

## Accessibility Matters: Planning for Youth in Transition

### Remember:

Planning your future starts with YOU.

Explore your interests, goals and strengths.

Many fun and exciting ways such as by trying out a new activity, course or through a personality quiz such as those you can find on Work BC's Career Compass:  
<https://www.workbc.ca/CareerCompass/>

**Facts:** Youth and young adults are important in shaping the future of every community. In order for society to become more inclusive, youth with disabilities need to be given a space to have their voices heard and tools to reach their goals!

**Planning** - There are several planning tools with information specifically for youth with disabilities in transition such as: an aged-based planning booklet from Inclusion BC [InclusionBC.org/](http://InclusionBC.org/) On my way planning booklet & Independent Living Vernon's Youth in Transition Guide.

**EducationPlannerBC** - Search for post-secondary education programs by interest, subjects, type of credential and institutions, including adult special education programs. If you find that you encounter barriers in your future planning and do not feel that you are being listened to, you can contact advocacy representatives for help such as the Representatives For Children and Youth [www.rcybc.ca](http://www.rcybc.ca) or Disability Alliance BC <http://disabilityalliancebc.org/>.

**Post-secondary education** - There are federal, provincial and non-governmental scholarships and grants, each having different requirements. Submit a verification of your permanent disability to Student Aid BC to have scholarships and grants applied automatically. Some scholarship programs are not automatically applied, so check the **Student Aid BC website**. For example, the Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities offers up to \$2,000 each school year to successful applicants. Depending on the school that you are applying to, you will receive information regarding financial aid from the student disability advisor or the student financial aid advisor. The federal government also offers the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities. You can also connect with organizations like STEPS Forward BC for information on inclusive post-secondary education: <https://www.bc-ipse.org/> Training and Employment- Besides WorkBC, there are several agencies that provide training for youth with disabilities.

**Neil Squire's Working Together** - skills training, job search assistance, and support for Canadians with disabilities looking for employment <https://www.neilsquire.ca/individualprograms-services/workingtogether/>

**Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities**-funds projects to keep people with disabilities employed or find employment, [www.oppsfund.ca](http://www.oppsfund.ca) or call 604-451-5511.

**EMPLOY! Youth Employment Program**- Community Futures North Okanagan, 10 week employment skills training program <http://www.futuresbc.com/employment/>

### Solutions:

- **MentorAbility** - Job mentoring for youth by Inclusion BC <https://inclusionbc.org/our-services/mentorability/>
- **Disabilityawards.ca** - Scholarship catalogue for students with disabilities
- The BC government website's **Education Planner** to help you navigate scholarships, grants & bursaries <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/finance/scholarship>
- **Centre for Accessible Post-secondary Education Resources** - Accessible learning materials, <https://caperbc.ca/> or 1-855-729-2457