## **Government Supports**

By Carolyn Pancham

Are you in need of additional supports for managing life with Lupus? Both the federal and provincial government offer resources to help those living with chronic illness. The following links are for a tool that summarizes programs and services based on your criteria:

Government of Canada - Benefits Finder

## Government of Ontario - Benefits Finder

Alternatively, a list of some of the benefits (subject to program eligibility requirements) are outlined below. This summary is for information purposes only. Please speak with a customer service agent to see if the program is a good fit for you.

## Federal Government of Canada – Contact 1-800-O-CANADA (1-800-622-6231)

- Canada Pension Plan Benefits (CPPD) income benefits for qualified disabled persons
- 2. **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** eligible persons get their tax returns completed at no charge
- 3. **Compassionate Care Benefits** employment insurance benefits for caregivers providing end-of-life support
- Disability Supports Deduction income tax credit for selected equipment to assist a disabled person to attend work, school or to participate in a research grant
- 5. Disability Tax Credit (DTC) income tax credit for eligible disabled persons
- Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits employment insurance for medical reasons
- 7. **Enabling Accessibility Fund** funding to make Canadian communities and workplaces more accessible for persons with disabilities in order for them to take part in activities, programs, services and employment
- 8. Excise Gasoline Tax Refund a refund for part of the gas tax you buy if you have a permanent mobility impairment and cannot safely use public transportation
- 9. **Family Caregiver Benefits** employment insurance benefits for a caregiver taking care of a critically ill or injured persons
- 10. **Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities** education grant for a qualified student
- 11. **Home Accessibility Expenses** income tax credit for eligible expenses for a qualifying home renovation that improves safety or mobility access for a qualifying individual
- 12. **Medical Expenses Credit** income tax credit for eligible medical expenses

13. **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)** – a savings plan to help a disabled person that qualifies for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

## Government of Ontario – Contact 1-800-267-8097

- 1. **Accessible Parking Permit** people with certain health conditions may be granted an accessible parking permit
- 2. **Assistive Devices Program** financial assistance for listed equipment or supplies for eligible persons with disabilities
- 3. **Home and Vehicle Modification Program** persons that meet program criteria may get grant funding for home or vehicle modifications
- 4. **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** supports for persons living with a disability
- 5. **Ontario Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)** community health-care services and support
- 6. **Special Drugs Program (SDP)** coverage for some drug treatments not covered by other drug program for eligible applicants
- 7. Trillium Drug Program (ODB) financial help for high prescription drug costs