

The Link

CONNECTRA
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

February 2009

Money in the bank: multiply savings with government 'peace of mind' plan

An incentive that multiplies the savings of people with disabilities will be outlined for ConneCTra members at February's annual reception.

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) accounts – dubbed “peace of mind” plans by the media – will be featured at the reception, which runs from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on **Thursday, Feb. 19** at Vancouver's Roundhouse Community Centre.

These saving plans are designed to aid long-term financial security of a person with a severe disability, boosted by grants from both federal and provincial governments. Anyone under 60 who qualifies for the federal Disability Tax Credit is eligible.

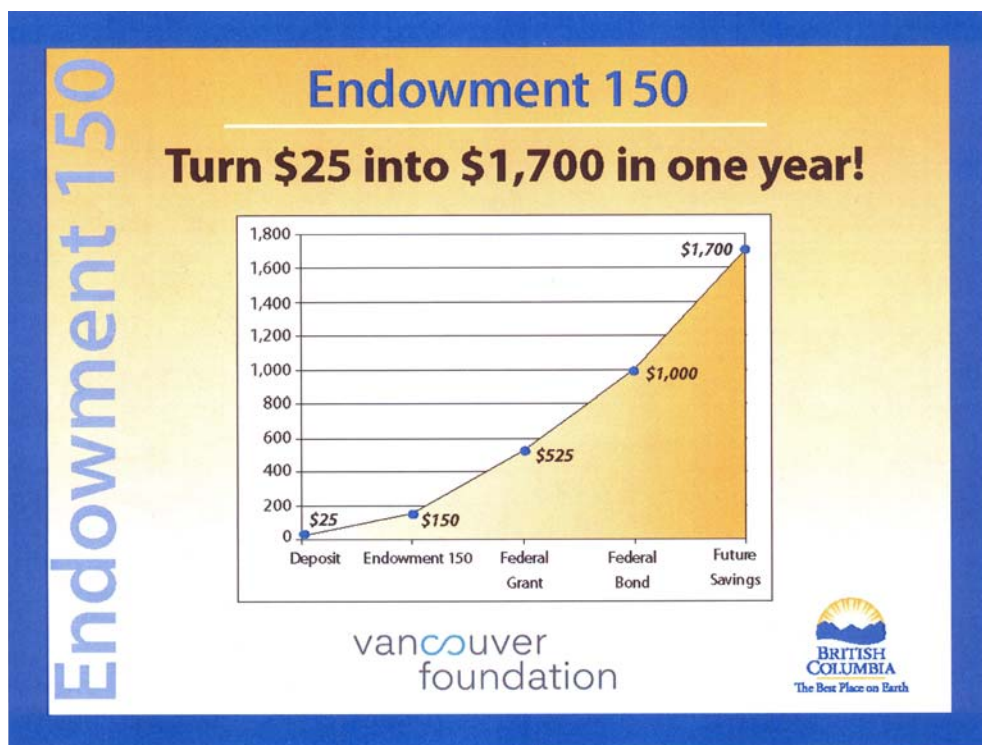
When people in BC on income assistance open an RDSP with \$25, they can apply for a \$150 grant from the province's Endowment 150 fund.



Art display: *Hilda's dog*, painted by Cody Tresierra.

The federal government will next give a \$525 grant and a \$1,000 bond.

Within one year that \$25 grows to \$1,700 (plus interest)!



Let it grow: Let federal and provincial governments multiply your money.

The province has agreed to exempt RDSP assets and withdrawals from social assistance calculations, in addition to granting \$5 million to the Vancouver Foundation to enable the Endowment 150 payments.

“The RDSP is a world's first,” said Al Etmanski, president of the **Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network**. “The plan is helping families secure better financial futures for their relatives with disabilities.”

Jack Styan, Executive Director of the Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network,

will make the RDSP presentation at the ConneCTra reception. The event will also feature presentations by **Disabled Clothing Services, PADS - Pacific Assistance Dogs Society** and a review of **HandyDART's** 2009 service changes, by Linda McGowan.

There will also be displays of artwork by ConneCTra members Art Jonker, Cody Tresierra and Shara Gutsche.

For more information contact program coordinator Steve Street: phone 604-688-6464 ext. 115, or email ssstreet@disabilityfoundation.org.

ConneCTra info:

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Audience: ConneCTra members listening to presentations at the group's Dec. 15 workshop.



Speakers: Seen here are (from left) Krista Lefler, Liz Charyna and Lani Johnson.

ConneCTra audience hears about range of opportunities for people with disabilities

ConneCTra's last workshop examined a variety of employment-related opportunities.

The workshop, held at Vancouver's Library Square Conference Centre, featured a presentation by Krista Lefler from **IAM Cares Society**, which provides "employment assistance and support services for people with disabilities," and Liz Charyna and Lani Johnson of inner-city regeneration group **Building Opportunities with Business**.

Charyna detailed the work of Building Opportunities with Business to connect people and businesses in an area south of the waterfront, bordered by Cambie St. and Clark Dr. She expects they will find work for 144 people by October 2009.

"We also work with people with barriers to employment," she said. "We create links, advertise job postings, or training opportunities with more than 40 agencies."

"The crux of what we do is we are an economic development agency, and broker relationships with business through our social purchasing portal and business development services to increase employment opportunities."

Live music at the Dec 15 event was provided by Rolf Kempf, a member of ConneCTra's sister group Vancouver Adapted Music Society, and program coordinator Steve Street, who sang carols.

Links to both organizations, and additional information about this and other ConneCTra workshops, is available at www.connectra.org, or through program coordinator Steve Street at 604-688-6464 ext. 115.

Credits:

Sabrina Miller
Matthew Wild

photos
writing & design



The trio: Lani Johnson, Steve Street and Liz Charyna.



Participant: Longtime ConneCTra member Junie Howie.



Showman: Rolf Kempf provided musical entertainment.

More: Steve Street at 604-688-6464 ext. 115, or ssstreet@disabilityfoundation.org