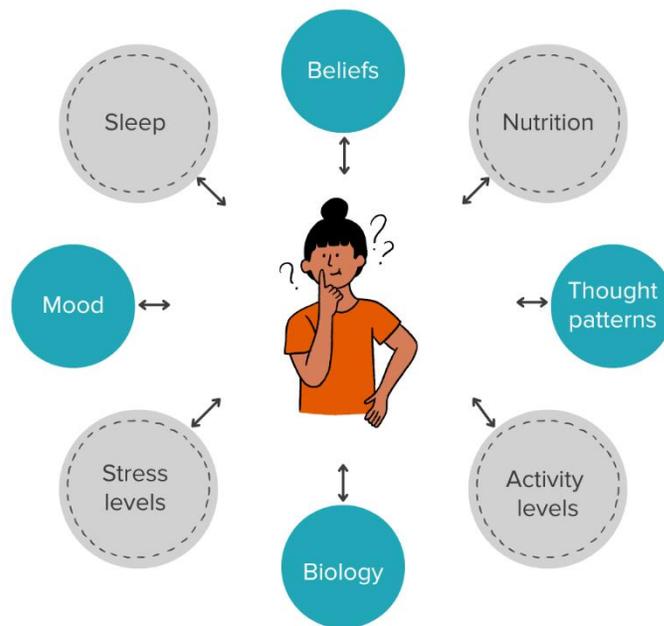


COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH PAIN

We know your pain is real. You are not alone.

As you know, chronic pain is much more than just an uncomfortable feeling. Living with pain affects our bodies, our thoughts, our emotions, and how we relate to other people and the world around us. This diagram illustrates how thoughts, feelings, relationships, habits, and physical well-being can also increase or decrease our pain. In other words, pain is complex. Fortunately, that means there are many paths we can take toward treating and living well with pain.



Community resources are available to support you. Helping to manage your stress, mental health, physical health, sleep and practical needs can provide some relief when living with pain. The following free resources may provide you with some support as part of your pain journey.

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PAIN EDUCATION

One of the best things you can do for your health is learn about chronic pain and the different ways of managing it. Did you know that learning about pain improves overall quality of life for people who live with pain?



Empowered Relief® - Train your brain away from pain paincanada.ca/resources/empowered-relief

This free virtual 2-hour evidence-based, skills-based webinar requires only ONE VISIT! Learn about pain and what you can do to help yourself. Gain pain relief skills you can use right away. Receive a free binaural relaxation audiofile. Create a personal plan for pain relief.



LivePlanBe+ liveplanbeplus.ca

An online, interactive learning experience, which provides education around pain and living well with pain. LivePlanBe+ is a good tool for those who want a guided pain education program that is still self-directed.



Pain ToolKit pipain.com/uploads/6/5/3/8/6538150/adult_pain_toolkit_canada.pdf

A simple information booklet that provides handy tips and skills to support you in managing your pain.



Power Over Pain Portal poweroverpain.ca

Provides you with access to a range of resources, virtual care courses and peer support to help you in your chronic pain management journey.



SOCIAL SUPPORT

Talking to others who live with pain and managing your stress and emotional well-being can improve your overall pain experience.



Pain Support & Wellness Groups painbc.ca/supportgroups

Support groups offer an opportunity for people living with persistent pain to meet regularly online and build a community of support while learning about pain, pain management and coping strategies. Groups meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month with alternating mid-day and evening sessions. Each session allows participants to share their experiences, discuss self-management skills and take part in gentle movements as a group.

Scheduled times: Groups meet on the **first** Thursday of the month from **1:00-2:00PM**, on the **second** Tuesday of the month from **11:00AM-1:00PM**, on the **third** Tuesday of the month from **6:00-8:00PM**, and on the **fourth** Tuesday of the month from **6:00-8:00PM** (Pacific Time).

To register: Scroll down to the bottom of the web page, select your preferred group, and click the register button.



Coaching for Health painbc.ca/coaching

Coaches provide one-on-one telephone or video support to help you learn self-management skills and regain function.

How to access: The program is accessed through a referral from a licensed medical professional. Ask your General Practitioner or other health care professional (i.e., counselor, physiotherapist, etc.) for a referral, or download the referral form and take it to your next appointment with them. To access the referral form, scroll down to the bottom of the page. If you are interested in accessing the Coaching for Health program but do not have access to a medical professional who can refer you, please contact the Pain Support Line at **1-833-261-PAIN (7246)** and a worker will complete a referral on your behalf.

Please note that this program may have wait times



Pain Support Line painbc.ca/supportline

Connect with staff for free information, emotional support and resource assistance to empower people living with pain and their loved ones to improve well-being and advocate for themselves.

How to access: Connect with us by **text** or **phone** at **1-833-261-PAIN (7246)**. Leave a voicemail or book an appointment here: painbc.janeapp.com/locations/pain-support-line/book

Hours of operation: **Phone line:** Staff return calls between **Monday to Friday** from **9:00AM-4:00PM**.

Text line: Available between **Monday to Thursday** from **1:00PM-8:00PM**, excluding statutory holidays.

All phone inquiries will receive a response within three business days, and text line responds during regular operating hours.



Making Sense of Pain Online painbc.ca/find-help/support-programs/making-sense-of-pain

This **free 9-week program** from Pain BC is designed to empower you to improve your quality of life and well-being through pain education and social connection. The weekly 90-minute online class is facilitated by Pain BC facilitators. Using a combination of interactive learning, discussion and practice activities each week will offer education, tools and resources to support you in your pain management, while providing an opportunity to share, listen and learn from others who live with chronic pain too.



Self-Management BC selfmanagementbc.ca

Offers self-management programs available to British Columbians virtually, online, by telephone and by mail. Programs are for adults of all ages living with one or more ongoing health conditions including chronic pain.

Program options: selfmanagementbc.ca/chronicpainprogram

Contact information: **1-866-902-3767** or email mselfmgmt@uvic.ca



PRACTICAL SUPPORT (FINANCIAL, FOOD SECURITY, HOUSING)

Ensuring your practical and basic needs are covered is an essential component to living with pain. It is common for work and financial impacts to come alongside pain.



Disability Alliance BC disabilityalliancebc.org/direct-service/apply-for-disability-benefits

Offers programs to help you apply for disability benefits. Get in touch if you need support.

Contact information: **1-800-663-1278**



Seniors First BC seniorsfirstbc.ca

A charitable, non-profit society that provides information, legal advocacy, support, and referrals to older adults across BC who are dealing with issues affecting their well-being, as well as those who care for them.



Food Banks BC foodbanksbc.com

Provincial association of food banks with 105 agencies throughout British Columbia.



BC Emergency Assistance Stage 1 Application gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/application-and-intake/bcea-application-stage-1

People with immediate need for food, shelter, or urgent medical attention including prescriptions and medical equipment that cannot be received without assistance, can apply for BC Emergency Assistance.

At the Stage 1 application, “immediate need” is assessed before moving forward. Applicants must create a

My Self-Serve account to apply, and identifying documentation and proof of work search is required.



BC Housing bchousing.org/housing-assistance

This organization manages a wide range of subsidized housing options in BC. Take a look at their website to see if you qualify for housing support.



Work BC workbc.ca

Connects job seekers and employers – helping people find jobs, explore career options and improve their skills, and helping employers find the right talent and grow their businesses. Work BC offers specific programming and support services to people living with disabilities looking for employment.



Neil Squire Society neilsquire.ca

Offers programs to support people with disabilities with accessibility needs including career development and technology support.



Transportation Assistance HandyDART translink.ca/rider-guide/transit-accessibility/handydart

A door-to-door shared ride service for people who are unable to navigate public transit without assistance.



Finding a GP findadoctorbc.ca

This website can help you search for clinics with general practitioners or nurse practitioners accepting new patients in a specific region/city.



Health Registry healthlinkbc.ca/health-connect-registry

If you live in British Columbia and need a family doctor or nurse practitioner, register for the Health Connect Registry.



Pathways pathwaysmedicalcare.ca

This website can help you search all clinics with general practitioners or nurse practitioners accepting new patients in a specific region/city.



MOVEMENT

Paced movement can have significant benefits for people who live with pain including reducing flare-ups and overall pain.



Gentle Movement @ Home painbc.ca/gentle-movement-at-home

Based on Pain BC's Gentle Movement and Relaxation program, a training course for providers that was developed by physiotherapist Neil Pearson, one of Canada's leading experts on movement and chronic pain. Sessions are led by physiotherapists and other therapeutic movement professionals and are designed to help people with persistent pain learn to feel safe to move again.



Safe Movement Classes - Group Virtual Medical Visits at changepain changepain.ca/gmv-schedule

The changepain clinic offers video Group Medical Visits (GMV) for people living with pain. These group appointments are physician-led and covered by MSP for BC residents who have a valid BC CareCard number.



Exercise and wellness videos for people with mobility challenges

uhn.ca/TorontoRehab/Clinics/TIME/Documents/TIME-Exercise-Wellness-Videos-for-People-with-Mobility-Challenges.pdf

These videos work best for people who find it difficult to walk in the community and who use a cane or walker to get around. All these videos can be found online and are available free of charge. These exercise videos can help you stay active from the comfort of your home.



Movement videos with occupational therapist Cara Kircher

youtube.com/channel/UCluKcGhYJelnOjG6E6nOyww

These movement videos are designed for people living actively with pain.



Pain BC Information Sheet – Finding a Physiotherapist for Chronic Pain

painbc.ca/sites/default/files/2025-01/PBC%20Factsheet%20-%20Finding%20a%20Physiotherapist%20-%20Final.pdf



Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia Find a Physio bcphysio.org/find-a-physio



SLEEP

Improved sleep can have significant benefits for people who live with pain.



Helpful information and tools to manage insomnia mysleepwell.ca



Free handouts to learn more about insomnia and nightmares cci.health.wa.gov.au/Resources/Looking-After-Yourself/Sleep



Chronic pain and sleep resources

northernpaincentre.com.au/wellness/chronic-pain-sleep/chronic-pain-and-sleep-resources



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The overlap of anxiety, depression and pain is particularly common in chronic pain. Experiences of anxiety and/or depression can cause increased intensity of pain, and flare-ups of pain often impact well-being. Using self-help materials, receiving support from friends and family, or joining a local support group can help you develop coping skills. However, sometimes we need extra help.

Counselling approaches found to be effective for people living with chronic pain include:

- Cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT)
- Acceptance and commitment therapy
- Mindfulness-based stress reduction
- Motivational interviewing

These resources are a good starting point to find **affordable** counsellors in your area:

- painbc.ca/find-help/resources/directory
- helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca
- gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-mental-health-supports

- ementalhealth.ca
- bit.ly/reducedcostcounselling
- openpathcollective.org
- bc211.ca



Additional resources for mental health:



Crisis Line Association of BC crisislines.bc.ca

Phone: 1-800-SUICIDE (**1-800-784-2433**)

310 Mental Health Support (**310-6789**)



Pain BC Information Sheet – Finding a Mental Health Counselor for Chronic Pain

painbc.ca/sites/default/files/2025-01/PBC%20Factsheet%20-%20Finding%20a%20Mental%20Health%20Counsellor%20-%20Final.pdf



Psychology Clinic at the University of British Columbia | Okanagan campus

psych.ok.ubc.ca/psychology-clinic

The Psychology Clinic provides low-cost access to psychology services in a wide range of areas, including chronic pain management, depression, anxiety, and substance use conditions. This service is provided by graduate student clinicians directly supervised by registered psychologists to ensure excellent quality of care. Group and individual treatments are available, in-person and virtual. Open to residents across BC.

Phone: **250-807-8241** or email: ipc.ok@ubc.ca



BC Virtual Mental Health Practice drnormansteinhart.com

Services offered include Medical Services Plan (MSP) covered group programs for coping with chronic illness. Coping with Chronic Illness is an **8-week program of 90-minute weekly medical appointments**.



BounceBack program bouncebackbc.ca

BounceBack is a free skill-building program from the Canadian Mental Health Association designed to help you build the tools to address mild to moderate depression, anxiety, and stress. Though it is not counseling or talk therapy, it is one-on-one support with coaches who have experience supporting people through a range of major life challenges and changes.



Help Starts Here helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca

Online search tool provided by the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions which helps BC residents find mental health resources such as addiction treatment, counselling, wellness programs, and information/tools.



The Mood Disorders Association of BC (MDABC) mdabc.net

A counseling and wellness centre that offers slightly discounted rates for supervised sessions with Master's level interns. They also offer CBT courses and support groups.



Anxiety Canada anxietycanada.com/resources/mindshift-cbt

This website provides video, audio, and text resources on managing anxiety along with a 10-hour step-by-step self-help program for managing anxiety with options for group therapy and app-based support.



Private psychological/counselling services (out of pocket or covered by extended health plans by employer)

BC Psychological Association: psychologists.bc.ca/find-psychologist

BC Association of Clinical Counsellors: bcacc.ca/counsellors



OPIOID USE DISORDER AND SUBSTANCE USE CONDITIONS



Pain BC - Opioids and chronic pain infosheet

painbc.ca/find-help/resources/downloadables/opioids-and-chronic-pain



Substance use resources – Government of Canada

canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/get-help-problematic-substance-use.html#a3



National Overdose Response Service (NORS) nors.ca



Opioid Agonist Therapy program bcmhsus.ca/health-professionals/clinical-professional-resources/opioid-agonist-treatment

Opioid agonist treatment, often called OAT, uses medications such as Suboxone and methadone to treat opioid addiction, reduce drug-related harms and support long-term recovery.



Access to safe supply (i.e., prescribed doses of uncontaminated opioids) canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/opioids/responding-canada-opioid-crisis/safer-supply.html



LifeRing healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/lifering

LifeRing is a support group for people who want to stop drinking or using drugs. It can help you develop a personal recovery plan to stay away from alcohol or drugs.



CONDITION SPECIFIC RESOURCES



Arthritis Society Canada arthritis.ca



Crohn's & Colitis Canada crohnsandcolitis.ca



Brain Injury Canada braininjurycanada.ca



Fibromyalgia Association Canada fibrocanada.ca



Fibromyalgia Well Spring Foundation fibromyalgiawellspringfoundation.org



Myalgic Encephalomyelitis | Fibromyalgia (ME | FM) Society of BC mefm.bc.ca



Migraine Canada migrainecanada.org



The Ehlers-Danlos Society ehlers-danlos.com

Do you need help navigating any of this information? Call the [Pain Support Line](#) at 1-833-261-7246.

This document was co-created by Pain BC and the following organizations with input from people who live with pain.



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