

Transition Planning

The PGT will also work with you, your social worker and any other trusted adult(s) in your life to help you build a plan that is right for you to manage your money at 19.

You will need a bank account and to think ahead about how your money can best help you reach your goals.

The PGT's *Dollars & Sense* Guide and Workbook are tools you can use to help you make decisions about how to manage your money in a way that is best for you. You can find it at our website at www.trustee.bc.ca. The PGT also offers financial literacy workshops for youth in care. Contact your social worker or the PGT to find out about upcoming workshops in your community.

Post Majority Services

Starting at age 19, you can also choose to have the PGT hold and manage your money until the age of 27. You can end this agreement at any time.

If you have any questions about the PGT or the PGT's role in your life, please contact us.

Contact the Child and Youth Services

Public Guardian and Trustee
700–808 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3L3

TEL **604 775 3480**

EMAIL **CYS@trustee.bc.ca**

Toll free calling is available through Service BC. After dialing the appropriate number for your area (below), request to be transferred to the PGT (regular office hours 8:30am-4:30pm, Mon–Fri).

VANCOUVER **604 660 2421**

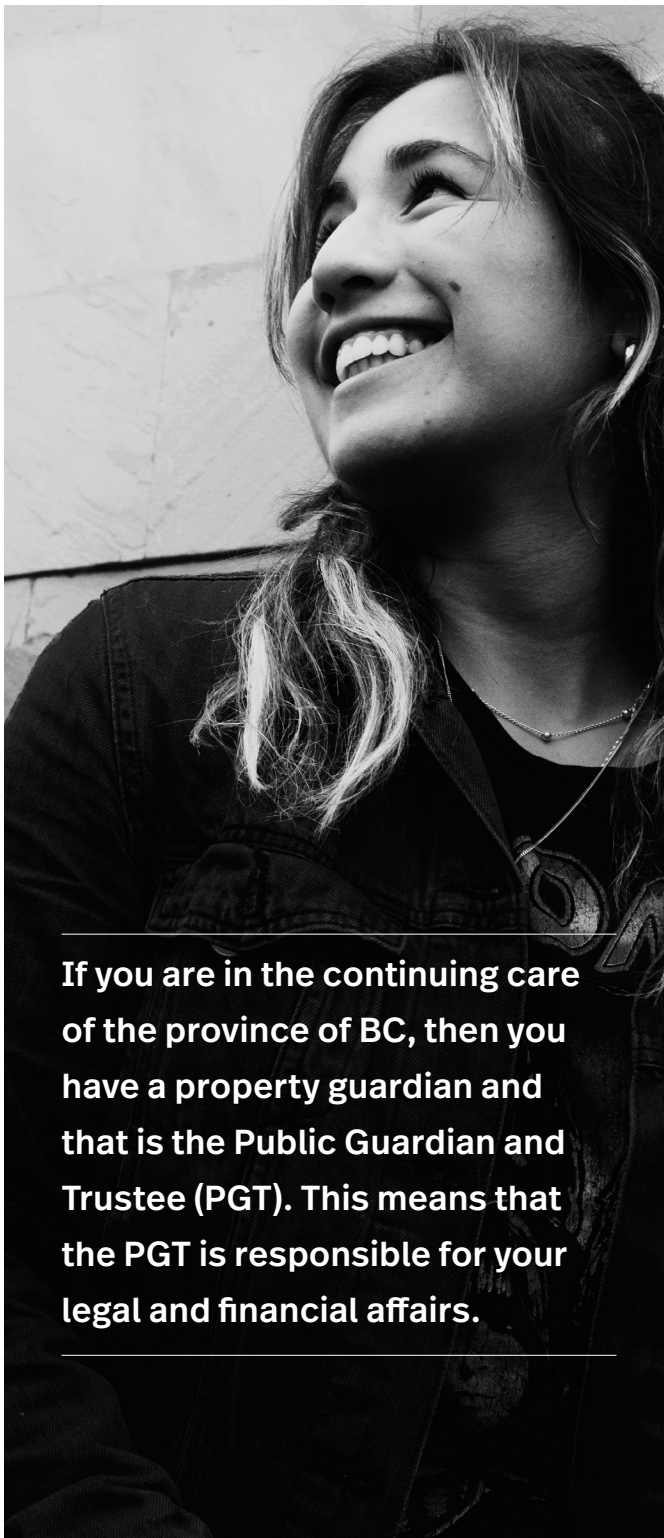
VICTORIA **250 387 6121**

ELSEWHERE **800 663 7867**

EMAIL **mail@trustee.bc.ca**

WEBSITE **www.trustee.bc.ca**

Youth in Care



If you are in the continuing care of the province of BC, then you have a property guardian and that is the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT). This means that the PGT is responsible for your legal and financial affairs.

What does this really mean?

Financial Benefits

If we are your property guardian, we want to apply for the financial awards or benefits you may be entitled to collect. To do this, we encourage your social worker, foster parent or any other important adult who helps you to contact us and share information. We want to hear from you too!

For example, we ask your social worker to tell us if your parent is receiving Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Disability Benefits or has passed away. Why? Because you might be eligible to receive CPP benefits too. If you are eligible, you can receive these monthly benefits up to age 18. If you are in school from age 18 to 25, you may be eligible to continue to receive these benefits while in school. If you are eligible to receive these or any other benefits, our office will apply for and receive them on your behalf.

Legal Issues

If you are injured or involved in an accident while in the continuing care of the province, your social worker is responsible for sharing this information with the PGT. Social workers tell us about these events by sending a report to the PGT or by contacting us in some way.

We review the information and will often speak with a lawyer at the PGT to find out if there might be a legal claim to make on your behalf. The types of injuries your social worker tells us about include injuries that resulted from a car accident, an accident at school, a physical or sexual assault or some other kind of injury or harm.

Please feel free to check in with your social worker or with us to make sure that the PGT has the most current information about you.

Managing your Money

If the PGT has received money to hold for you, we will hold it in trust until you turn 19 (the legal age of majority in BC). All funds we receive are placed in a trust account that is in your name and every month all interest earned is added to your account. The laws in BC state that the PGT must hold and protect this money for you until you are an adult.

Under certain special circumstances, the PGT may release money from your trust fund for specific items or activities that may not be paid for by the Ministry. You or your social worker can contact the PGT to discuss your situation and to request funds. You and your social worker will be informed of our decision. If you or your social worker disagree with the decision made, you can request that the decision be formally reviewed.