

#BetterTheBenefit

Background

More than 1 in 4 Canadians (27%) live with disabilities.

1.6 million working-age Canadians with disabilities live in poverty.

41% of people who live in poverty are disabled.

No provincial or territorial disability income assistance currently lifts them above the poverty line.

How We Got Here

- **June 2023:** *The Canada Disability Benefit Act* received [Royal Assent with cross-party support](#).
- **April 2024:** Despite [overwhelming approval from Canadians, where 9 in 10 Canadians expressed support](#), the [2024 Federal Budget only allocated \\$6.1 billion over six years for the Canada Disability Benefit \(CDB\)](#).
- **May 2025:** Regulations come into force. The benefit, set at \$200 per month, is tied to eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

Key Issue

- Applications for the CDB opens in June for first payments in July 2025.
- Recipients must be in receipt of the Disability Tax Credit - a very confusing and difficult credit to obtain.
- No information has yet been released regarding helping people pay for physician fees to fill out the form as mentioned in the spring budget 2024.
- There is a separate application for the CDB - this process ought to be streamlined.
- At its current rate, the CDB will not lift any disabled Canadians out of poverty.

Key Ask

We are deeply concerned about the amount of the benefit, the eligibility and application process, and that there are provinces that have stated they will clawback the benefit.

We are asking you:

- To increase the amount – the benefit should lift disabled people out of poverty.
- To cut red tape – automatically enrol those already eligible for other disability benefits.
- To ensure there are no clawbacks – the CDB must be a top-up to other income and disability support programs for all levels of government.

\$200 a month to so few people with disabilities is far below what is needed.

We expect better.