



Parking Placards for Persons with Disabilities

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the current policy?

A person must be unable to walk 50 metres (150 feet) in order to qualify for a parking placard.

A certified medical professional (physician, occupational therapist or physiotherapist) is authorized to approve application forms for both temporary (up to 12 months) and permanent (five years) parking placards.

Persons who have sensory impairments are not eligible for a parking placard unless they have reduced mobility as defined by the policy.

Organizations in the business of providing transportation services to persons with disabilities may be issued parking placards equivalent to the number of registered vehicles in the organization's name.

Placards will not be issued to volunteer drivers.

2. How was the current policy developed?

The current parking placard policy came into effect on November 1, 2001. It was developed over a two year consultation process that included representatives from consumer groups, service providers, industry and the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

3. Who participated in the development of the policy?

The following are some of the groups representing persons with disabilities who participated in the review, including:

- Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities;
- Canadian Paraplegic Association;
- Alberta Council on Aging;
- Alberta Seniors Advisory Council;
- Alberta Disabilities Forum;
- Associations representing specific disabilities including multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, arthritis, etc.;
- Medical professionals;
- Shopping mall and public building owners; and
- Bylaw and police authorities.

4. Why was the parking placards for persons with disabilities policy reviewed in 2005-2006?

When the current policy was implemented, the Government of Alberta committed to a mid-term review of the policy to ensure the policy was meeting its objective of ensuring individuals with the greatest needs have access to designated parking.

With the approval of the Alberta Advisory Committee on Barrier Free Transportation, a subcommittee was formed to review specific aspects of the policy.

Issues that were addressed by the mid-term review include: organizations; enforcement; self declaration; education; and standards for parking and signage.

5. Who participated in the mid-term review of the policy?

The following are some of the groups representing persons with disabilities who participated in the review:

- Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities;
- Office of Disability Issues;
- Alberta Council on Aging;
- Canadian Paraplegic Association;

- Enforcement authorities including the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton;
- Alberta Shopping Centre Association;
- For-profit organizations;
- Not-for-profit organizations; and
- Alberta Safety Codes Council.

The key changes following the 2005-2006 mid-term review were allowing applicants with permanent disabilities to self-declare on future applications, and allowing for-profit organizations in the business of providing transportation services to persons with disabilities to receive placards.

6. How does the current policy compare to other provinces?

The current policy is consistent with other provinces and territories, including allowing occupational therapists and physiotherapists to approve application forms in addition to physicians. It also allows persons with permanent disabilities, when renewing their placard, to self-declare that their condition has not changed.

7. Where can I obtain an application form for a parking placard?

You or your certified medical professional may obtain the application form from any Alberta registry agent or visit Service Alberta's website at www.servicealberta.ca.

8. How does an individual apply for a parking placard?

The application form must be completed by your certified medical professional (physician, occupational therapist or physiotherapist), based on their assessment of your need for a parking placard. Once the form has been completed by your certified medical professional, you can then take the form to an Alberta registry agent where a parking placard will be issued.

9. When can I self-declare?

Beginning January 16, 2007, certified medical professionals will have the ability to identify whether a person has a permanent disability,

meaning that 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 their placard.

10. How does an organization apply for a parking placard?

A parking placard application form is not required.

To apply for a placard, your organization must provide an original letter written on your organization's letterhead and signed by an authorized officer of the organization. Outline the number of placards being requested and state the intended use of the placard, along with the licence plate number(s) for each registered vehicle to any Alberta registry agent.

Once the letter is received by the registry agent, they will confirm your organization is registered with the Government of Alberta's Corporate Registries Branch and verify the vehicles stated in the letter are registered in your organization's name. Your organization may receive one red placard per vehicle registered in your organization's name. These placards will be valid for one year. To receive a placard the following year, your organization can resubmit an original signed letter and old placards to an Alberta registry agent.

Placards will not be issued to volunteer drivers.

11. When can an organization use a parking placard?

The issuance of a placard to an organization is a privilege, not a right. An organization to which a placard is issued can only use the placard while providing service to a client who meets the criteria of not being able to walk 50 metres (150 feet).

When an organization's vehicle is parked in a designated stall, the placard must be hung from the rear-view mirror of the organization's vehicle with the registration number and expiry date visible from outside the vehicle. The client must leave the vehicle.

The driver of the organization's vehicle must use his or her judgment when parking. If their client is having a "good" day and does not need use of a designated stall, please leave the stall for someone with a greater need.

For additional information about proper placard use, please review the "Information for Organization Placard Holders" from Service Alberta at www.servicealberta.ca.

12. What do I do with my temporary or permanent placard when I no longer need it?

Valid placards that are no longer needed must be returned to any Alberta registry agent office.

13. If I am visually impaired, am I eligible for a placard?

Individuals with visual impairments are not eligible to receive a parking placard unless they also have reduced mobility as defined by the policy.

14. If I am a current placard holder now, what are some of the rules I should follow when using it?

Remember that ONLY YOU are entitled to use your placard. Any demonstrated abuse or misuse of a placard may result in the placard being cancelled. Service Alberta may notify enforcement authorities should your placard be cancelled.

When the vehicle has been parked in a designated stall, your placard must be hung from the vehicle's rear-view mirror with the registration number and expiry date visible from outside the vehicle.

You must leave the vehicle when parked in a designated stall. If you remain in the vehicle while allowing a family member or friend to run your errand, you are abusing your placard privileges.

For additional information about proper placard use, please review the "Information Sheet for Individual Placard Holders" from Service Alberta at www.servicealberta.ca.

15. I am visiting Alberta. May I bring my placard?

Visitors with valid parking placards from their home jurisdictions may use their placards while visiting in Alberta. The visitor's placard must be valid, clearly displayed (e.g. hanging from the rear-view mirror), used in the vehicle that the placard holder is traveling in, and when parked in a marked designated parking stall, the placard holder must exit from the vehicle.

16. I am visiting Alberta, but I did not bring my placard. What should I do?

A visitor in need of a parking placard and traveling without an existing placard from their home jurisdiction may request a temporary (red) placard for the duration of their visit. The request can be made by an Albertan known to the visitor, in which case the placard would be issued in the name of the Albertan on behalf of the visitor.

If the visitor does not know anyone in Alberta, the visitor, upon arrival in Alberta, may go to any [registry agent](#) and request a temporary (red) placard. In either case, the parking placard must be returned to an Alberta registry agent when the visitor leaves Alberta.

A list of Alberta registry agents can be found on the Alberta government web site at www.servicealberta.ca

17. Can I get designated parking signs installed in front of my house?

Local municipalities are responsible for providing designated parking signs in residential areas. To inquire into having designated parking signs installed in front of your house, please contact your local municipality. If designated parking signs are installed, they may be used by any person with a valid parking placard.

18. Why don't placards contain pictures of the holder to help enforcement authorities identify when placards are being abused?

Stakeholders decided that this suggestion not be pursued due to privacy and security issues. One of the common concerns was that placard holders did not want to become a target of crime if their photo was included on their parking placard.

19. If I see a placard being misused/abused, what should I do?

You should record all details of the incident including the date, time, place, vehicle licence plate number and description, and placard number, and submit the information to the traffic bylaw enforcement agency of the municipality in which the incident occurred. (A list of enforcement agencies for some of Alberta's municipalities is attached).

20. Where can I get more information?

Please visit Service Alberta's website at 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.

21. Is there a cost for obtaining a parking placard?

There is no fee charged by the Government of Alberta. There may be a fee charged by the certified medical professional that approves the application. A service fee may be applied by the Alberta registry agent.

Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring Albertans with the greatest needs have access to designated parking.

ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR SOME OF ALBERTA'S MUNICIPALITIES

City of Calgary Parking Authority
620-9th Avenue, SW
Calgary, AB
T2P 1L5
Phone: (403) 537-7000
Fax: (403) 537-7001
E-mail:
cpainquiries@calgaryparking.com

City of Medicine Hat Police Service
884 – 2nd Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 8H2
Phone: (403) 529-8481
Fax: (403) 529-8473

City of Edmonton Parking
Enforcement
10250 – 101st Street NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 3P4
Phone: (780) 423-4567
E-mail:
parkingenforcement@edmonton.ca

City of Red Deer Bylaw Enforcement
Box 5008
4914 – 48th Avenue
Red Deer, AB
T4N 3T4
Phone: (403) 342-8185
Fax: (403) 342-8200
E-mail: cityparking@reddeer.ca

City of Grande Prairie Enforcement
Services
P.O. Bag 4000
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 6V3
Phone: (780) 538-0378
Fax: (780) 539-4604
E-mail:
enforcement@cityofgp.com

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
Bylaw Enforcement
9912 MacDonald Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB
T9H 1S8
Phone: (780) 799-8888
Fax: (780) 743-4186

Lethbridge Regional Police Service
135-1 Avenue, S.
Lethbridge, AB
T1J 0A1
Phone: (403) 328-4444
Fax: (403) 328-6999

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font. A small blue square is positioned at the end of the word, to the right of the letter 'a'.