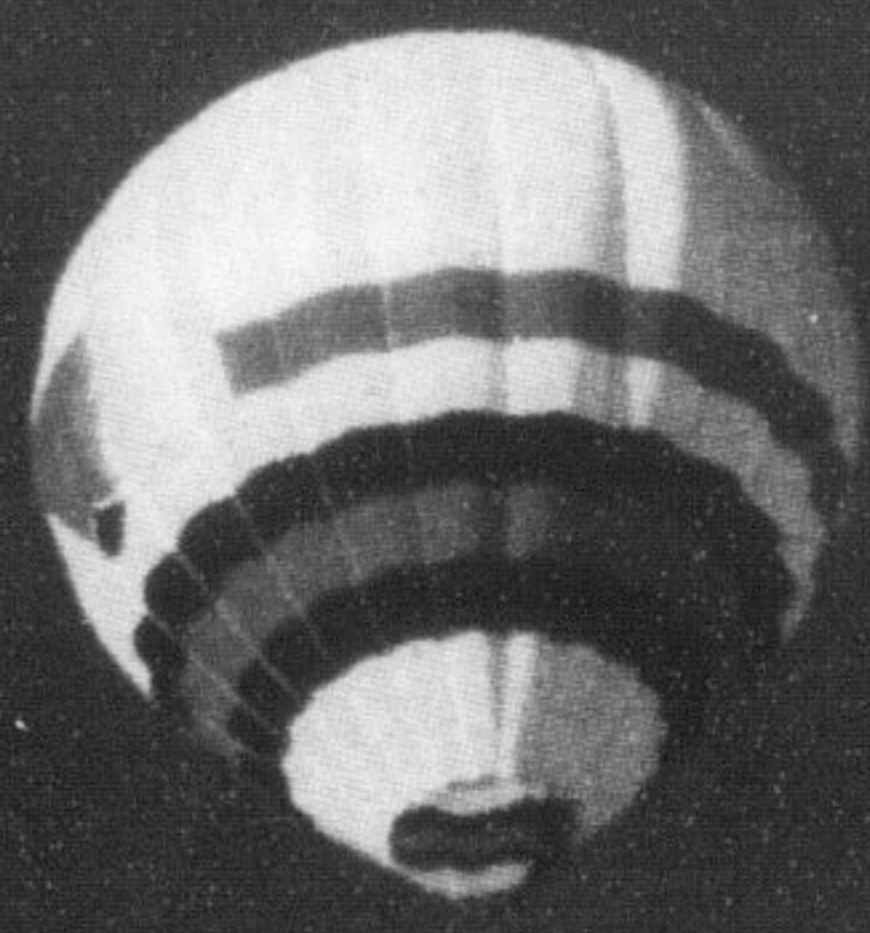


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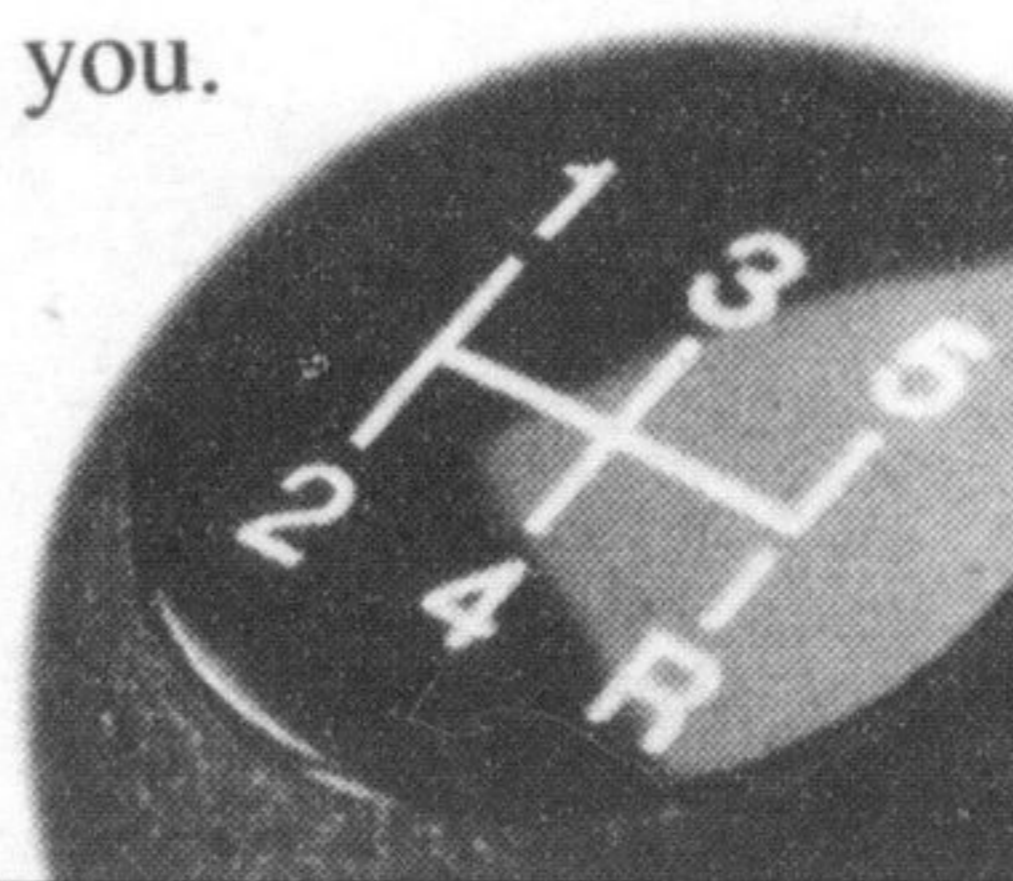
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08/04

Find out about your government benefits

You don't have to cope all alone with sudden changes in your life. Government assistance and benefits could make changing circumstances a lot easier to manage - provided you know what to claim, and how to claim it. Luckily, one website has now emerged to show us definitively, all of the support and services available within Canada's social safety net.

Seniors, for example, can now find out about survivor and low-income allowances, and also about programs for prescription drugs, adult care, and home adaptations. If you are a student, you can find out about grants and scholarship funds. Perhaps you are a person with a disability and need more information on the resources and support programs offered nationwide.

Access to information on virtually every government benefit program is available on the Canada Benefits website at: CanadaBenefits.gc.ca. At last count, this single-window, award-winning website had been visited by over 1.6 million Canadians, each with access to information on hundreds of federal and provincial programs and services. The benefits offered are either financial or non-financial. A financial benefit can either be a direct payment (a grant, repayable loan, or assistance) or an indirect financial benefit, such as a counselling service. To fully explore the site, start with one of four search options on the Home page. You can locate a benefit alphabetically using the A-Z Benefits Index, or use the "I am" option, a fast track to benefits information for demographics such as parents, seniors, students, people with disabilities, and more. Or, with the "Life Events" option, pinpoint your status in categories like retirement, unemployment, learning, housing, health concerns, etc. The site gives access to government benefits and services that are relevant to your circumstances and according to where you live.

The Benefits Finder
If you would prefer the site to deliver a more personalized summary of potential benefits, be sure to try The Benefits Finder. All you have to do is answer a series of simple, anonymous questions about your life circumstances and then, once the answers are submitted, this tool delivers a list of relevant benefit programs.

Access to benefits-related information - including The Benefits Finder and other topics of general interest - is also available on the primary Government of Canada website, canada.gc.ca.

- News Canada

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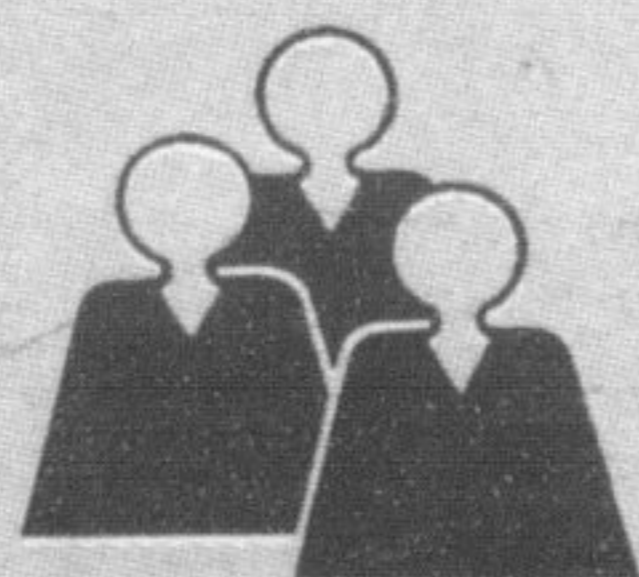


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