

## A Year in Review

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry over the past year. We have accomplished many things in 2011. The highlight of the year was September 1st, when amendments solidified the Representation Agreement Act and 22+ years of law reform effort by citizens and community groups!



The amendments meant a busy year for Nidus. Activities included:

- Five newsletters, including this one. View other 2011 Newsletters: [Vol. 10 April](#) | [Vol. 11 July](#) | [Vol. 12 Sept. 1](#) | [Vol. 13 Oct](#)
- Ten new fact sheets; 15 existing fact sheets revised,
- Nidus Standard Forms for Representation Agreements available on the website,
- An [Introductory video](#) on Personal Planning,
- A [Celebration Website](#) to share inspirational stories and messages and to highlight the history of Representation Agreements,
- Participating in the Province Newspaper's special series on seniors and aging — Boomerangst — as the "Expert" for questions on Representation Agreements and Powers of Attorney, and
- Two How-To-Workshops on Personal Planning for community organizations in the Lower Mainland with over 30 people attending.

## What to Expect for 2012

### Update on the Nidus Move

Fortunately, the deadline to find new office space has been extended until the new year. Due to a limited budget, we are still looking for affordable space that meets our needs. Thank you to everyone who has contacted us with suggestions and circulated information about our search to their networks. If you know of office space that may be suitable for Nidus or you know an organization who may have space to share, please email [info@nidus.ca](mailto:info@nidus.ca).

### Update on the Online Personal Planning Registry Project

Nidus and our technical partners are working hard behind-the-scenes to get our Personal Planning Registry online. Watch for news of the launch early in the new year.

### New at [www.nidus.ca](http://www.nidus.ca)

The following new or revised documents are now available:

- [Representation Agreement Section 7 Preparation Guide](#)
- [Fact Sheet on Representation Agreements and CSIL](#)

### New at [www.niduspersonalplanning.tumblr.com](http://www.niduspersonalplanning.tumblr.com)

The Nidus Celebration website now has helpful categories so you can easily find the stories, videos, messages, etc. See them [here](#).

## Make A Donation to Nidus



If you wish to receive a tax receipt for 2011, please make your donation by December 31st.

To donate online by credit card, click on [Donate Now](#) above.

Or send a cheque or money order to Nidus, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1X4.

## Nidus Issues a Challenge

People who visit our website and use our services are always amazed at the amount of detail that is available and want others to know about it. Many of you have shared your ideas on what Nidus should do to promote Representation Agreements and our resources.

However, Nidus does not have the capacity — in terms of funds or personnel — to undertake large-scale promotion. It requires your help!

We are preparing a new brochure on personal planning that can be used by groups and professionals.

The number of copies we can print and distribute will depend on community support. Nidus does not receive funding for promotion.

## What can you do?

1. Make a donation to help cover the costs of printing and mailing brochures. Every bit will help. See details above on how to donate.
2. If you belong to a group and can help distribute copies, please email us at [info@nidus.ca](mailto:info@nidus.ca).

## International Award for the Representation Agreement Act



As you read in the previous newsletter, the Representation Agreement Act of British Columbia was selected as one of the best policies in the world in a carefully designed research and evaluation process adopted by the World Future Council. The B.C. legislation was awarded this honour for recognizing the right to support in personal decision making and avoiding adult guardianship. Nidus is acknowledged as the driving force behind the B.C. legislation and is featured in the Zero Project 2012 Report and Conference.

Be sure to check [www.zeroproject.org](http://www.zeroproject.org) on January 22 and 23 during the Conference in Vienna for news on our presentation.

## The RDSP — Planning For A More Secure Future

Jack Styan, RDSP Resource Centre

People with disabilities can now secure their financial future by saving in a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The long-term nature of the plan, the federal government contributions and accumulated income mean that some RDSPs will provide significant future income.

### The federal government will make generous contributions to people's RDSPs.

For people with incomes below \$41,544, the federal government will make contributions even when no private contributions are made. Individuals can open an RDSP and receive as much as \$1,000 per year in their RDSP without making any contributions themselves.

If a person or their family is able to make contributions, the federal government will contribute as much as three times this amount to an annual total of \$3,500.

Most importantly, BC Disability Benefits (also called Persons with Disabilities or PWD) are not affected. The BC Government says it is okay to save in an RDSP and that money received from RDSPs will not affect disability benefits. People can have any amount in an RDSP and receive any amount from an RDSP without having their Disability Benefits reduced.

#### Eligibility:

To open a Registered Disability Savings Plan, the beneficiary must:

1. Qualify for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC),
2. Be a Canadian resident, and
3. Be Under the Age of 60.

A person can only get federal government amounts until the end of their 49th year.

If you want to know more about the RDSP or the disability tax credit, visit [www.rdspresource.ca](http://www.rdspresource.ca) or call 1-855-773-7377.



## Nidus in the News

The Provincial Government highlighted Representation Agreements as one of B.C.'s important social innovations in a Vancouver Sun op-ed article by Gordon Hogg. Click [here](#) to view the article.

## Community News

- The 411 Seniors Centre will remain open until the end of March 2012. Seniors Centre services will remain available until this time.
- The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities (BCCPD) has a new comprehensive website: [www.bccpd.bc.ca](http://www.bccpd.bc.ca).
- The Jewish Seniors Alliance is sponsoring a workshop titled 'Your Housing Options' on January 18th, 1:00 to 2:15 pm. RSVP with Leah 604.257.5111.

## Personal Planning:

### [Pur-suh-nl plan-ing]

*verb* – the act of making one or more legal documents that authorize your personal supporters to help you manage your affairs or make decisions on your behalf if you need assistance due to illness, injury or disability:

*Carla is gathering information about personal planning because she is aging and concerned about maintaining her independence.*

Personal planning is different from estate planning in that personal planning is about making arrangements for while you are alive, whereas estate planning is about making arrangements for when you die.

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