



DRIVER EDUCATION

Getting your Learner's License:

To qualify for a learner's license you must be 16 years of age or older and free of seizures for one year. For young people with disabilities or a medical condition that might affect the ability to drive, the procedure for learning to drive is:

- Go to an Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) Driver Services office to apply for learner's license. You will receive an "L" number.
- You will be asked if you have a disability or medical condition. You will then receive a Driver's Medical Examination Form that a physician must complete and sign
- Take the Driver's Medical Form to a physician for completion: either a clinic doctor or a family physician who knows your medical history (family physicians may charge you for their time to fill this form in)
- At the same time have your Doctor send a referral to the GF Strong Driver Rehabilitation Program
- Once the medical form is filled out and sent in, the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles will review it. You will be either cleared to learn to drive or asked to complete an additional assessment. There is information on the website: www.icbc.com regarding the role of the Superintendent
- The additional assessment will determine if you are able to learn to drive and if you will need special adapted equipment.
- There are different types of assessments, depending on your situation:
 - Clinical Physical
 - Clinical Cognitive
 - Road assessment

You need to have a learner's license to do a road assessment. The clinical assessments can be done without this (if you just want to see about the possibility of driving).

- The Driver Rehabilitation Centre at the George Pearson Centre in Vancouver is able to complete the assessments. They will prescribe any equipment and adaptation you may need and will recommend dealers for installation. www.vch.ca/gfstrong/services/drive/index

There are limited services outside the lower mainland. Functional Independence Therapy Consultants (private) may travel for assessments at cost (604-263-5286).

- **There are fees for assessments and further costs for additional equipment or vehicle modifications if these are determined to be necessary.**

Possible Funding options for Driving Assessments and Equipment/Modifications:

The following are possible sources to apply for funding, depending on your age and diagnosis.

- The Variety Club of BC www.variety.bc.ca
- Easter Seals (i.e Lions Club) www.lionsbc.ca
The Lions Foundation is a non-profit organization which assists recipients with the non-medical cost such as travel, accommodations, and financial assistance for special equipment needed by the recipients and that is not covered by government funding
- Presidents Choice Children's Charity
www.presidentschoice.ca/ChildrensCharity/Default.aspx/language/english
Will consider funding for driving assessments and vehicle modifications but they need to see a completed application to review if it first within their guidelines. Funding is for youth 18 years or younger.
- BC Paraplegic Association www.bcpara.org
- Neil Squire Foundation www.neilsquire.ca
- Spina Bifida Association www.spinabifidaassociation.org
- Kinsmen Club www.kinclubofvancouver.com/kf.html
Assist Adults with disabilities – need to be 19 years
- BC Rehab Foundation www.bcrehab.com
- Student assistance grants from many universities & colleges- can include requests for driver education funding
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada may assist with the completion of applications. 604-732-8799 OR 1-800-366-8166

Car Company Rebates:

Major car companies offer cash rebates for adaptive equipment. Discuss this option with the driver rehabilitation specialist when you attend your driving assessment, or contact your local dealership or program directly:

1. Chrysler Corporation
Physically Challenged Resource Centre
1-800-255-9877
2. Ford Mobility Monitoring Program
1-800-952-2248
3. GM Mobility Assistance Centre
1-800-323-9935
4. Volkswagen Mobility Access Program
1-800-444-8987