



# Parking Placards for Persons with Disabilities

## Information for Approvers

Certified medical professionals (physicians, occupational therapists or physiotherapists) are authorized to approve application forms for parking placards for persons with disabilities.

To be eligible for a parking placard, a person must be unable to walk 50 metres (150 feet).

The following provides information on physical/functional assessment procedures to assist you in determining a person's eligibility for a parking placard. You should seek the advice of your professional association for appropriate physical/functional assessment procedures.

**Your efforts to ensure ONLY individuals with the greatest needs are issued a placard for designated parking will contribute to the success of the policy.**

- Is the applicant's disability classified as neurological, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory or other?
- Given the applicant's disability, can he/she walk 50 metres? ("Walk" is defined as "progress by lifting and setting down each foot in turn, never having both feet off the ground at once." Source: The Concise Oxford Dictionary, Ninth Edition, 2001)
- How does the applicant's disability impair his/her mobility?
- Is the applicant's disability chronic, varying from day to day?
- Does the applicant require the use of any of the following for mobility:

	Full-time Basis	For Distances Less than 50 Metres (150 feet)	For Distances More Than 50 Metres (150 feet)
Motorized scooter			
Motorized wheelchair			
Manual wheelchair			
Walker			
Crutch(es)			
Cane(s)			
Leg prosthesis(es)?			

- Does the individual need the assistance of a wheelchair lift or other boarding assistance device to board, ride and disembark from an accessible vehicle?
- On the application form, you will be asked to indicate that the applicant's disability is one of the following:
  - Short term disability where the person is unable to walk more than 50 metres (150 feet) for three to twelve months.
  - Long term disability where the person is unable to walk more than 50 metres (150 feet) but the disability may improve within the next five years, (e.g. no longer requires the use of a wheelchair). The applicant will be required to re-apply in five years to determine his or her eligibility for a placard.
  - Permanent disability where the person is unable to walk more than 50 metres (150 feet) and the disability is of a permanent nature and will not improve within the next five years (e.g. requires the permanent use of a wheelchair). The applicant will be able to self-declare in five years to renew their placard, and will not require verification from a certified medical professional.
- Beginning January 16, 2007, certified medical professionals will be able to identify whether a person has a permanent disability where the person is unable to walk more than 50 metres (150 feet) and his or her disability will not improve within the next five years. In these cases, the applicant will not need to be re-examined by a certified medical professional for future placard renewals, and will be able to self-declare to renew his or her placard.

**Please note that:**

- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Persons who have sensory impairments are not eligible for a parking placard unless they have reduced mobility as defined by the policy.
- Information provided may be disclosed to the Driver Fitness and Monitoring Branch of Alberta Transportation to assist in the evaluation of an individual's medical fitness to drive.

**For more information:**

- Please visit Service Alberta's website at [www.servicealberta.ca](http://www.servicealberta.ca) or call Service Alberta's Contact Centre at (780) 427-7013. If you are outside the Edmonton calling area, call toll-free, 310-0000.

**Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring Albertans with the greatest needs have access to designated parking.**

