

#BetterTheBenefit Advo-Kit

Thank you for your dedication in making the Canada Disability Benefit better! Together, we can make a difference.

How to Prepare:

1. Understand the Issue: Familiarize yourself with the key messages, and the urgent need to make the CDB better. Review the one-pager and talking points provided.
2. Practice Your Story: Be ready to share a personal or community story that highlights the importance of the CDB. Stories resonate with decision-makers.
3. Coordinate with DWP: Attend the town hall and use the materials provided to feel confident in your advocacy role.

How to Get Meetings:

1. Identify Your Elected official or Candidate: [Use this LINK to find your current MP and their contact information.](#)
2. Request a Meeting: Use the email/letter template provided to request a meeting. Highlight your role as an advocate and your interest in discussing the CDB.
3. Follow Up: If you don't hear back within 1 week, follow up with an email or call.

What to Say:

1. Introduction: Introduce yourself and your connection to the issue.
2. Key Points: Share the key messages and a personal or community story to illustrate the importance of the CDB.
3. The Asks: Urge the Elected Official or Candidate to support: increasing the amount of the CDB; streamlining the application process, ensuring there will be no clawbacks of any kind related to the CDB and to communicate their support of these asks to key decision-makers.

What to Do During the Meeting:

1. Be Respectful: Listen actively and thank the Elected Official or Candidate, or their staff, for their time.
2. Stay Focused: Stick to the key messages and avoid getting sidetracked.
3. Take Notes: Record key points discussed, including commitments or questions.

How to Follow Up:

1. Send a Thank-You Note: Email the Elected Official or Candidate, or their staff, to thank them for the meeting and reiterate your key points.
2. Provide Additional Information: If the Elected Official or Candidate requested further details, follow up promptly with the necessary materials.
3. Stay Engaged: Keep the conversation going by sharing updates from the campaign and asking about progress on their commitments.

Reporting Back to DWP

After the meeting, email us at hello@disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca to submit your summary of the meeting.

- Your Name:
- Elected Official or Candidate's Name:
- Meeting Date:
- Key Points Discussed:
- Elected Official or Candidate's Response and Feedback:
- Any Follow-Up Needed:
- Additional Notes:

EMAIL TEMPLATES

1. Email Template to Request a Meeting with Your Elected Official or Candidate

Dear [Elected Official or Candidate NAME],

I am requesting a meeting to discuss the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) and how we can ensure it truly lifts people with disabilities out of poverty. As your constituent and a community advocate with Disability Without Poverty, I am deeply concerned about the 1.6 million Canadians with disabilities living in poverty who need meaningful support.

While the CDB was unanimously passed in June 2023 and draft regulations were released in June 2024, key issues remain. A maximum of \$200/month, the requirement to qualify for the restrictive Disability Tax Credit, a separate application process, and the risk of provincial clawbacks could leave many worse off. We must strengthen the benefit to fulfill its promise.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can work together to improve the CDB. Please let me know a time that works for you. I am happy to adjust to your schedule.

Thank you for your time and commitment. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

2. Thank-You Email Template

Subject: Thank You for Meeting to Discuss the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB)

Dear [Elected Official or Candidate NAME],

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on [DATE]. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) and its crucial role in supporting the 1.6 million Canadians with disabilities living in poverty.

As we discussed, while the CDB has the potential to provide meaningful support, key concerns—such as the low maximum amount, restrictive eligibility tied to the Disability Tax Credit, a separate application process, and the risk of provincial clawbacks—must be addressed. Strengthening the benefit is essential to ensuring it truly lifts people out of poverty rather than leaving many worse off. Your advocacy in making these necessary improvements will be key to its success.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further information. I will also stay in touch with updates on this critical issue.

Thank you again for your time and commitment. I look forward to working together to make the CDB as strong and effective as it needs to be.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

3. Follow-Up Email Template for Additional Information

Dear [Elected Official or Candidate NAME],

Following our recent meeting on [DATE], I wanted to provide additional information on the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) and the need to strengthen it. Attached, you will find key messages and a one-pager outlining the CDB's goals, timelines, and the urgent need for improvements.

As we discussed, while the CDB has the potential to provide critical financial support, concerns remain regarding its low maximum amount, restrictive eligibility criteria, separate application process, and the risk of provincial clawbacks. Addressing these issues is essential to ensuring the benefit truly lifts people out of poverty. Your advocacy in making these necessary improvements will be vital.

If you need any further details or specific resources to support this effort, please let me know. I appreciate your time and commitment to making the CDB as effective as it needs to be.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]