Wheelchair Accessible Transportation and Vehicles

As you become an adult, you might be thinking about the different ways you will get around or drive. People with physical disabilities in Ontario access a variety of transportation options depending on where they live and the funding they can access.

- **Public Transit** can accommodate the needs of people with disabilities including but not limited to people who use walkers, wheelchairs, scooters or other mobility devices. This might include local buses, subways or even streetcars that have ramps, a boarding area that can allow a person in a wheelchair to safely board and un-board the vehicle and space to accommodate mobility devices.

Many parts of public transit in Ontario are still not fully accessible to people in Ontario—**be sure to plan your route** by looking online or phoning to check for elevators, ramps and accessible places to board vehicles before heading out.

- **Specialized Transportation Services**: In some municipalities there may be a service provider that specifically caters to the transportation needs of people with disabilities. There are usually specific eligibility criteria, an application process and a protocol for booking rides and payment for rides. Usually fees are equivalent to public transit fares. In Toronto, the service is called **Wheel-Trans** and it's operated by the TTC.

**Exciting Changes coming to Wheel-Trans in 2017**: As of Jan 1, 2017, eligibility for service is no just based on having a physical disability, but rather on any disability where “using the conventional TTC service for all or part of a trip could present certain barriers that cannot be overcome.” [https://mywheel-trans.ttc.ca/](https://mywheel-trans.ttc.ca/)

- **Private Companies** offer rides for people who use mobility devices for a fee. A quick google search of **accessible taxis** and the name of your city or town will show what is available in your area.

- **Wheelchair Modified Vans**: Vans can be either modified or purchased already set up to accommodate a wheelchair in either a passenger seat position (or driver’s seat—read more about this below).

**Wheelchair Modified Vans** can be expensive and although some funding is available from the **March of Dimes** this typically covers a small percentage of the total cost of modifying a vehicle or purchasing a wheelchair accessible van. Used vans can be purchased privately or through dealerships as well.

- **Modified Cars**: Some individuals will modify a car to have **hand controls for driving** and special devices that help to fold and store away a manual wheelchair.
Finding a Vendor for Accessible Vehicles can be found through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA). This non-profit trade association is dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities to safely drive or be transported in vehicles modified with mobility equipment to fit their specific needs. All members work together to improve transportation options for people with disabilities. Learn more at: www.nmeda.com

Funding for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles can come from a variety of sources, including government and charity organizations:

**Government of Canada, Revenue Agency** provides rebates and some other savings:
- GST518 GST/HST Specially Equipped Motor Vehicle Rebate Application
- XE8 Application for Refund of Federal Excise Tax on Gasoline

**Charity Organizations.** These sources can cover costs for parents of children with physical disabilities (sometimes up to age 18 or 21) or adults with disabilities:
- March of Dimes, Home & Vehicle Modification Program: www.marchofdimes.ca
  (Provides a maximum of $15,000 every ten years)
- The International Association of Lions Clubs: www.mdalions.org
- Rotary Clubs/Rotary International: www.rotary.org
- Kin Canada/Association of Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin Clubs www.kinclubs.ca
- Ceridian Cares: www.ceridiancares.ca
- One boy, One Van: www.oneboyonevan.ca (Provides financial assistance to families with a specific low income levels to obtain a wheelchair accessible van in Eastern Ontario for individuals under 21 years old)
- Baeumler Family Foundation: www.baeumlerfamilyfoundation.com
- Carson Foundation: www.thecarsonfoundation.com

**Condition-Specific Charity Groups** may also provide support:
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada: www.muscle.ca
- Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy: www.ofcp.on.ca
- Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario: www.sbhao.on.ca

**DISCLAIMER:** This resource was developed in January 2017 and content was based on the following references. Changes can occur to programs at any time. This resource may not reflect changes made after this date nor will it include information from other sources not listed below. Please refer to original resources for comprehensive definitions and terms related to the program, eligibility criteria, determination of rates, additional benefits, and other important information.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

**Government Websites**
Canada Revenue Agency
Website: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/
Accessed: Sep 2016