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The critical need for
improving seniors
transportation
on the Sunshine Coast

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VCH Volunteer Driver Program

Bridging the Gap: Volunteer Drivers Make Medical Care Accessible

For many residents along the Sunshine Coast, getting to medical appointments, especially those off-Coast can be a challenge. Access to a personal vehicle isn't a given, public transit options are limited or non-existent in rural areas. Travelling to Vancouver for medical care adds another layer of complexity, particularly for those with mobility issues.

Thankfully, Vancouver Coastal Health's Volunteer Driver Program helps bridge this gap. The program connects trained volunteer drivers with residents who need transportation to and from essential medical appointments. Whether it's a local physiotherapy session or a specialist visit in Vancouver, this service ensures people don't miss critical care due to lack of transportation.



“This service
fills a huge gap”

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“This service fills a huge gap,” says the Volunteer Program Coordinator. “It ensures that clients with limited mobility or financial means can still attend their medical appointments safely and on time.”

However, the cost of longer-distance travel, particularly to Vancouver, can still be a barrier. The program charges a fee per kilometre, and off-Coast trips may also include ferry fares, parking, and meals for the volunteer driver. Another ongoing challenge is the limited number of volunteers available for Vancouver trips. With anywhere from a few to over eight off-Coast rides per month, and many more local trips, scheduling can be tricky without sufficient volunteer coverage.

To qualify for the program, clients must be unable to use public or private transportation and must be physically able to get in and out of the vehicle and attend their appointments independently. The volunteer driver program plays a vital role in maintaining health, independence, and social connection for many.



United Way
British Columbia

*This program is generously
supported by United Way BC*

Kaylene Sawicki | Sunshine Coast Resource Centre

Interested in helping out?

If you'd like more information about the Volunteer Driver Program, or are interested in becoming a driver, please call 604-885-8517 or email scvolunteer@vch.ca.

Vancouver Coastal Health

**Do you have questions on transportation on the Coast
or have an organization you want featured?**



SUNSHINE COAST
**Resource
Centre**

Contact Us!

Email: help@resourcecentre.ca

Call: 604.885.4088

Office: 5674 Cowrie St, Sechelt

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