



RAISING A Second Generation

RESOURCES FOR
**Grandparents Parenting Their Grandchildren
and Supports for Children**



Many Island grandparents are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

This can happen for a variety of reasons: the death of a parent; a parent relocating for employment; a parent relocating to school or military deployment; a parent being incarcerated; separation or divorce; a parent experiencing mental and/or health issues; or child safety reasons.

Although emotionally rewarding, parenting a grandchild can be challenging. Some grandparents may feel isolated, uncertain, or stressed. Many grandparents may also experience financial difficulties.

If you are a grandparent raising a grandchild, please remember that ***you are not alone***. Here is some information on legal, financial, and support services available in our communities that may be helpful

ACTIVITIES

Children's extracurricular activities, sports, and hobbies can be a challenge if you are living on a low income. Contact your town hall, community centre, or church for free youth events. Ask if a program has bursaries or lower-income rates; explore whether a local business or service club will sponsor your grandchild, or ask other grandparents and parents for ideas.

ADDICTIONS HELP

Contact Addictions Services if someone you care for is dealing with a drug or alcohol addiction. Persons are assessed and matched to a service appropriate to their need – 1-888-299-8399 or justtalkpei.ca.

AUTISM GRANTS

Up to \$6,600 annually is available to assist families of autistic children with the cost of an aide. The support encourages involvement in the community and/or provides tutoring, as well as builds on the learning at school. Visit www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-early-learning-and-culture/autism-funding or 1-888-482-5330.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

The provincial Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial assistance to help moderate and low income families pay for child care. You may be eligible for this program if you are caring for your grandchild. Eligibility is based on income. Call 902-368-6470 for more information.

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

The Canada Child Benefit provides financial support for low, modest, and middle-income families with children and replaces three existing benefits (*Canada Child Tax Benefit, National Child Benefit Supplement, Universal Child Care Benefit*). It provides maximum benefits to families with up to \$30,000 in net income and offers up to \$6,400 for children up to five years old and up to \$5,400 for children six to 17. If your grandchild lives with you and is under the age of 18 you may be eligible for the Canada Child Benefit. For more information call Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800 387-1193.

CANADA LEARNING BOND

The Canada Learning Bond is \$500 offered free by the Government of Canada to help you start saving now for a child's education after high school. Plus, your grandchild could get \$100 every year until he or she turns 15 years old to a maximum of \$2,000. The child must have been born after December 31, 2003 and the family must be receiving the Canada Child Benefit and have a maximum household income of \$45,000. Call 1-800-622-6232 for more information.

CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP) BENEFITS

If your grandchild is in your care because a parent(s) has died, the child may be entitled to monthly CPP payments. Contact the federal government at **1-800-277-9914** for more information.

CHILD ABUSE LINE (24 HOURS)

All Islanders are required to call Child Protection Services at **1-877-341-3101** or after hours at **1-800-341-6868** when a child may be in need of protection. Child Protection social workers assess reports of children who are at risk of being abused/neglected, or have been abused, including exposure to domestic violence.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) can help resolve larger disputes with your grandchild's parents such as custody, as well as help with day-to-day issues like parenting styles and discipline, and should be considered before going to court. Mediation is a confidential ADR process that works to achieve an out-of-court settlement using an impartial third-party mediator. Free mediation is available for matters regarding custody and care of children through the Family Court Counsellors Office at **902-368-6928**.

DENTAL

Children aged 3-17 can access dental care through the Public Health Dental Programs. These programs offer free or partially paid dental care and procedures. Call **902-368-5460** or **1-866-368-5460**.

DIABETES

Children and youth under 19 with type 1 diabetes may qualify for the Insulin Pump Program, which assists families with insulin pump therapy costs. The Diabetes Drug Program also provides assistance toward the cost of approved medications and supplies including insulin products, urine-testing materials, and blood strips. Call **902-368-4959**.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

If a child has a disability, he or she may be eligible for financial support through the provincial government Disability Support Program to help with unmet disability related needs. For information on this program call **902-368-5996**.

PEI Council of People with Disabilities can assist you to find information about available support and other information. Call **902-892-9149** or **1-888-473-4263** or visit **www.peicod.pe.ca**

HEARING

Children having difficulty hearing can get free hearing assessments through Health PEI Audiology, hearing aid services, and health hearing programs are available for children and youth up to age 21. Call **902-368-5807** or visit **healthpei.ca/audiology**.

LEGAL STATUS

Grandparent rights are not specifically written into the law in Prince Edward Island. However, there are ways to achieve legal caregiver status including:

- **guardianship**, which gives you the same right as a parent to provide day-to-day care and supervision to a child;
- **custody**, which gives you the right to make major decisions about the child such as schooling, medical care, activities, religious instruction, and day-to-day decisions like child care (the child's wishes may be considered in a legal custody decision);
- **adoption**, which would legally make the grandchild your child and no longer the child of his or her birth parents (children 12 years or older must give written consent to be adopted) . Call Prince Edward Island Adoption Services at **902-368-6511** for more information;

To speak to a lawyer about any of these options (for a small fee), contact the Lawyer Referral Service hosted by the Community Legal Information Association at **902-892-0853** or **1-800-240-9798**.

MEDICATIONS

Assistance with medications that are listed on the Provincial Formulary is available through the PEI Pharmacare Program which helps cover the cost of prescription drugs for those who are eligible. Call 902-368-4947, 1-877-577-3737 or visit healthpei.ca/pharmacare.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (HELP LINE 24-HOURS)

If you need emotional support, crisis intervention or help with problem solving, caring and trained staff are available at the Island Helpline to answer calls anytime of the day or night, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Staff can also help to connect you with community services that are available to help you or your grandchild if needed. Call 1-800-218-2885.

NURSE LINE (24-HOURS)

All Islanders can dial 8-1-1 to speak with a registered nurse who can answer health-care questions and provide information and advice free of charge 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

OUT-OF-PROVINCE MEDICAL CARE

Depending on household income level, you may qualify for a transportation subsidy of 50 to 100 per cent for a bus ticket to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia if your grandchild needs to travel out of province for medical services. Call 902-368-5918 or Visit ooptravelsupport@gov.pe.ca

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Public health nurses offer child and youth health supports, information, health promotion, illness prevention, health and developmental assessments, and immunizations:

- **Souris** 902-687-7049
- **Summerside** 902-888-8160
- **Montague** 902-838-0762
- **O’Leary** 902-859-8720
- **Charlottetown** 902-368-4530
- **Tignish** 902-882-7366
- **Kensington** 902-836-3863

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND SNACK PROGRAMS

More than 8,000 students receive 24,000 breakfasts or snacks free of charge each week supported by government funding, local donations, fundraising, and support from provincial and national organizations. Contact your grandchild’s school for information on these programs.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

The Speech Language Pathology Program for pre-school children provides assessments, education, and supports to children who are having trouble with speech and language. Preschool children can access the program for free.

Call 902-368-5807 or visit www.healthpei.ca/slp.

STRONGEST FAMILIES PROGRAMS

The Strongest Families programs help Island families with children and youth ages 3 to 17 who experience behaviour, anxiety, or nighttime bedwetting problems. The online programming and telehealth services work with the family’s schedule, eliminating the need to travel, take time off work/school or change normal routines. There are no wait times so families can access help quickly. For more information call 1-866-833-5443.

TAXES

When filing your income taxes, remember to claim your grandchildren as dependants and apply for the HST rebate, which is partially based on the number of children in your care. You may also be able to claim child care expenses, medical expenses, and others – consider contacting a professional tax preparer or financial professional for assistance.

If you need a hand completing your income tax return you may be eligible to use the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program - provided by Canada Revenue Agency and community organizations. The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is free, confidential, and available year round in 15 communities across the province to eligible taxpayers who have a modest income and simple tax situations. Call 1-800-959-8281 for more information.

TRIPLE P - POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

Parenting challenges are common and to be expected across all stages of children's development. This program uses simple, positive tips to help parents and care givers facing the typical challenges of raising children and teens. This is a collaborate effort between the departments of Education, Family and Human Services and Health and Wellnes. Since it was launched in September 2015 comments from the public about the program have been very positive. For more information, visit www.triplep-parenting.net or call 902-438-4842.



VISION

Kindergarten children can access the Eye See Eye Learn program, which provides prevention, early detection, and management of eye and vision problems – children can access a free eye exam and pair of glasses if necessary – call **902-368-5819** or visit **www.healthpei.ca/eyesee-eyellearn**.





*Special thanks to
the Community Legal Information Association which
provided some of the information contained in this brochure.
You can contact them at 1-800-240-9798 or www.cliapei.ca*