

# **The Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia**

**"Life Without Limits"**  
**60 Years of Access & Inclusion**

**#18.23.**

c/o Administrative Officer I  
Executive Committee of Council (Grants)  
Clerk's Department, Burnaby City Hall  
4949 Canada Way Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

May 7, 2018

Dear City of Burnaby,

Thank you for the opportunity to request support for the Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia's Campership program for children, youth and adults with cerebral palsy living in Burnaby.

## **Aims and objectives of the organization**

The Cerebral Palsy Association of British Columbia (BN 10690 4204 RR0001) was started in 1954 by a group of parents who wanted to assist their children living with cerebral palsy to reach their maximum potential within society. Today we provide support, education, and information throughout BC. Our mission is:

- To raise awareness of cerebral palsy in the community;
- To assist those living with cerebral palsy to reach their maximum potential; and
- To work to see those living with cerebral palsy realize their place as equals in a diverse society.

We accomplish this mission through:

- advocacy;
- encouraging networking;
- educating members of the public about cerebral palsy;
- governing relations activities; and
- implementing programs for individuals with cerebral palsy.

The vision of the CPABC is to create a Life Without Limits for people with disabilities.

## **Our programs include:**

- Family and Individual Support - Information and referral specialist connects people with resources
- Advocacy Support - Provided on an individual basis to people with disabilities
- Navigator for Youth transitioning to Adult Services - Information, support and referral to services and resources for youth who are approaching the age of majority
- Education Bursaries - Awarded to students living with CP pursuing post-secondary education or attending institutions of higher learning
- Equipment & Assistive Devices Subsidies - financial assistance for people living with CP to purchase assistive devices and equipment

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- Camperships - Funding to assist individuals with CP to attend accessible summer camp or other vacation in BC
- Adapted Yoga - Adapted exercises to increase strength and flexibility for youth with disabilities
- Dance Without Limits - children with CP and other disabilities learn to dance in their own way
- Art Without Limits - Creative self-expression for children and youth with disabilities
- Community Connections - Brings the community together to connect with one another while learning about the latest research and services
- Disability Awareness Presentations - Presentations offered to schools, clubs, and other groups, about cerebral palsy and our programs
- Youth Without Limits – a group for (but not limited to) youth and young adults facilitated by disabled youth specifically for their peers with disabilities
- Self Defense Without Limits – a martial arts and self defense course to increase coordination, balance and overall strength
- Tea, Talk and Crumpets – social and recreational outlet for seniors with disabilities, facilitated and organized by community members

#### Financial information

We are requesting \$3,000 towards promoting and delivering our Campership program in Burnaby. We plan to launch focused program promotion in Burnaby so local residents affected by cerebral palsy can benefit from summertime learning, recreational opportunities, increased social integration and respite for caregivers. With increased promotion and dedicated funds, more children, youth and adults living with CP will be supported to attend an accessible summer camp of their choice. Burnaby has roughly 450 individuals with CP. Including families and caregivers, approximately 1,000 people are affected.

Funding would support program outreach and promotion within the City of Burnaby, through flyers, advertising in local papers, social and traditional media, networking with stakeholders, external communications, and program listings. In addition, up to 8 individuals will be supported with subsidies ranging from \$300-\$700 per person. Camperships help cover the costs of care attendants, registration fees and travel, which can be a significant financial burden for families. Without a financial subsidy, many people would not be able to enjoy the benefits of summer camps.

#### Budget

Item/description	Amount	Amount requested
Administration (15%)	1,200.00	
Rent/ Utilities/ Telephone	200.00	
Printing and photocopying	200.00	
Outreach and advertisement	400.00	400.00
Camperships	6,000.00	2,600.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>

Revenue	Amount
City of Burnaby	3,000.00

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Kinsmen's Foundation	3,500.00
CPABC	1,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>

#### **Specify what the grant is to be used for**

We are requesting support for our annual special needs Campership Program.

Approximately 1 in 500 children are born with cerebral palsy, and it is considered one of the most severe disabilities in childhood. A recent study confirmed that the prevalence of CP in BC is 2.68 per 1000 births with no significant differences between regions. With a population of 223,218, Burnaby has roughly 450 individuals with CP. Including families and caregivers, approximately 1,000 people are affected.

Many children and adults with cerebral palsy experience social isolation that is both linked to and exacerbated by economic and physical barriers. This can lead to low self-esteem and depression, as well as lack of full participation in greater society. Summer camps are a place to create social connections, learn new social skills, and become more confident.

The Campership Program financially assists kids wishing to attend a special needs camp of their choice in BC. Our camp subsidies have gone towards such costs as partial camp fees, transportation, accessible accommodations, and attendant care fees. Without the help of an attendant, many children could not attend camp. Although the camp session itself may be free to the participant, the attendant care fee can be a real barrier to the child.

The funding we have requested will provide dedicated outreach and advertising to city of Burnaby residents affected by CP, and support up to 8 campers from Burnaby to attend an accessible summer camp of their choice. Summer camps provide an outlet for physical, emotional and social wellbeing and development for children and adults with disabilities. Direct feedback from past participants shows this is a significant opportunity for social and emotional development and physical activity.

The overall goal of this project is: To increase confidence, self-esteem and physical mobility for children and youth with cerebral palsy in Burnaby to reach their maximum potential.

The specific program objectives are:

- To promote and advertise the campership program to City of Burnaby residents
- To provide a summer learning and recreational opportunity for children, youth or adults living with CP
- To provide an equal opportunity for wilderness adventure and summertime recreation for children, youth or adults with cerebral palsy
- To provide up to 8 subsidies for children, youth or adults to attend summer camp
- To increase awareness of cerebral palsy in the community and the public at large

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Many families of children with disabilities experience financial hardships, and without financial support, are unable to send their children to summer camp. This program is intended to provide that opportunity for up to 8 individuals.

According to a 2009 paper called “Economic Costs of Caring for Children with Disabilities in Canada”, both explicit out-of-pocket expenditures and implicit costs in the form of foregone labour market opportunities are considerable for families of children with disabilities. Studies show that families of an individual with a disability experience significant medical expenses and loss of labour opportunities.

According to research published in the Public Health Report in 2007, “families who care for a child with a disability are more likely to have non-reimbursed expenses for disability-related supports.” The report adds, “children with a disability are often born into low income families; [and] families who care for a child with a disability often find themselves sliding towards poverty.” A 2013 article in the Vancouver Sun in 2013 reported that care for a disabled child can reach 1.5 million dollars in their lifetime.

Financial assistance for children or youth to attend a special needs camp is often the only way they can participate in this summertime activity. Team sports, group activity and social interaction are important elements of personal development, especially for disabled children who often experience social isolation due to physical and emotional barriers. The benefits of attending summer camp, specifically for children with special needs, are well documented. Attending camp help develop a love of nature and the outdoors, foster a team spirit, language and interactions, engage children in fun, recreational activities, and teach recreational and other skills.

The proposed program provides direct community benefits for participants and others:

- Eliminating financial barrier for accessible physical recreation and activity for up to 8 individuals with CP
- Promoting greater physical and emotional wellbeing for participants
- Increasing participants’ confidence, social skills, team spirit, peer interaction and personal development
- Instilling participants with greater appreciation and lifelong love of nature and outdoors
- Public program promotion and increased public awareness and understanding of cerebral palsy

Families and caregivers of up to 8 campers will also benefit through:

- An opportunity for respite from caregiving
- Attending an accessible summer camp with their special needs child

“Thank you so much! We really appreciate all you give to Olivia and to so many other deserving kids. Olivia had a great time at camp and is already looking forward to next year. It truly is a fabulous place where kids with special needs can be themselves, accepted with no boundaries, and given every opportunity to feel ‘typical’, included and loved”

– Parent of a camper

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**Period for which the grant is requested**

The requested funding will support the program from July to December 2018.

**Financial statements**

Please see financial statements attached

Thank you for considering our application. If you require further information, or have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Dehdar".

Feri Dehdar  
Executive Director