

## RDSP RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT

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Al Etmanski, PLAN's president

ROYAL ASSENT was recently granted to the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), making Canada the first country to address the concerns of families who worry what will happen to their children with disabilities who outlive their parents. Now it's up to provincial and territorial governments to take the next steps, and British Columbia has taken the lead.

At the end of 2007, the province's Employment and Income Assistance Minister, Claude Richmond, exempted the RDSP as an asset of an individual in receipt of disability benefits and declared that his ministry will not claw back any disbursements from the RDSP.

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN), which has shepherded the RDSP for eight years, will be working with individuals and families across Canada to encourage other provinces to follow suit. "The RDSP will have huge positive side-consequences," says Al Etmanski, president of PLAN. "It will transform the 'welfare' mentality associated with government benefits, lay the foundation for a prosperity agenda, and lead people with disabilities out of one of their biggest handicaps – poverty. Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Minister Richmond have shown that they trust people with disabilities and their families to make the best choices about their financial well-being."

For more information about the RDSP, visit [www.plan.ca](http://www.plan.ca).