65 years of age or older at the end of the year OR
- eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)



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Claims can be up to \$10,000 per year in eligible expenses. The amount that can be claimed is not reduced by any government grants that may have been received.

To obtain and fill out a form for the DTC, contact Teresa at 780-488-9088 to make an appointment. Contact Sam for information about grants and eligibility options for accessible renovations by e-mail: accessibility@vadsociety.ca.

What is the disability tax credit?

The disability tax credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that helps persons with disabilities or their supporting persons 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.

The purpose of the DTC is to provide for greater tax equity by allowing some relief for disability costs, since these are unavoidable additional expenses that other taxpayers don't have to face.

Being eligible for the DTC can open the door to other federal, provincial, or territorial programs such as the registered disability savings plan, the Canada workers benefit, and the child disability benefit.

Have Your Taxes Done For Free

Call for an Appointment
780-488-9088
vad@vadsociety.ca

Are You Eligible?

Size of Family Unit	Max. Income
1 person	\$35,000
2 persons	\$45,000
3 persons	\$47,500
4 persons	\$50,000
5 persons	\$52,500
additional person	+\$3,000

Tax appointments between
March and April

Confidential and free tax preparation

VAD can help you apply for:
AISH, CPPD, DTC, LAP, DATs



What to Bring for your Appointment:

Government ID
Social Insurance Number
Tax Slips
Charitable Donation Receipts
Medical/Dental Receipts
Child Care Receipts
RRSP Contributions

We Do NOT Prepare taxes for:

Self-Employed Income
Rental Income
Farming & Fishing Income
Capital Gains
Bankruptcies
Deceased Persons
Other tax returns that require a professional accountant

To request T slips and for tax help,
call CRA: 1-800-959-8281

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What to do if you are eligible for but have not received the \$600 federal COVID-19 payment

Beneficiaries of federal disability benefits in 2020 were eligible to receive a \$600 one-time payment in recognition of extraordinary costs incurred during COVID-19.

If you were approved for the DTC as of mid-September 2020, you should have received your payment in October. Those approved as of November 25, 2020 should have received a payment in January. Those who applied for the DTC after this date may be expecting a payment in the Spring.

If you had the DTC or were approved by November 25, 2020 and you haven't received your \$600, there may be a problem with your payment.

Here are some steps you can take:

1. Check your DTC eligibility by logging into your MyAccount or calling the CRA at 1-800-959-8281. Make sure your address and banking information is up to date.
2. Call the CRA at to check that you're on the list to receive a payment. You should have been entered automatically but this is a common procedural error. Once you've been added to the list, your payment should come in the Spring.
3. If you've confirmed that all your information is correct, and you are already on the list, but you still haven't received payment, call 1-800-277-9914 and they'll investigate further.

The deadline to resolve issues is February 25th.

St. Albert Transit

Have you heard about the All Aboard transit passes? St. Albert Transit offers free local passes and lower-cost commuter passes to eligible residents accessing the AISH program or living in lower income households.

To learn more please contact the City Subsidy Coordinator at 780-394-0842 from Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or visit <https://stalbert.ca/city/transit/fares/>



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[subsidies/](#). Passes are only available to residents who qualify for this subsidy program.

Please note: The Community Services office is closed to the public and not available for in person purchases until further notice.



CONTACT US

Email - transit@stalbert.ca

Phone - 780-418-6060

Mon. - Fri., 8 AM - 5 PM

Autism CanTech!

Autism CanTech! is a program that helps autistic youth gain long-term employment. It takes an autistic-centred approach to education for digital job skills.

Autism CanTech! helps Autistic youth learn entry-level employability and technical skills for today's workplace. People who complete the program might work in many fields in the digital economy such as education, finance, government, software, or healthcare.

This unique program is tailored to participants' individual needs. We work with participants in small classes to help them learn practical work skills. The program has career coaches ready to work with participants one-on-one. We have assistive technology, and a curriculum with no tests or exams, so participants face as few barriers as possible.

In Autism CanTech! participants will learn:

- employability skills such as how to use communication and productivity tools, process management, and teamwork
- job-specific skills such as data processing

Participants will complete a six-month program that includes four months of coursework and a two-month paid work experience. They also have the chance to make friends and build relationships with other autistic youth. Employers will be trained to include and support participants and help them confidently engage



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with each other and their clients. Participants can still be on AISH or other government supports while in the program.

The program is accepting applicants until March 22, 2021. Space is limited and only those who qualify through the selection process will be accepted.

Program start date: April 6, 2021 (Full)

Next Program start date: September 2021

Tuition and fees: \$0

Delivery: Online, NorQuest Edmonton campus

Pre-requisites and requirements:

- Diagnosed or self-diagnosed as autistic
- Between the ages of 18-30
- Citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Not currently employed
- Can legally work in Canada
- Not currently in school or training
- Confident using a PC and software programs (Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, etc.)
- Can stick to routines; has some flexibility; is ready to learn new skills and find a long-term employment
- Passionate about technology, computers, gaming, hardware and software

For additional information, contact:

autismcantech@norquest.ca

After post-secondary consider a Non-Profit organization

When you are exploring the next steps after post-secondary, why not look into the non-profit sector? Scan the QR code to learn more! <https://vadsociety.ca/work-for-non-profits>

Help a Neighbour



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