



## **Important dates - Office closed**

July 1st - Canada Day  
August 2nd - BC Day

### **What's inside?**

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## **What's New at NDRC?**

NDRC has had to adapt to "a new normal" along with the rest of the world. In the beginning this meant having only one employee in the building doing permits by mail and phone while the rest of the employees worked remotely and the volunteers stayed home. We are now able to allow 3 clients in at a time, ensuring safety through masks and social distancing, and we have most of our great team of volunteers back. As of May 30th all employees and volunteers have received at least their first dose of the vaccine!

### **Tax Program**



Our tax program is now closed for the season. It was a great success and we were kept very busy. Thank you to our four amazing tax prep volunteers who handled 113 tax filings. We will be back in March and April 2022. For anyone who still needs help, Volunteer Nanaimo, mentioned on the last page of this newsletter, has a free tax program year round.

## Ongoing Programs

### Computer School Program

Computer school reopened at the end of June 2020 with a new format. We now offer one on one, masked, half-hour sessions at the centre, in order to reduce contact as much as possible while still being able to help. Hands are also sanitized before touching devices and surfaces are wiped between students. We are planning exciting changes to this program for September which will be announced in our September newsletter.



### Information and Referral

We have also extended and improved our Information and Resource Referral Program (IRRP), offering assistance and advocacy to clients with obtaining and completing the PWD application form as well as filling out the first portion of the PWD (Provincial disability funding) form. We assist in applying for CPP-D (Federal disability funding), the Disability Tax Credit and in filling out any forms/applications (housing applications, insurance forms, medical equipment applications, etc).

### Parking Permit Program

Likely our most well known program, accessible parking permits are often what bring people to our door. If you are in need of a parking permit the first step is to go to your doctor, nurse practitioner or other medical professional \*registered in BC\*. You can stop by and pick up a form from our office but most local clinics have them already. The medical professional fills out the form and determines whether it is a permanent or temporary disability. We can not change this designation. The medical professional may charge a fee for filling out the form. This is their fee and not at all related to the permit processing fee we charge when we issue you your permit. This program is not covered by any government funds so we rely on these fees to cover our costs and keep the doors open. They also help to fund our other amazing, free programs!

### Motorcycle Decal Program

Motorcycle Decals are now available for people with disabilities in BC.

While motorcycles are not always top of mind when people think about designated parking or people with disabilities, the Nanaimo Disability Resource Centre has received a number of requests from permit holders who ride motorcycles.

Working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and B.C.'s Accessibility Secretariat, a decal has been developed that can be placed on the windshield or the front of the motorcycle. NDRC is pleased to announce that it has partnered with SPARC BC in their Disability Parking Permit Decals for Motorcycle Program. Interested applicants must already possess an active permanent disability parking permit for their car/van or truck issued by our office and renewed as required. A further doctor's authorization will NOT be necessary. There will be no fee for the decal for the motorcycle. Please note, that when you are using the decals, you must follow the Rules of Use for the Parking Permit Program provided in your Parking Permit Information Sheet. As well, you should carry your Parking Permit with you as you may be required to provide proof that you are the valid permit holder.

We have a limited supply to begin with and they will be issued on a first-come first-served basis. You can pick up the motorcycle decal at the Nanaimo Disability Resource Centre.

## Volunteer Appreciation

Did you know that NDRC has five employees but otherwise runs on the kindness and generosity of our volunteers? We currently have ten active front desk volunteers who greet and assist walk in clients, answer phones and issue parking permits. We also have three active computer school volunteers, four tax program volunteers and several more on the board and/or participating on committees. The Newsletter Committee, along with two staff members, is produced by volunteers. Thank you so much to all of our volunteers, new and old. This place would not exist without all of you!



### Warm Welcome to Makyla

In addition to our staff and volunteers we are delighted to welcome a practicum student this year. Makyla is helping out in all different areas of the organization including covering front desk if we're short a volunteer or helping with students in the computer room. She will be here until August. Welcome Makyla, we're looking forward to working with you!

## Resources

In light of what has been a difficult time for many and the opiate crisis we wanted to offer the following information for those in need:

**24 Hour Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888**

**6pm-10pm VI Crisis Line for texting: 250-800-3806**

### Central Island Access Services at Brooks Landing - Children, Youth & Families:

Access Services provides crisis response and counselling, emergency services. It also connects to mental health and substance use and community treatment and recovery services for all age groups. This service also includes the **Crisis Response Team and the Walk-In Crisis Counselling Clinic.**

Hours of Operation

Crisis Response Team

Monday - Friday: 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Weekends: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Walk-in Crisis Counselling Clinic

Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.



#203 - 2000 Island Hwy

Nanaimo, B.C.

V9S 5W3

250-739-5710

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## Celebrating Our Community

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### We Celebrate Volunteer Nanaimo!

3148 Barons Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 4B5

Email: vn3148@gmail.com



Telephone: 250-758-7121

Web: www.volunteernanaimo.com

Volunteer Nanaimo is a registered charity that does so much, not only for the citizens of Nanaimo, but for the volunteer community as well. Volunteer Nanaimo hosts Volunteer Appreciation Events – it was done virtually this year.

Volunteer Nanaimo also provides:

- Technical support for non-profit agencies and individuals within our community by offering computer repair, software upgrades, network setup, malware removal, and computer upgrades – all this by donation plus the cost of parts if needed.
- Tax return services one Friday a month from May to November, and Fridays and Saturdays by appointment during tax season.
- Their "Angel Network" volunteers who knit squares to be pieced together to make into blankets for babies, seniors, or anyone moving into a new home.
- Access to the Youth 20/20 Can Project for youth between the ages of 15-29. This project brings youth together to share ideas, get involved, have fun, and to help shape the community. Their goal is to have each youth complete 120 hours of volunteering in a year.
- Assistance to citizens with the BC Recovery Benefit application.
- Access to the Christmas Angels Program. This program provides less fortunate households with gifts and food. Last year they made the holidays brighter for 397 households, reaching 1,190 individuals!

Nanaimo Disability Resource Centre congratulates Volunteer Nanaimo on their service to our community. We are proud to showcase their work! We are also grateful for their support by advertising new volunteer positions available in our organization.

We appreciate and thank you!

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### Help us save costs and reduce our environmental impact for a chance to win!

**Sign up for our e-newsletter and be entered for a draw to win a gift basket:**

Subscribe using our form at [NDRC.info/newsletter](http://NDRC.info/newsletter) or email [Marie@ndrc.info](mailto:Marie@ndrc.info)

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## Contact Us

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### Nanaimo Disability Resource Centre

[parking@ndrc.info](mailto:parking@ndrc.info) (parking permit information)

[marie@ndrc.info](mailto:marie@ndrc.info) (computer school, telephone visiting, newsletter)

[Allison@ndrc.info](mailto:Allison@ndrc.info) (volunteering/info and referral)

Website: [www.ndrc.info](http://www.ndrc.info)

**Hours: Open Monday to Friday at 9-12 and 12:30-3:30**

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250-758-5547