

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION FUNDING IN CANADA (ASL/LSQ)

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Nationwide Event Logistics

Calgary 587 885-0655	Edmonton 780 652-1290	Fredericton 902 593-0364	Halifax 902 593-0364	Hamilton 647 478-7412	Moncton 902 593-0364	Montreal 514 273-4266	Newfoundland 902 593-0364
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FOREWORD

Funding requests and grant applications may be subject to strict deadlines. Always consult the respective program pages for current application requirements and dates.

While we endeavor to maintain the accuracy of all external links, they are beyond our control and may change or become unavailable without notice.

This document does not provide an exhaustive list of all conference and event funding opportunities in Canada. We encourage you to explore further options using your preferred web search engine.

Some of the pages linked in this document are only available in French.



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CANADA

Financing for sign language (ASL/LSQ) interpretation in Canada is generally managed through accessibility-specific grants and employment-focused programs. Below are the primary sources with direct links.

1. Arts and Cultural Projects

If you are coordinating events or artistic productions, these are your most direct routes:

Canada Council for the Arts (Access Support Fund). This supplementary grant is provided to existing grant recipients to specifically cover the costs of ASL/LSQ interpretation, travel for interpreters, and necessary accessibility equipment for a project.

Conseil des arts de Montréal (Support for D/deaf Artists or Artists with Disabilities). This program provides grants that can cover up to 100% of project-related expenses, including specific funding for accessibility costs through a dedicated "Access Rider."

Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ). While their programs vary by discipline, they provide financial aid specifically for disabled artists to help them realize their projects and access mainstream funding programs.

2. Workplace and Employment Funding

If the need for interpretation relates to business operations or hiring, these federal and provincial resources are available:

Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF). A federal program that funds projects designed to remove barriers to accessibility in the workplace. This can include communication-related accessibility tools and services.

Canadian Hearing Services (CHS). Accommodation Funding. They provide employment consulting and can assist businesses in identifying funding incentives and strategies for hiring and accommodating employees who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

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3. Community and Resource Hubs

[The Accessibility Exchange](#) A national platform that connects organizations with the Deaf and Disability Communities. It is an excellent resource for planning inclusive events and finding partners to help navigate accessibility compliance and funding.

Coordination Strategy: Since you are managing the logistics for events, remember that interpretation is often most successfully funded when treated as an *accessibility line item* within your primary event budget. Most federal and provincial event grants (such as those from Canadian Heritage) prioritize projects that build in accessibility as a core operational requirement.

ALBERTA

Here are the direct links to the provincial programs and regional community foundations where you can apply for event accessibility and logistics funding in Alberta:

Provincial Government Programs

[Alberta Community Initiatives Program \(CIP\)](#) Project Grant. Provides matching funding up to \$75,000 for community-driven initiatives and public events. Audio/visual and production accessibility logistics are eligible expenses.

[Alberta Culture Days Grant](#) Offers up to \$10,000 for organizers hosting free, public celebration events during September, with funding explicitly open to programming and production costs.

[Alberta Funding for Non-Profits Portal](#) The central hub to monitor other rolling provincial infrastructure, facility, or operational support grants.

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Regional Community Foundations

Calgary Foundation Community Grants Offers grants typically ranging from \$5,000 to \$200,000 (with an average of \$75,000) supporting strategic programming enhancements, explicitly including audience accessibility considerations.

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) Provides tailored project funding up to \$50,000 (or \$80,000 for returning grantees) for events and community initiatives serving the Greater Edmonton Area and Treaty 6 Territory.

Note on Application Timelines: Programs like the Alberta CIP and the major city foundations operate on strict bi-annual intake schedules (often mid-February and mid-September). Be sure to map out your budget matrix—breaking down the fixed day-rates for your ASL/LSQ teams—well ahead of those closing windows.

BRITISH COLOMBIA

1. Provincial Government & Crown Corporation Grants

B.C. Community Gaming Grants Distributes commercial gambling revenues to non-profits. The Arts and Culture sector stream funds community festivals, fairs, and performing arts events up to \$125,000 locally. Production costs—which encompass hiring sign language interpretation teams—are highly applicable.

BC Arts Council Access Support If your event or festival is already receiving a main project or operating grant from the BC Arts Council, you can apply for an additional ****top-up of up to \$7,500**** specifically to cover project access costs (like the day rates for sign language interpreters).

Disability Alliance BC Running on an annual cycle with funding up to \$40,000 per project, this provincial stream funds community-benefit initiatives that actively promote community participation and arts/culture accessibility for British Columbians with disabilities.

B.C. Gov Event Hosting Search Tool The province's multi-ministry database to track specialized streams like Multiculturalism Grants (for community cultural festivals) and tourism-driven event funds.

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2. Major BC Community Foundations

Vancouver Foundation Community Grants Canada's largest community foundation offers massive systemic and project-based grants. They prioritize structural shifts towards inclusion and equity, routinely approving logistics budgets that remove participation barriers for Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.

Victoria Foundation Community Grants Focuses on Vancouver Island events and non-profit initiatives, offering dedicated project funding that favors explicit, scannable accessibility riders in budget proposals.

Logistics Reminder for BC Proposals: When building your budget grid for the province or local foundations, avoid hourly projections. Because certified ASL/LSQ interpreters are compensated on a fixed daily rate structure, present your line items transparently: [Number of Interpreters] x [Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. This professional formatting gives provincial grant reviewers the precise data they need for rapid approval.

MANITOBA

For Manitoba-based events and festivals, the strategy remains the same: you want to tap into provincial accessibility frameworks, culture grants, and local foundations that actively encourage event managers to include audience logistics and interpretation services in their production budgets.

Because certified ASL/LSQ interpreters are typically remunerated with fixed daily rates, you can easily build these operational costs into the budget grids of these key Manitoba programs:

1. Provincial Accessibility & Government Grants

Manitoba Accessibility Fund This province-wide program provides one-time project grants up to \$50,000 explicitly targeting compliance with *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*. Non-profits, municipalities, and local businesses can use this funding for events and programs aimed at removing barriers to information and person-to-person communications (which covers live sign-language interpretation).

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Manitoba Arts Council If your festival, exhibition, or performance series receives core funding or a project grant through the Manitoba Arts Council, you can coordinate directly with their Help Desk to leverage specialized equity and accommodation riders. (Note: Their standalone applicant support fund is for individual artists writing grants, but public festival projects can absorb audience interpretation lines within their main program proposals.)

Manitoba Government Portal for Non-Profit Grants A centralized multi-department hub where you can track rolling intakes for heritage programs, cultural diversity funding, and multi-cultural festival grants that explicitly allow production-level logistical expenditures.

2. Major Manitoba Community Foundations

The Winnipeg Foundation Community Grants Canada's oldest community foundation offers one-time project grants up to \$100,000 for registered charities and qualified donees. They explicitly fund the *hosting of conferences and events*. Because they mandate strict adherence to the Manitoba Human Rights Code regarding disability inclusion, budget lines targeting audience access are highly favored.

Endow Manitoba Foundation Directory If your event is outside of Winnipeg (e.g., Brandon, Steinbach, Thompson, or Portage la Prairie), use this directory to connect with your specific regional community foundation. Local rural foundations frequently pool funding for civic weekend festivals and community celebrations, heavily prioritizing local inclusion metrics.

Budget Layout Tip: When drafting your financial breakdown for Manitoba reviewers, list your sign language services explicitly under Event Production / Audience Accessibility Logistics. Format it transparently in your budget notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Standard Daily Remuneration Rate] x [Number of Event Days]. Breaking it down by daily operational units tells the grant assessors exactly how the funds will be deployed.

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NEW BRUNSWICK

In New Brunswick, securing funding for ASL or LSQ sign language interpretation at events requires working through provincial community development funds, cultural streams, and regional community foundations. Because New Brunswick is Canada's only officially bilingual province, event grants frequently prioritize linguistic accessibility and inclusion. As a reminder, certified interpreters are remunerated with fixed daily rates rather than by the hour, so you should build these full-day or half-day operational costs directly into your project budgets.

1. Provincial Government & Cultural Streams

New Brunswick Community Investment Fund Administered on an ongoing basis, this provincial fund provides non-repayable contributions to projects and community-focused initiatives that strengthen local identity and generate social benefits. Budget lines for communication accessibility at public gatherings are highly applicable.

New Brunswick Tourism, Heritage and Culture Programs The provincial department oversees various arts, heritage, and festival grants. For public-facing community festivals, cultural events, or public showcases, you can build audience interpretation logistics directly into your core programming and production expenses.

Ability New Brunswick While they do not hand out grants directly, this provincial organization provides free accessibility reviews for non-profits and event organizers, delivering a tailored report that connects your specific event layout to current provincial and federal funding pools for inclusion.

2. Regional Community Foundations

If your event targets a specific municipality or region within New Brunswick, local community foundations offer project-based grants that heavily favor removing barriers to civic participation.

Fredericton Community Foundation Grants Offers *Community Grants* of up to \$7,500 (with applications opening in mid-January). They actively prioritize projects focused on *Belonging & Engagement* and *Arts*,

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Culture & Heritage. Budgets that explicitly account for bringing in a sign language interpretation team to make a public event inclusive score very well on their evaluation rubrics.

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation Provides vital project grants to charities and non-profits executing community events in the southern region. They prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion markers, routinely funding the exact logistical line items needed to make public forums or festivals barrier-free.

Budgeting Tip for NB Regulators: When submitting your financial breakdown, do not group sign language services under a generic "marketing" or "miscellaneous" banner. Use a dedicated line item for *Audience Accessibility Logistics* and layout the exact daily rate operational formula in your budget notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Standard Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. Showing a clear, structured daily matrix ensures the grant committees understand the standard professional framework and approve the full amount.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

In Newfoundland and Labrador, funding to secure ASL/LSQ sign language interpreters for events is structured around provincial inclusion initiatives, cultural funds, and localized philanthropic foundations.

Because certified sign language interpreters are remunerated on a fixed daily rate structure rather than by the hour, you should factor these operational sums directly into the logistics or production lines of your applications.

1. Provincial Government & Accessibility Grants

Newfoundland and Labrador Accessibility Grant Program Administered by the Department of Social Supports and Well-Being, this grant offers up to \$15,000 under Stream 1 (Small to Medium Accessibility Projects). It explicitly lists "providing disability-related supports for accessible events and meetings, such as sign language interpretation services" as a core eligible expense. Non-profits, municipalities, and Indigenous organizations are eligible.

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[NL Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation Grants](#) TCAR manages provincial festival and event hosting funds, including the *Active NL Fund*. If you are coordinating a public festival or cultural showcase, audience communication logistics can be woven directly into your primary programming and event production budgets.

2. Community & Philanthropic Foundations

[Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador Grants](#) CFNL facilitates targeted project-based funding for registered charities and community entities across the province. They prioritize initiatives that build a sense of belonging and remove civic barriers, making explicit accessibility budget lines a major asset on their evaluation rubrics.

[VOCM Cares Foundation Program Funding](#) This regional foundation provides funding to local charities with a focus on strengthening communities. They regularly fund logistical elements that allow community events or services to become completely barrier-free for individuals with disabilities.

Budget Architecture for NL Assessors: When formatting your financial breakdown, create a distinct line item under *Event Production / Accessibility Logistics* rather than burying it under general overhead. Write out the transparent formula directly in your budget notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. Showing a clear understanding of the standard professional day-rate structure ensures the grant committee has the precise data they need for rapid approval.

NOVA SCOTIA

In Nova Scotia, event managers can access distinct provincial and municipal funding pots to cover sign language interpretation. Nova Scotia has the highest disability rate in Canada, and the provincial *Accessibility Act* heavily drives the public sector to fund communication accessibility.

Because professional ASL/LSQ interpreters are compensated using fixed daily rates, these operational amounts should be built directly into the logistical or production lines of your event application.

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1. Provincial Government & Accessibility Grants

Nova Scotia Community ACCESS-Ability Program This program offers cost-sharing grants that cover up to two-thirds of eligible project expenses, up to a maximum of \$50,000. While it funds physical retrofits, it explicitly covers communication and technology enhancements aimed at removing sensory and communication barriers for events or community gatherings hosted by non-profits, social enterprises, or municipalities.

Nova Scotia Festival & Community Event Development Program Administered by Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, this stream is designed to help sustain or improve unique community festivals across the province. You can utilize this fund to absorb localized production logistics, such as bringing in a certified sign language agency.

Nova Scotia Business ACCESS-Ability Grant Program If your event management company is a for-profit business running a public-facing initiative, this parallel program provides cost-sharing grants up to \$50,000 to help businesses implement communication and assistive devices to make their services accessible to the public.

2. Regional & Municipal Accessibility Subsidies

Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia Provides flexible grants to non-profits and community groups running initiatives outside of the major urban centres. They highly prioritize civic inclusion and removing communication barriers for rural seniors and families.

Cape Breton Regional Municipality Festival & Events Funding If your event takes place in Cape Breton, the municipality provides event-specific funding up to \$50,000. The grant evaluation utilizes a sustainability worksheet that scores event proposals higher if they include explicit, scannable accessibility accommodations.

Budget Architecture for NS Regulators: When filling out your budget breakdown, avoid arbitrary hourly estimates. Use a dedicated line item for *Audience Communication Logistics* and state the structural formula explicitly in your budget notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Standard Daily Remuneration Rate] x [Event

Duration in Days]. This transparent formatting aligns perfectly with provincial guidelines and speeds up the review process.

ONTARIO

In Ontario, funding to cover sign language (ASL/LSQ) interpretation at public events and festivals is deeply tied to compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. Because provincial reviewers look for explicit, transparent logistical lines, you should always format your request around the standard professional fixed daily rate structure rather than arbitrary hourly rates.

The primary provincial and regional grant options available to Ontario event managers include:

1. Provincial Government & Accessibility Streams

Ontario Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant Administered by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, this streamlined program awards up to \$60,000 for initiatives that remove communication and physical barriers. Non-profits, municipalities, and Indigenous communities can utilize these funds to integrate accessibility enhancements directly into community activations and events.

Ontario Trillium Foundation – Seed & Grow Grants As one of Canada’s largest granting foundations, OTF provides substantial operational and project funding (from \$10,000 up to \$200,000+) for non-profits. Under their *Informed and Connected* or *Active People* frameworks, embedding communication infrastructure like full-day sign language interpretation teams into public community gatherings is highly favored.

Ontario Arts Council (OAC) – Accessibility Support Fund. If your festival, conference, or public exhibition is already a recipient of an OAC project or operating grant, you can apply for an additional *top-up grant* of up to \$5,000 specifically to cover the direct, actual costs of audience accessibility logistics (such as certified interpreter day-rates).

2. Major Ontario Community Foundations

Local community foundations across the province have dedicated equity and diversity portfolios designed to absorb event accessibility lines.

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Toronto Foundation Community Grants Focuses on events and initiatives within the Greater Toronto Area, offering multi-tiered project grants that prioritize community engagement and barrier-free public programming.

Ottawa Community Foundation Grants Provides targeted funding for events in the capital region, prioritizing budget requests that clearly address localized equity gaps and communication access.

London Community Foundation and Hamilton Community Foundation Both offer localized community grants (frequently up to \$25,000) that look favorably on explicitly scannable logistics riders for sign language translation at civic gatherings.

Budget Architecture for Ontario Assessors: Do not bury interpretation under *Event Marketing* or general *Administration*. Create a dedicated line item for *Audience Communication / Accessibility Logistics* and layout the exact daily rate formula in your budget notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Standard Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. Showing a clear, structured daily matrix ensures the grant committees understand the standard professional framework and approve the full amount.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

In Prince Edward Island, funding for ASL or LSQ sign language interpretation at public events and gatherings is heavily integrated into provincial culture frameworks and regional community development grants.

Because certified sign language interpreters are remunerated on a fixed daily rate structure rather than by the hour, you should factor these operational block totals directly into the production logistics of your grant applications.

1. Provincial Government & Culture Grants

PEI Community Celebration Fund Provides registered non-profits with grants up to \$2,500 (covering up to 50% of eligible expenses) for public festivals, heritage activities, and events with a strong arts and culture component. Audience accessibility and language services fit perfectly into the "production and logistics" criteria required to make these celebrations inclusive.

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Meet PEI Business & Tourism Hosting Grants If you are managing a larger convention, conference, or meeting with off-island delegates, Tourism PEI offers hosting subsidies up to \$5,000. Eligible non-profits can apply to use these funds toward event execution costs, including communication support for delegates.

PEI Funding for Non-Profits Portal The centralized provincial gateway to track rolling intakes for community, gender equity, and social inclusion grants where event accessibility riders can be applied.

2. Island-Wide Community Foundations

Community Foundation of PEI Grants Manages a diverse portfolio of localized community funds that grant variable amounts to registered charities and community entities across the Island. They prioritize projects that strengthen the local social fabric, making targeted line items for event interpretation a highly favorable asset on scoring rubrics.

Budget Architecture for PEI Regulators: When submitting your financial breakdown, do not group sign language services under general *marketing* or *miscellaneous admin*. Use a standalone line item for *Audience Communication Logistics* and detail the operational daily structure in your budget notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. This transparent formatting aligns perfectly with provincial guidelines and ensures rapid processing.

QUEBEC

In Quebec, applying for event accessibility grants requires navigating both provincial departments and major local foundations. Because Quebec events frequently involve both English and French communities, you will often need to account for both ASL and LSQ (Langue des signes québécoise) interpretation teams.

Since certified sign language interpreters in Quebec are compensated based on a fixed daily rate structure rather than by the hour, you can build these full-day or half-day operational sums directly into the logistics budgets of the following streams:

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1. Provincial & Municipal Public Funds

[Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec Soutien à l'accessibilité](#) If your festival or event is supported by a main project or operating grant from CALQ, you can apply for additional, dedicated financial support to clear communication barriers. This top-up fund covers up to 100% of the actual costs for LSQ/ASL interpretation.

[Montréal Universal Accessibility Grant Streams](#) Ville de Montréal The city regularly operates multi-year plans to support *Universal Accessibility*. Under municipal social development and festival support frameworks, non-profits organizing public events in the city's boroughs can submit interpretation daily rates under eligible production logistics.

[Ministère de la Culture et des Communications](#) Appui financier for cultural, heritage, or major public-facing events across the province's administrative regions, the MCC's community project assistance guidelines accept language and sensory accessibility line items as eligible structural expenditures.

2. Major Quebec Community Foundations

If your event is managed by a registered charity or non-profit, local foundations provide fast, flexible project-based funding that prioritizes inclusion.

[Fondation du Grand Montréal](#) (FGM) Community Grants Directs significant funding toward local community development, arts, and culture projects. Proposals that build a scannable *Inclusion Rider* directly into the budget grid (specifically to clear sensory or linguistic obstacles) score very high on their evaluation matrix.

[Québec Philanthrope \(Greater Québec City Region\)](#) Manages hundreds of individual philanthropic funds for events and community initiatives in the Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches regions. They favor bounded, practical project expenses like hiring an interpretation agency for a public forum.

Budget Formatting for Quebec Assessors: In your grant submission, make sure to separate spoken-language translation from sign language lines. Create a transparent line item labeled *Frais de logistique d'accessibilité / Communication Accessibility Logistics* and layout the exact daily rate formula in your budget

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notes: [Number of Interpreters] x [Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. Providing this explicit daily matrix speeds up the provincial sign-off significantly.

SASKATCHEWAN

In Saskatchewan, funding for American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ) interpretation is driven heavily by *The Accessible Saskatchewan Act*. For an event manager, this means you can leverage provincial lottery-funded networks, culture grant riders, and community investment funds to cover your interpreter costs.

Because professional sign language interpreters are remunerated on a fixed daily rate structure rather than by the hour, you can build these full-day or half-day operational blocks directly into the production logistics of your grant applications.

1. Provincial Culture, Heritage & Arts Grants

Saskatchewan’s cultural funding ecosystem is uniquely integrated via SaskLotteries, offering specific pools designed to make public activations barrier-free.

[SaskCulture Small Grant Accessibility Program](#) This program funds grassroots, unique, and innovative cultural initiatives up to \$2,000 (for small-scale projects under a \$5,000 total budget). It explicitly highlights social inclusion and accessibility as funding priorities, making it perfect for covering interpreter day-rates at community cultural events.

[SK Arts Accessibility Fund](#) If your public event, festival, or exhibition is already receiving core or project funding from SK Arts, you can access their dedicated Accessibility Fund. This provides *Access Support and Project Support* explicitly to clear communication barriers (such as hiring professional ASL/LSQ teams) so your programming is fully open to the public.

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[Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program](#) Administered locally by municipalities (such as the City of Regina or City of Saskatoon) on behalf of the Sask Lotteries Trust Fund, this program awards up to \$30,000 for initiatives that encourage participation from under-represented or marginalized populations.

2. Provincial Community Foundations

If your event is run by a registered non-profit or charity, Saskatchewan's primary community foundations offer broad project grants that favor inclusive audience logistics.

[Community Initiatives Fund of Saskatchewan](#) The CIF offers robust *Community Grants* (up to \$25,000 for local events; \$50,000 for provincial ones) targeting individual and community wellbeing. Budget lines earmarked for opening up your event's communication infrastructure align directly with their "Inclusiveness" core value.

[South Saskatchewan Community Foundation Grants](#) and [Saskatoon Community Foundation Grants](#) Both foundations offer targeted grant cycles for events in their respective regions. They look favorably on explicitly scannable accessibility riders within budget grids designed to eliminate barriers for Deaf or hard-of-hearing attendees.

Budget Layout Tip for Saskatchewan Assessors: Do not mix interpretation under general office administration or marketing overhead. Create a distinct line item under your event production grid labeled *Audience Accessibility & Communication Logistics*. Break it down transparently in your budget notes using the standard industry formula: [Number of Interpreters] x [Professional Day Rate] x [Event Duration in Days]. This clear presentation allows provincial grant committees to evaluate and sign off on the funding quickly.

Nationwide Event Logistics

Calgary 587 885-0655	Edmonton 780 652-1290	Fredericton 902 593-0364	Halifax 902 593-0364	Hamilton 647 478-7412	Moncton 902 593-0364	Montreal 514 273-4266	Newfoundland 902 593-0364
Ottawa 613 518-1363	Quebec 418 476-3056	Saint John 902 593-0364	Toronto 647 478-7412	Vancouver 778 819-8312	Victoria 778 819-8312	Winnipeg 204 285-9698	Toll-free +1 855 561-4268