



Shape the CDB Phase 1 Report: ONLINE SURVEY

**Disability Without Poverty's Initiative
to Bring the Perspectives of People
with Disabilities to Government**

February 5, 2024



**disability
without
poverty**

**le handicap
sans
pauvreté**

A plain-text version of this report is available to download at disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/shape-the-cdb-phase-1/

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1. Plain Language Summary

More than 4500 disabled people across Canada answered this online survey to tell us what they want from the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB). We reached many people from all walks of life with many types of disabilities, including those usually left out of important policy decisions.

People who answered the survey could share their email address if they wanted to stay in touch with what Disability Without Poverty is doing to help bring the input of disabled people to the government. 1448 people, about one in three, shared their email. This shows that many people with disabilities in Canada want to be involved in decisions made about disability and disabled people.

From the answers to the survey, we learned that the CDB should help disabled people, giving them enough money to get out of poverty. Most people strongly believe that the government should have people with disabilities help create, put into action, and review the CDB. They also think that no disabled person should end up with less money after the CDB starts. This means that there can be no clawbacks, it should be easy to apply for the CDB, and the government needs to think about all the extra costs disabled people have.

Though most people agreed about most questions, there were some areas where people had lots of different opinions, mostly about who should qualify for the benefit. For example, some people were unsure if everyone who says they are disabled should qualify for the benefit. Some people were not sure if people who live in Canada but are not citizens should qualify. Some people thought that disabled people who make more money should get less help from the CDB.

We'll learn more in the next part of our project when people with disabilities from across Canada talk to each other directly about the CDB.

2. Executive Summary

This online survey reached over 4500 disabled people across the country and gave them an opportunity to share their perspectives and needs concerning the CDB. Through this survey we reached a wide diversity of disabled people including many people with intersecting identities that are often under-represented in policy and decision-making.

The survey offered an opportunity for respondents to share their email address in order to stay connected with the work that Disability Without Poverty is doing to bring the input of people with disabilities to government. 1448 people, almost a third of respondents, submitted their email address, indicating how strong the appetite is in this community to actively support and participate in advocacy work for disability rights.

People shared that the CDB needs to provide meaningful support that lifts disabled people out of poverty and offers an income that is above Canada's Official Poverty Line. Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the government should include persons with disabilities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the CDB program and that no disabled person should be any worse off after the CDB comes into effect. This means no clawbacks, a simple and accessible application process and a real consideration of all the additional costs that people with disabilities need to deal with.

While there was much agreement, there were also a few areas of divergence amongst respondents. These tended to focus on eligibility and implementation details such as whether disabled people of all residency statuses should be eligible, whether anyone who identifies as disabled ought to get access to the CDB and whether disabled people who earn more money should receive less. We will dive deeper into these and other questions about details in the second phase of this project involving peer-to-peer conversations across the country.

3. Purpose and Goals of the Project

In September 2020, the federal government said that they would make a new benefit called the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB). The CDB would go to disabled people who live in poverty.

The statistics about disabled people living in poverty are awful:

- At least 1.4 million disabled people in Canada live in poverty.¹
- More than 2 in 10 people in Canada are disabled.²
- But 4 in 10 of the people who live in poverty are disabled.³
- Provincial disability assistance payments are below the poverty line.⁴
- When Canadians were asked, 89% said that disabled people should not live in poverty.⁵

At Disability Without Poverty, we believe creating the benefit must:

- Include disabled people in all aspects of the design.
- Get the money into the hands of disabled people as quickly as possible.

We aim to assist the government in understanding the needs of disabled people by reaching out to these communities ourselves.

Throughout this project we will:

- Engage with a lot of disabled people in Canada to learn their thoughts.
- Make exceptional efforts to gather perspectives of those people with disabilities who are hard to reach and often left out of decisions.
- Write a report for the government that tells them what people with disabilities think, and share the recommendations people with disabilities have for the regulations, policies and procedures of the Canada Disability Benefit.
- Create a community of disabled people in Canada and work together to eliminate poverty for disabled people in Canada.

3. Purpose and Goals of the Project

The Project

We want to answer questions on regulations, policies and procedures. In other words, we will be looking to get the perspectives of disabled people on:

Regulations: The rules and/or law that will define the standards and requirements of the CDB.

Policies: The high level guidelines that help decision-making and action related to the CDB.

Procedures: The details of how the CDB would be carried out in terms of access, eligibility and content.

There are three separate parts to this initiative:

Part 1 *(October 17- November 19, 2023)*

Learn from almost 5000 disabled people

We asked for the views of 5000 disabled people using an online surveying tool. This survey asked about the values and issues that disabled people care about.

Part 2 *(November 27- December 8, 2023)*

Peer to peer action weeks

A survey is a great way to learn what a large number of people think, but we wanted to ensure we also captured the nuance and depth available from people's lived experience. We are able to understand more detailed thoughts from people when we engage with them, one to one or in small groups. In the peer-to-peer action weeks, more than 50 people with disabilities held conversations with other disabled people in their communities and beyond about the CDB. We provided training to help those who conducted the interviews, and a small honorarium to everyone who took part.

Part 3 *(Early 2024)*

The third phase of the Shape the CDB project is the publication of three project reports:

3. Purpose and Goals of the Project

- This survey report;
- The peer-to-peer report which shares what many people with disabilities across Canada who joined this conversation believe the government should keep in mind when designing the CDB;
- The Shape the CDB capstone report which links the data from the survey and the peer-to-peer report to ensure that the government can access a more complete picture about what a great number of people with disabilities, from many different walks of life, need from the benefit so they can live with more dignity, autonomy, power, and possibility.

4. About the survey

a. Metadata

The survey was launched on October 17, 2023, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and ran until November 19, 2023. It offered an opportunity for anyone in Canada with a disability to share their perspective on what the CDB should consider and offer. The aim of the survey was to help policy-makers and government officials understand the needs and preferences of this population.

The survey was made available through an online tool called SimpleSurvey and was completely anonymous. It was structured in a way to make it as accessible as possible to our group of respondents. Almost all questions were phrased so that respondents could either select their preferred option out of a maximum of five options, or select “agree” or “disagree”. Every question included a “prefer not to answer” option and was optional. While the average completion time was around 15 minutes, the most common times ranged from 8 to 12 minutes. Participants were permitted to save their unfinished survey (securely) and complete it later.

Overall, the survey received 4537 responses, 4093 of which were entirely complete. This is a completion rate of 90.21%, which is excellent for this type of engagement tool.

4. About the survey

The survey included 75 questions total and was divided into eight sections. These were:

Section	# of Questions
All about you (demographic information)	17
What values should the CDB promote?	10
What should the CDB look like?	10
What should the cost of disability include?	7
How frequently should the CDB be paid?	1
Who should be eligible for the CDB?	7
How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?	18
How should the data from the CDB be used?	4

b. Strengths and weaknesses

The primary strength of the survey was that it provided a low barrier avenue for a large number of disabled people to provide input into the Shape the CDB engagement process. As an online tool it was available to participants to complete at their own pace in whatever environment was accessible to them.

The primary weakness of this and other online surveys is that it was only available to people who had safe and easy access to the internet. This may have contributed to the lack of uptake from people in Nunavut.

Though a deliberate design choice of this survey, it could be seen as a weakness that this engagement method did not allow for in-depth input, but rather focused on priority ranking. The Shape the CDB process will mitigate

4. About the survey

against this with the second phase of engagement, which focuses on more substantive conversation as a method of input.

c. Outreach Process

The survey was promoted widely by Disability Without Poverty (DWP) and through their networks. Partners and collaborators were provided with an outreach kit which facilitated their sharing of the survey with their communities. The outreach kit included contextual information about the project and language that partners could use in newsletters, social media posts and other avenues to promote the survey. DWP also produced business cards with a QR code that linked to the survey that they could hand out when meeting community members in person.

5. Demographics

a. High-Level Summary

As hoped and expected, 3890 (88%) of the respondents identified as a Disabled Person, person with a disability or disabilities, a d/Deaf person, a person with a chronic physical health condition(s)*, and/or a person with a mental health condition(s). Of this group, 1422 (37%) also identified as caregivers of a family member with a disability.

508 respondents identified as caregivers but did not themselves have a disability. Overwhelmingly, the responses of disabled people aligned with those of caregivers who were not themselves disabled. The rare occurrences of variation are highlighted in the observation sections that follow.

72 respondents did not clearly identify as disabled or as a caregiver. These responses were removed for the purposes of analysis.

63% of respondents identified as female while only 29% identified as male. Data from Statistics Canada shows that the rate of disability is higher among women (30%) than men (24%), however the spread in the response rate to this survey is significantly larger than the [Statistics Canada data](#). It is, however, anecdotally very common in surveys to find a greater response rate from women than men. It is also in keeping with the intention of this project to amplify the voices of individuals encountering greater and more significant barriers, including women.

2732 people (62%) indicated that their income is less than \$24,000 per year. The same percentage referred to their financial situation as “struggling to get by”. Though slightly higher than the [Statistics Canada data](#), capturing the perspectives of those most in need and most impacted by the CDB was important for this project.

* This is the definition used when referring to people with disabilities or disabled people throughout this document.

b. Core intersectional demographics

Part of the aim of this project is to explicitly gather input from disabled people who are often left out, especially those who have multiple aspects to their identity that involve systemic or structural discrimination. These people usually don't have a chance to be included in discussions and decision-making. We have made exceptional efforts to include as many folks who aren't usually part of the conversation as possible.

The survey was answered by many people with intersecting identities. Notably, 259 respondents (6%) identified as Indigenous, 357 respondents (8%) use French as their main language at home and 95 respondents (2%) indicated that the main language they use at home is a language other than English, French, ASL or LSQ. 672 respondents (15%) identified themselves as racialized and 152 (3%) identified as a newcomer, refugee or immigrant.

A significant portion of respondents (805 or 18%) identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ and 288 respondents (7%) identified as non-binary, transgender or other.

151 respondents (3%) shared that they are without stable housing, 576 (13%) have subsidized rental housing and 53 (1%) live in an institution such as a long-term care home.

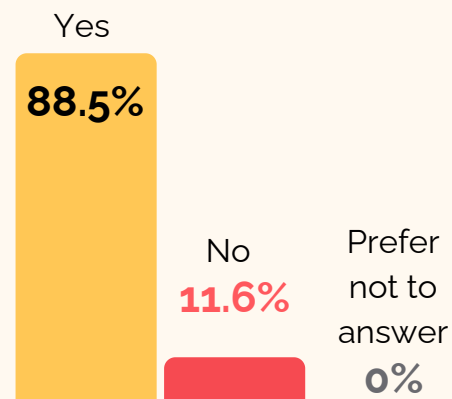
Finally, 5 respondents indicated that they are currently incarcerated while an additional 157 (4%) shared that they had been incarcerated in the past.

c. Demographic data

Below are the responses to 17 demographic questions that were asked in the survey.

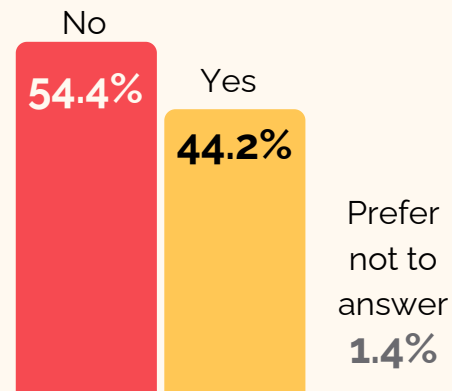
1. Do you identify as a Disabled Person, person with a disability or disabilities, as d/Deaf, a person with a chronic physical health condition(s), and/or a person with a mental health condition(s)?

	%	Frequency
Yes	88.45%	3890
No	11.55%	508
Prefer not to answer	0.00%	0
Total		4398



2. Are you the carer or family member of a Disabled Person, person with a disability or disabilities, a person who identifies as d/Deaf, a person with a chronic physical health condition(s), and/or a person with a mental health condition(s)?

	%	Frequency
No	54.43%	2390
Yes	44.20%	1941
Prefer not to answer	1.37%	60
Total		4391



3. Which province or territory do you live in?

	%	Frequency
Ontario	40.25%	1770
British Columbia	20.17%	887
Alberta	14.62%	643
Quebec	9.28%	408
Manitoba	4.48%	197
Nova Scotia	3.91%	172
New Brunswick	2.59%	114
Saskatchewan	2.37%	104
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.55%	68
Prince Edward Island	0.48%	21
Yukon	0.18%	8
Northwest Territories	0.11%	5
Nunavut	0.00%	0
Total		4397

4. Who do you live with?

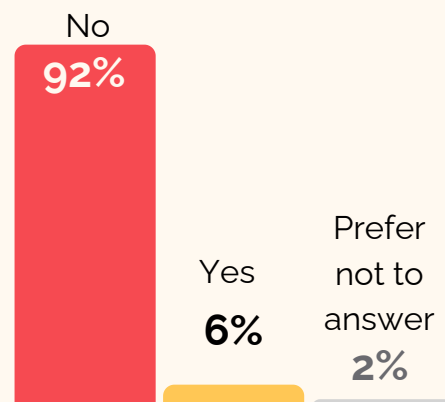
	%	Frequency
I live with family	54.92%	2416
I live alone	29.76%	1309
I live with others who are not family	7.93%	349
Other	4.41%	194
Prefer not to answer	1.86%	82
I live in an institution (long-term care facility, group home, etc.)	1.11%	49
Total		4399

5. What is your family status?

	%	Frequency
I am single, never married	29.89%	1756
I am married or in a domestic partnership	26.47%	1555
I have children	17.74%	1042
I am divorced	10.76%	632
I do not have children	7.06%	415
I am separated	4.56%	268
I am widowed	2.20%	129
Prefer not to answer	1.33%	78
Total		5875

6. Do you identify as an Indigenous (Indigenous, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) person of Canada?

	%	Frequency
No	91.91%	4043
Yes	5.89%	259
Prefer not to answer	2.21%	97
Total		4399

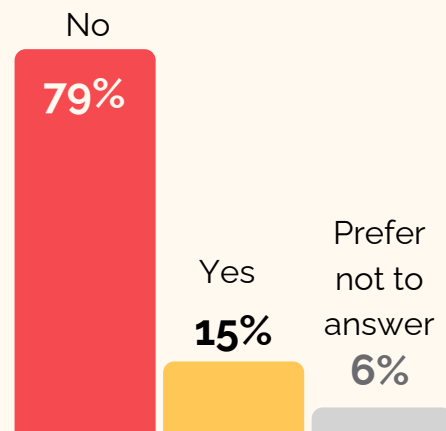


7. Which is the main language used at home?

	%	Frequency
English	89.00%	3916
French	8.11%	357
Other	2.16%	95
American Sign Language (ASL)	0.36%	16
Prefer not to answer	0.34%	15
Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ)	0.02%	1
Total		4400

8. Do you identify as a racialized person or visible minority?

	%	Frequency
No	78.50%	3443
Yes	15.32%	672
Prefer not to answer	6.18%	271
Total		4386

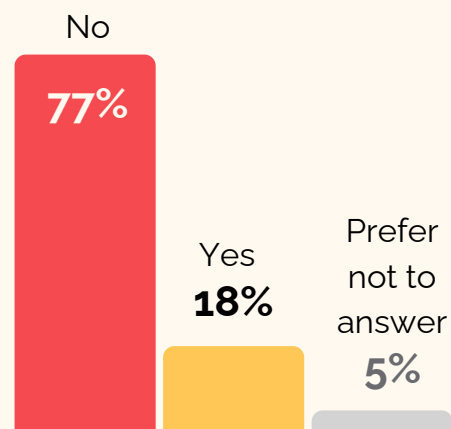


9. Do you identify as any of the following:

	%	Frequency
Canadian Citizen	90.89%	4188
Permanent Resident	4.90%	226
Immigrant	2.80%	129
Prefer not to answer	0.91%	42
Newcomer	0.28%	13
Refugee	0.22%	10
Total		4608

10. Do you identify as 2SLGBTQIA+?

	%	Frequency
No	77.11%	3386
Yes	18.33%	805
Prefer not to answer	4.55%	200
Total		4391

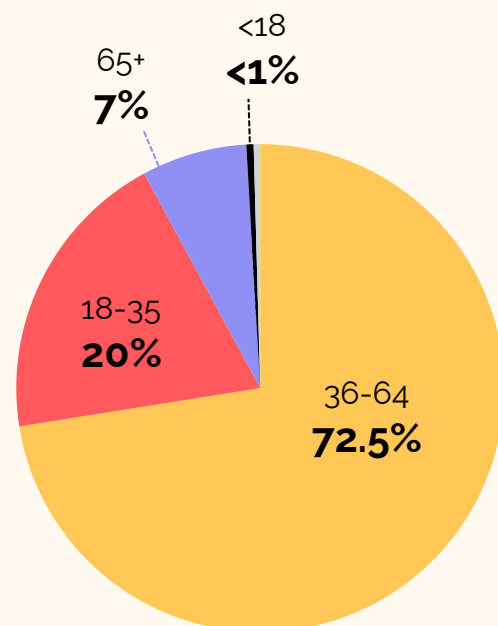


11. What is the gender category that best represents you?

	%	Frequency
Woman	62.65%	2759
Man	29.25%	1288
Non-binary (e.g. gender-queer, gender-fluid)	4.75%	209
Prefer not to answer	1.57%	69
Transgender Man	0.70%	31
Other	0.61%	27
Transgender Woman	0.48%	21
Total		4404

12. What age category do you fit into?

	%	Frequency
36-64	72.49%	3188
18-35	19.62%	863
65+	6.98%	307
Under 18	0.48%	21
Prefer not to answer	0.43%	19
Total		4398



13. What category does your income fall into?

	%	Frequency
Less than \$24,000 per year	62.05%	2732
\$24,000- \$40,000	14.10%	621
\$41,000- \$60,000	8.63%	380
\$61,000- \$100,000	7.20%	317
Prefer not to answer	4.54%	200
Over \$100,000	3.47%	153
Total		4403

14. When it comes to your own current personal financial situation, would you say you are:

	%	Frequency
Struggling to get by	62.36%	2742
Okay (can afford the basics)	25.54%	1123
Comfortable (can afford what you want)	9.51%	418
Prefer not to answer	1.73%	76
Well-off (have plenty of money)	0.86%	38
Total		4397

15. Which of the following options best describes your housing situation?

	%	Frequency
I rent my home	34.80%	1530
I own my home	30.16%	1326
Other	13.85%	609
I rent my home and my rent is subsidized	13.10%	576
Prefer not to answer	3.46%	152
I am without stable housing (e.g. couch-surfing, shelter)	3.43%	151
I live in an institution (long-term care facility, group home, etc)	1.21%	53
Total		4397

16. Which of these income sources do you rely on to support yourself?

	%	Frequency
Provincial disability benefits (such as ODSP, DSP)	32.62%	2088
Federal disability benefits (such as EI, CPP-D, or veterans disability benefits)	19.15%	1226
Your spouse/partner	11.62%	744
Other family support	11.47%	734
None of the above	9.58%	613
Pension/savings	7.72%	494
Long term disability insurance payment	6.56%	420
Prefer not to answer	1.28%	82
Total		6401

17. Are you or have you ever been incarcerated?

	%	Frequency
No, I have never been incarcerated	94.10%	4133
I have been incarcerated in the past	3.57%	157
Prefer not to answer	2.00%	88
Other	0.20%	9
Yes, I am currently incarcerated	0.11%	5
Total		4392

6. Values

a. High Level Summary

This section asked respondents about what is most important to them about how the CDB should be structured. It focused on questions related to values such as equity, fairness, inclusivity and intersectionality. It also explored some questions about the development of the benefit. All questions were framed as statements with single response options of “agree”, “disagree” or “prefer not to answer”.

Many questions in this section received a very high consensus with over 90% agreement. Overwhelmingly (over 95% agreement) respondents felt that the CDB should be responsive to the changing circumstances of applicants, that the government should include people with disabilities in the development, implementation and monitoring of the CDB program, that the CDB must not involve any clawbacks and that a successful CDB would actually lift disabled people out of poverty.

While 97% of respondents agreed that the CDB should be inclusive, reaching the most people with disabilities as possible, there was less support (65%) for the idea that the CDB should offer the exact same support to everyone who is eligible.

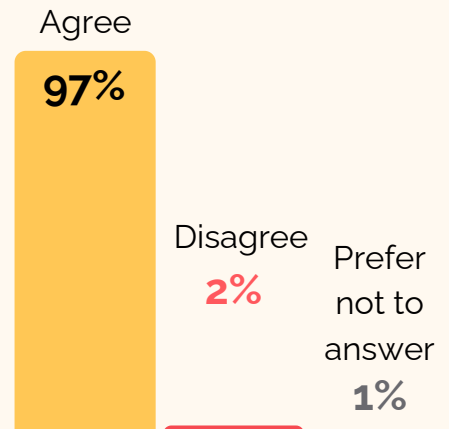
Of note, the most controversial question in this section was related to intersectionality. 54% of respondents agreed that the CDB should consider intersectionality (the way that different parts of a person's identity like their race, gender, background and more can affect their experiences, barriers and how they're treated in society). 34% disagreed with this statement and 12% preferred not to answer.

Further investigation of the most divergent responses follows in the section below.

b. Responses and Observations

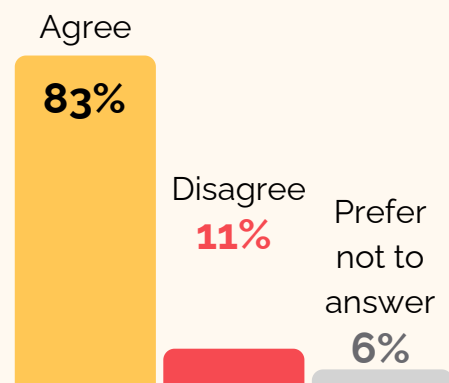
1. The CDB should be inclusive, reaching the most people with disabilities as possible.

	%	Frequency
Agree	96.89%	4118
Disagree	2.12%	90
Prefer not to answer	0.99%	42
Total		4250

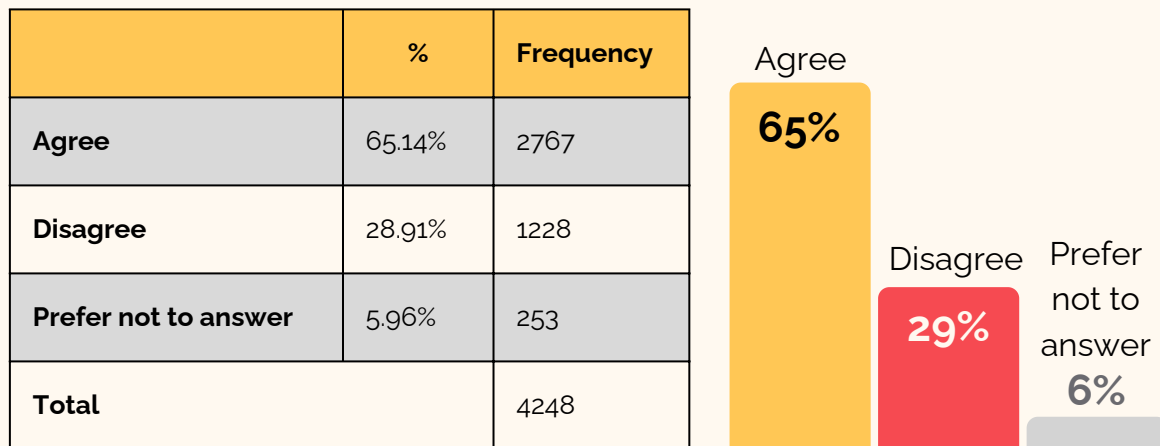


2. The CDB should offer more support to the most vulnerable disabled people.

	%	Frequency
Agree	82.52%	3507
Disagree	11.36%	483
Prefer not to answer	6.12%	260
Total		4250



3. The CDB should be given equally, offering the exact same support to everyone who is eligible.



Commentary:

This statement was one that showed more divergence than most.

It presented the largest variance between disabled people and caregivers who do not identify as disabled. While only 49% of caregivers agreed that the CDB should be given equally, 67% of disabled people agreed with this statement.

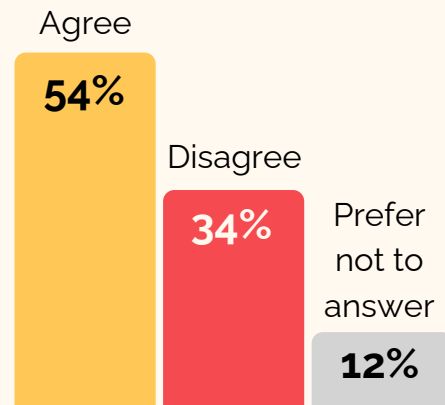
Exploring responses corresponding to income showed that the higher the annual income, the lower the agree rate. This ranged from a 70% agree rate for those with an annual income under \$24,000 a year, our largest group of respondents by a significant margin, to a 35% agree rate for those with an annual income over \$100,000, our smallest group of respondents.

The agree rate was substantially lower for people who identified as trans and/or gender non-conforming (45%) compared to men (70%) and women (65%). The agree rate was 13 percentage points lower for people under 35 (55%) than people between 36-64 (68%).

The agree rate is 10% higher for all non-white respondents (73%) than it is for all those who are not racialized or Indigenous (63%). Finally, those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ had an agree rate of 57% while those who did not had an agree rate of 71%.

4. The CDB should consider intersectionality (the way that different parts of a person's identity like their race, gender, background and more can affect their experiences, barriers and how they're treated in society).

	%	Frequency
Agree	54.43%	2309
Disagree	33.57%	1424
Prefer not to answer	12.00%	509
Total		4242



Commentary:

This statement also showed more divergence than most.

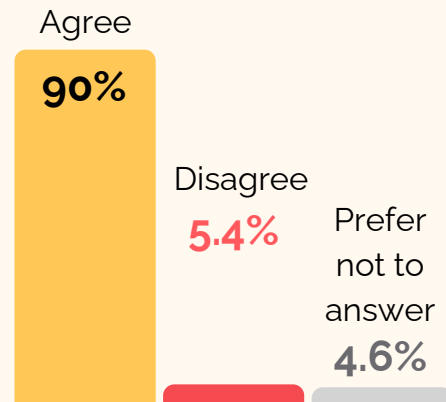
The agree rate was significantly higher for people who identified as trans and/or gender non-conforming (82%) compared to men (46%) and women (55%), though this group represents a small overall number of respondents.

The agree rate was 13% higher for all non-white respondents (65%) than it was for all those who are not racialized or Indigenous (52%). Finally, those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ were much more likely to agree with this statement with 73% of 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents in agreement and only 50% agreement for those who did not identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

Neither age nor income presented strong correlations for this statement, though those between 18-35 and over 65 had a slightly higher agree rate (approximately 60%) than those between 36-64 (53%).

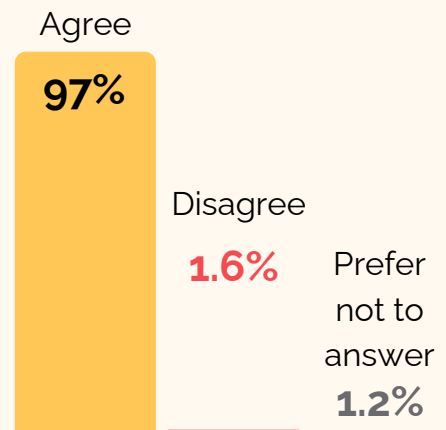
5. Transparency is important. It should be clear who receives what and why.

	%	Frequency
Agree	90.02%	3817
Disagree	5.35%	227
Prefer not to answer	4.62%	196
Total		4240



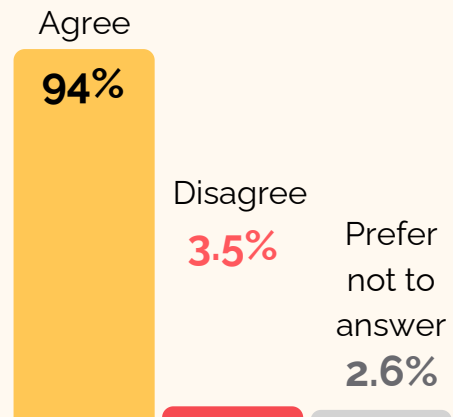
6. A successful CDB would actually lift disabled people out of poverty and provide an income that is above Canada's Official Poverty Line.

	%	Frequency
Agree	97.20%	4131
Disagree	1.58%	67
Prefer not to answer	1.22%	52
Total		4250



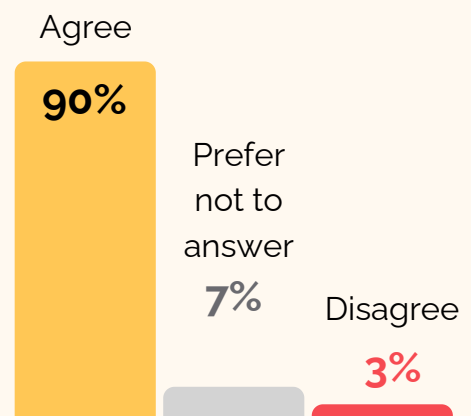
7. The additional costs of disability should be factored into calculations on how much the CDB should offer.

	%	Frequency
Agree	93.88%	3988
Disagree	3.51%	149
Prefer not to answer	2.61%	111
Total		4248



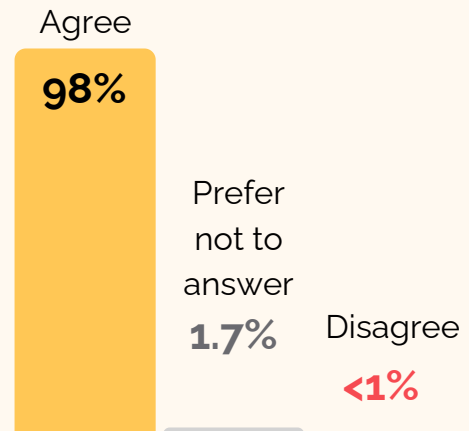
8. The CDB should advance the Accessible Canada Act goal of a barrier-free Canada by 2040.

	%	Frequency
Agree	89.67%	3803
Prefer not to answer	7.38%	313
Disagree	2.95%	125
Total		4241



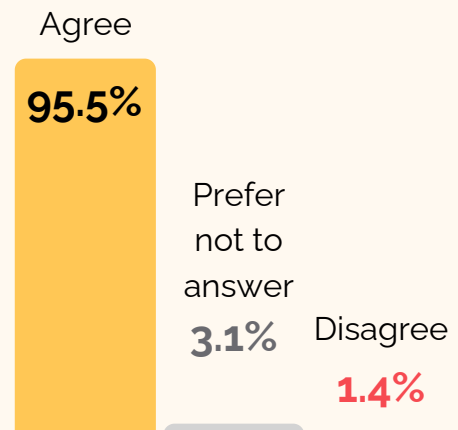
9. The government should include persons with disabilities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the CDB program.

	%	Frequency
Agree	97.57%	4138
Prefer not to answer	1.70%	72
Disagree	0.73%	31
Total		4241



10. The CDB should be responsive to the changing circumstances of applicants.

	%	Frequency
Agree	95.45%	4052
Prefer not to answer	3.11%	132
Disagree	1.44%	61
Total		4245



7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

a. High Level Summary

This section asked respondents about what they felt the CDB needed to consider. All questions were framed as statements with single response options of “agree”, “disagree” or “prefer not to answer”.

Like the previous section, several questions in this part received very high consensus. There was extremely high support (92% agreement) that the CDB must acknowledge that different levels of support will be needed to bring people above the poverty line, depending on the province or territory in which they live. Similarly, people strongly agreed (97%) that the CDB ought to be portable, allowing people to move between provinces and territories without reapplying. They also affirmed (94% agreement) that the benefit should be individualized such that it does not account for any income or earnings from the disabled person's family members or partner.

Areas of controversy in this section were related to the connection of the benefit to a disabled person's earnings. While 93% agreed that there should be a generous earnings exemption so that disabled people who are able to work have the chance to keep the money they earned, 40% of respondents believed that disabled people who earn more money should receive less money from the CDB.

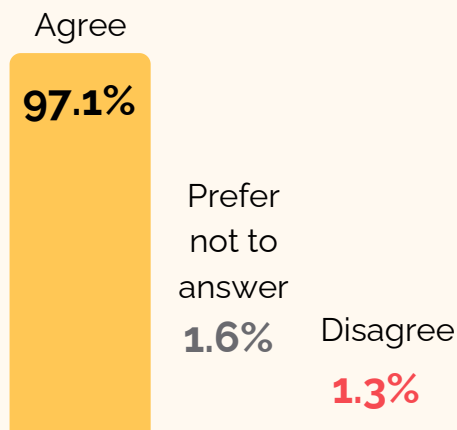
Further investigation of the most divergent responses follows in the section below.

7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

b. Responses and Observations

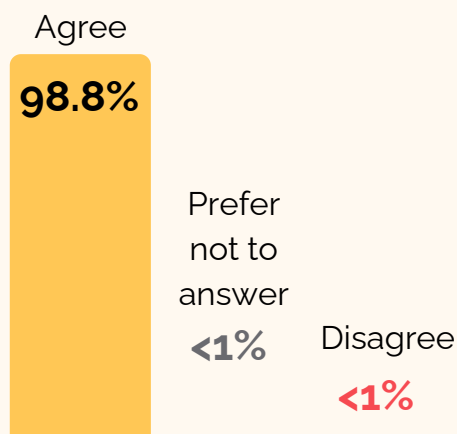
1. The CDB must be in addition to any current federal, territorial and provincial benefits, as well as goods and services, that disabled people receive. (i.e. no clawback)

	%	Frequency
Agree	97.08%	4017
Prefer not to answer	1.62%	67
Disagree	1.30%	54
Total		4138



2. No disabled person should be any worse off after the CDB comes into effect.

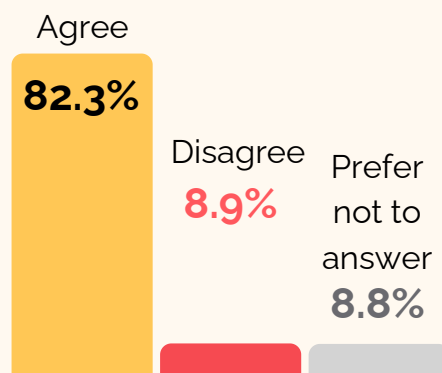
	%	Frequency
Agree	98.77%	4081
Prefer not to answer	0.82%	34
Disagree	0.41%	17
Total		4132



7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

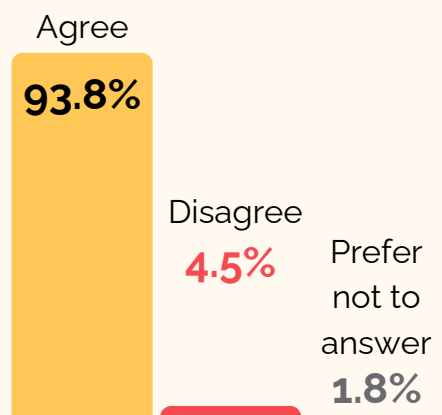
3. The CDB must be in addition to any current private insurance payments that disabled people receive.

	%	Frequency
Agree	82.26%	3400
Disagree	8.93%	369
Prefer not to answer	8.81%	364
Total		4133



4. The CDB must be an individualized benefit, that belongs to the individual disabled person, and does not account for any income or earnings from the disabled person's partner or family members.

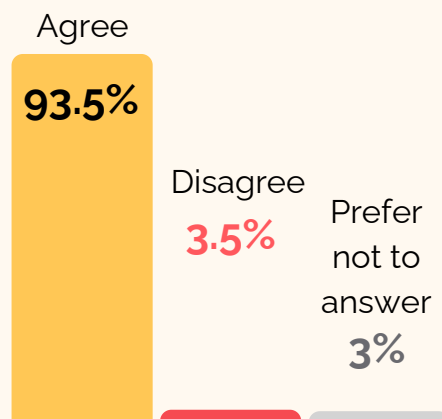
	%	Frequency
Agree	93.76%	3877
Disagree	4.45%	184
Prefer not to answer	1.79%	74
Total		4135



7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

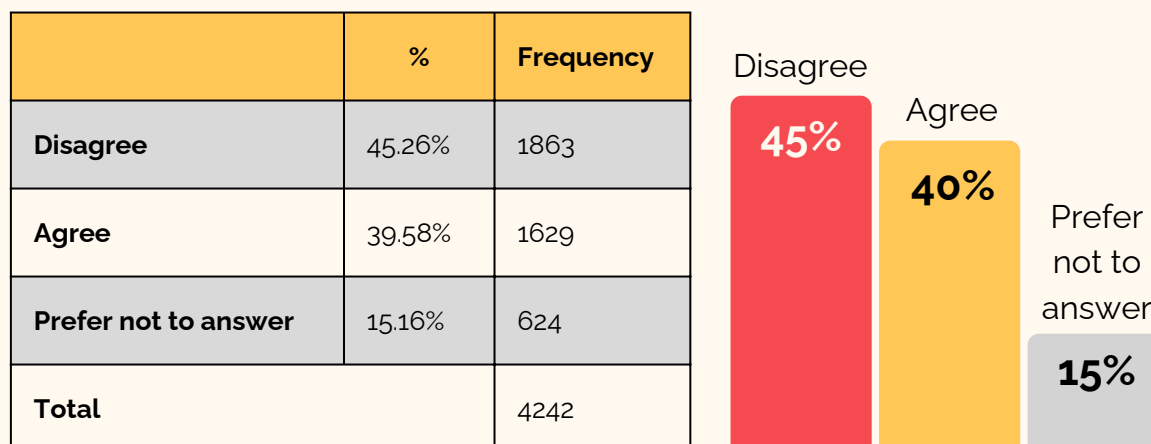
5. There must be a generous earnings exemption so that disabled people who are able to work have the chance to keep the money they earn.

	%	Frequency
Agree	93.45%	3866
Disagree	3.46%	143
Prefer not to answer	3.09%	128
Total		4137



7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

6. Disabled people who earn more money should receive less money from the CDB.



Commentary:

This statement was one that showed more divergence than most. In general, more people disagreed with this statement than agreed with it.

Women (40%) and men (43%) both agreed with this statement more than people who identified as trans and/or gender non-conforming (27%).

Those in the 18-35 age group were less likely to agree with this statement (35%) than those in any other age group, though the margins here were small.

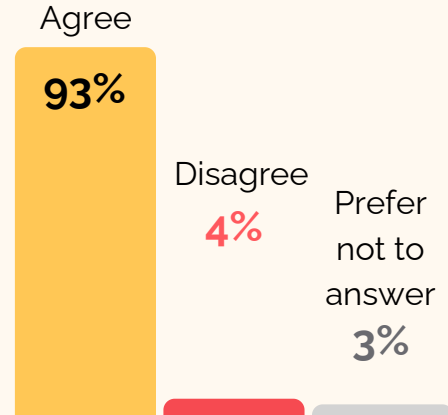
Those who earned more than \$100,000 annually were the most likely to agree with the statement (49%) compared to an average agree rate across all other income levels of 40%.

There was no significant difference in agree rates between racialized and/or Indigenous respondents (36%) and those who are not racialized or Indigenous (40%). Similarly, there were no significant variances between those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ (35% agree) and those who did not (41%).

7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

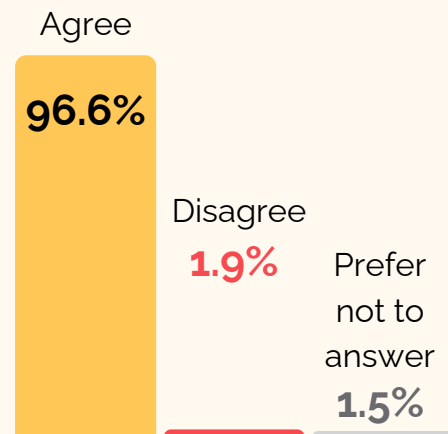
7. The CDB should be non-taxable.

	%	Frequency
Agree	93.10%	3844
Disagree	4.17%	172
Prefer not to answer	2.74%	113
Total		4129



8. The CDB must be portable, allowing people to move between provinces and territories without reapplying.

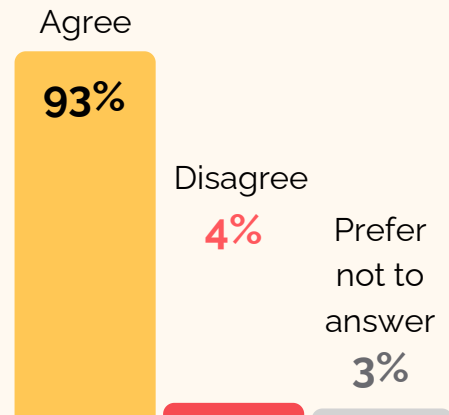
	%	Frequency
Agree	96.56%	3987
Disagree	1.91%	79
Prefer not to answer	1.53%	63
Total		4129



7. What Should the CDB Look Like?

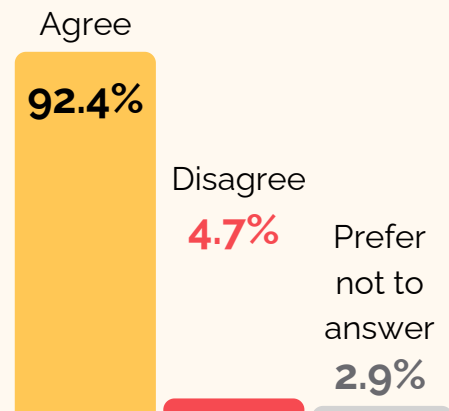
9. The CDB should be non-taxable. The CDB must have no restrictions on travel outside of the country, so long as the applicant remains a resident of Canada.

	%	Frequency
Agree	93.10%	3844
Disagree	4.17%	172
Prefer not to answer	2.74%	113
Total		4129



10. The CDB should take into account that people in different provinces and territories need different levels of support to be brought up above the poverty line in their location.

	%	Frequency
Agree	92.42%	3827
Disagree	4.73%	196
Prefer not to answer	2.85%	118
Total		4141



8. What Should the Cost of Disability Include?

a. High Level Summary

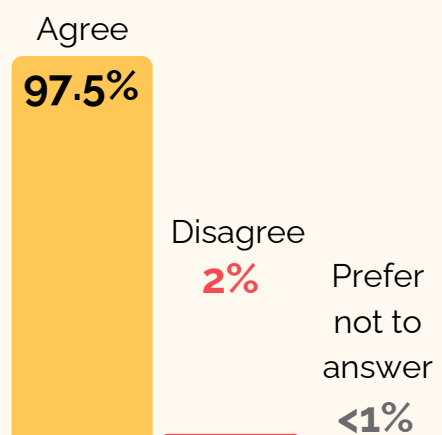
This section asked respondents about what other expenses should be considered when the government is thinking about what the cost of disability really is. Seven out of eight questions were framed as statements with single response options of “agree”, “disagree” or “prefer not to answer”. There was one open text question allowing respondents to share any additional costs people may face due to their disability.

All of the statements in this section received very high support with the exception of one. A strong majority of respondents (over 90%) agreed that the cost of disability should take into account costs related to food and groceries, housing, disability-specific equipment, over-the-counter and prescription medications, treatments such as physiotherapy, massage, naturopath, osteopath, and care providers. However, only 64% agreed that the cost of disability should take into account the cost of childcare. We break this down further in the following section.

b. Responses and Observations

1. When the government determines the cost of disability they should take into account the cost of food and groceries.

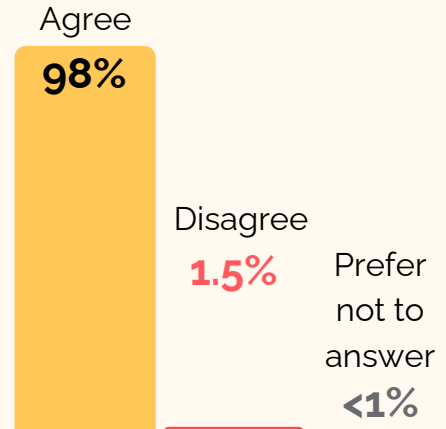
	%	Frequency
Agree	97.53%	3987
Disagree	1.93%	79
Prefer not to answer	0.54%	22
Total		4088



8. What Should the Cost of Disability Include?

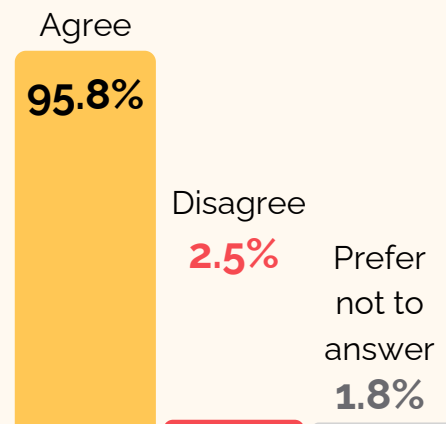
2. The cost of disability should factor in the cost of housing.

	%	Frequency
Agree	97.80%	3997
Disagree	1.47%	60
Prefer not to answer	0.73%	30
Total		4087



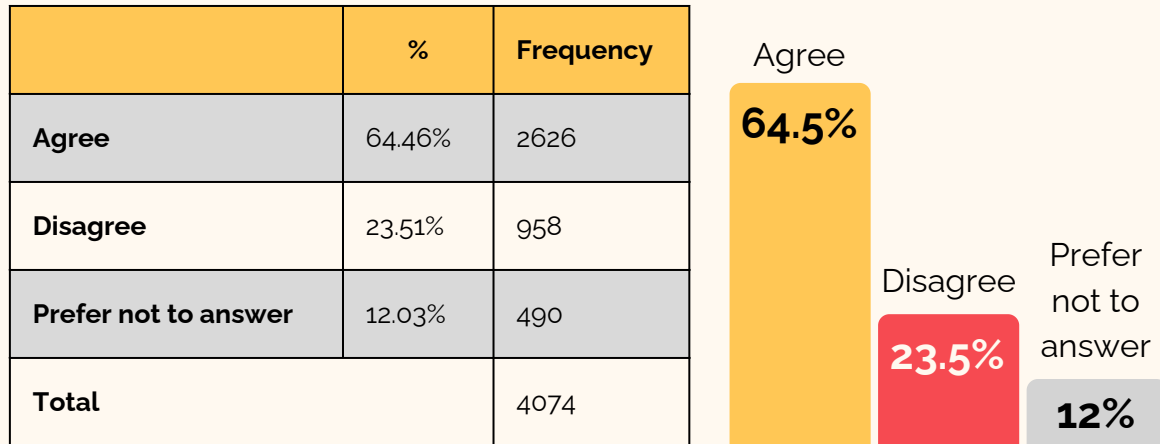
3. The government should include the cost of disability-specific equipment in the cost of disability.

	%	Frequency
Agree	95.79%	3911
Disagree	2.45%	100
Prefer not to answer	1.76%	72
Total		4083



8. What Should the Cost of Disability Include?

4. The cost of disability should include the cost of child care.



Commentary:

This statement was one that showed some divergence.

The small group of people who identified as trans and/or gender non-conforming were the most likely to agree with this statement (75%) while women and men both agreed with this statement at the same rate of 64%.

Those in the 18-35 age group were more likely to agree with this statement (70%) than those under 18 (65%) or those between 36-64 (62%). Those over 65 had the highest agree rate at 72%.

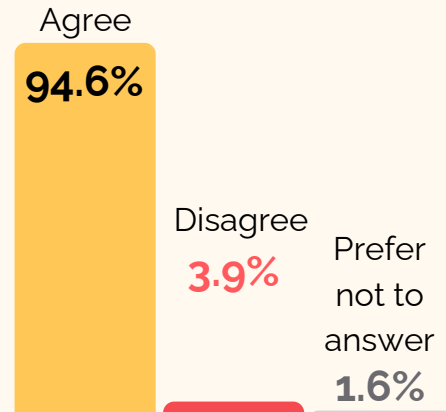
There was no significant difference in response related to income level. However those with income under \$40,000 a year had a slightly lower agree rate (63%) than those above \$40,000 (average of 69%).

There was a 9% difference in agree rates between racialized and/or Indigenous respondents (72%) and those who are not racialized or Indigenous (63%). There were no significant variances between those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ (69% agree) and those who did not (64%).

8. What Should the Cost of Disability Include?

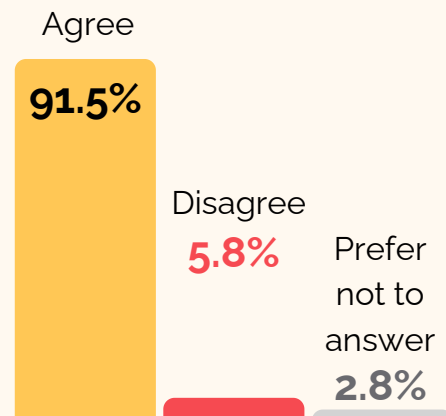
5. The government must account for the cost of over-the-counter and prescription medications in the cost of disability.

	%	Frequency
Agree	94.59%	3861
Disagree	3.85%	157
Prefer not to answer	1.57%	64
Total		4082



6. The cost of disability should include costs associated with treatments such as physiotherapy, massage, naturopath, osteopath, etc.

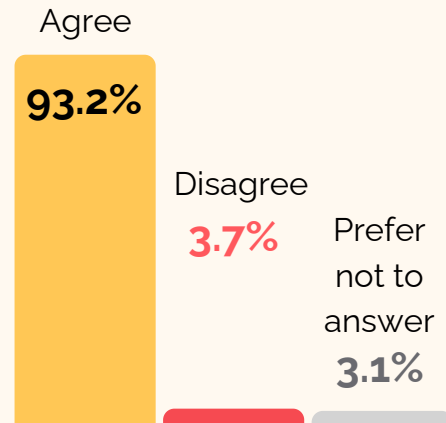
	%	Frequency
Agree	91.46%	3737
Disagree	5.75%	235
Prefer not to answer	2.79%	114
Total		4086



8. What Should the Cost of Disability Include?

7. The government needs to consider the costs associated with care providers when thinking about the cost of disability.

	%	Frequency
Agree	93.21%	3804
Disagree	3.68%	150
Prefer not to answer	3.11%	127
Total		4081



8. What Should the Cost of Disability Include?

8. Are there any costs related to disability that we missed in the above questions?

2132 respondents submitted answers to this open text question. Many identified that the costs of standard things like housing, food and transportation are greater for disabled people because they require more specific and sometimes specialized options and that this must be factored into allowances for these everyday costs in the CDB.

Overwhelmingly, respondents identified **transportation** as the most significant cost related to disability that was not included in the survey's questions. More specifically, people mentioned the costs of accessible transportation, vehicle modifications, gas, taxis and rideshares, transportation costs borne by family caregivers and transportation to medical appointments.

The second most prevalent response was focused on **mental health services and/or counseling**.

Additionally, costs related to the following items were mentioned frequently:

1. Modifications to housing, clothing, appliances and vehicles for accessibility
2. Special diets; supplements; prepared meals for those unable to cook, etc.
3. Education and retraining programs
4. Home services like cleaning, snow removal, gardening, repairs
5. Telecommunication devices and services
6. Medical devices, experimental medications
7. Personal protective equipment (PPE)
8. Dental and vision care
9. Recreational and social activities, including modest vacation, for mental health and wellbeing
10. Service animals
11. Personal and feminine hygiene products
12. Cannabis and medicinal cannabis
13. Gym or other fitness activities

9. How Frequently Should the CDB Be Paid?

a. High Level Summary

This short section asked respondents about how often the CDB should be paid out. There was one multiple choice question that required respondents to choose only their top option. A slim majority of respondents (51%) opted for the CDB to be paid monthly, while 36% preferred a twice monthly payment plan. 11% of respondents indicated that they would like to be able to choose how frequently the CDB was paid out.

b. Responses and Observations

1. I would prefer the CDB to be paid:

	%	Frequency
Monthly	50.70%	2065
Twice a month	36.39%	1482
I would like to choose how frequently the financial part of the CDB is paid	11.15%	454
Prefer not to answer	1.23%	50
Every other month	0.54%	22
Total		4073

10. Who Should be Eligible for the CDB?

a. High Level Summary

This section asked respondents about who should be able to access the CDB. All questions were framed as statements with single response options of “agree”, “disagree” or “prefer not to answer”.

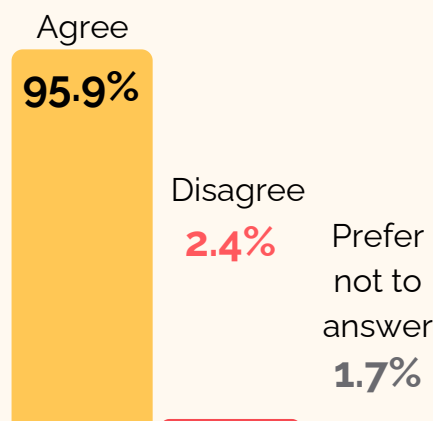
There was overwhelming agreement (96%) that anyone who already receives a federal, territorial or provincial benefit should get immediate access to the CDB. Similarly, respondents strongly agreed (94%) that disabled people whose level of disability changes – because disability is permanent or temporary, stable or progressive or episodic – must be able to access the CDB as their situation changes.

Some of the other questions in this section were more controversial. Only 53% agreed that anyone who identifies as a disabled person should get access to the CDB (34% disagreed with this statement) and only 63% agreed that disabled people of all residency statuses should be eligible for the CDB (25% disagreed). We break down the demographic correlations to these responses below.

b. Responses and Observations

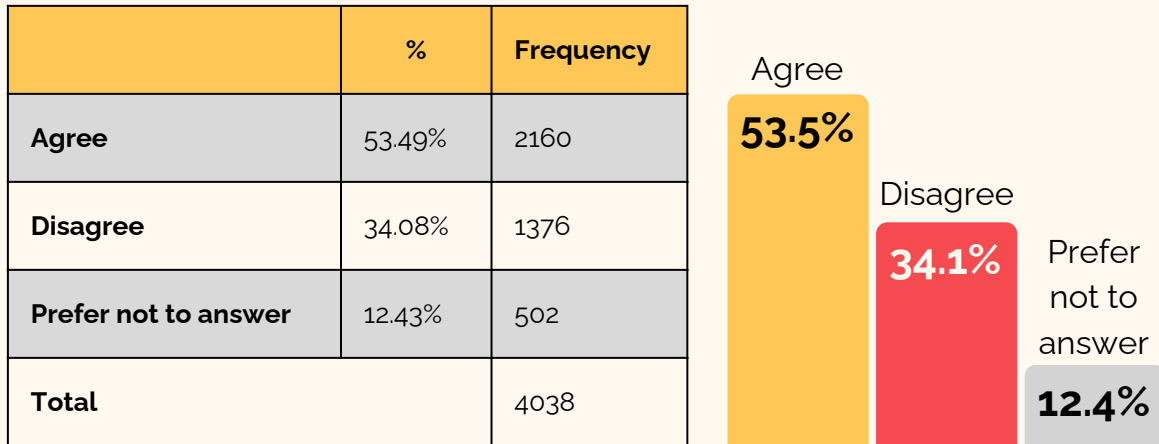
1. Disabled people who already receive a federal, territorial or provincial benefit should get immediate access to the CDB.

	%	Frequency
Agree	95.89%	3873
Disagree	2.40%	97
Prefer not to answer	1.71%	69
Total		4039



10. Who Should be Eligible for the CDB?

2. Anyone who identifies as a disabled person should get access to the CDB.



Commentary:

This question produced some variance.

Caregivers (44%) were less likely than disabled people (54%) to agree that anyone who identifies as disabled should get access to the CDB.

There were no significant deviations with regard to gender or age.

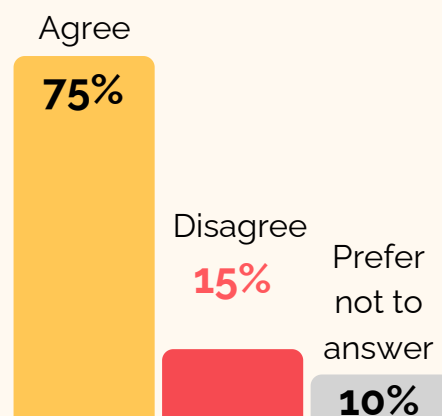
Likelihood to agree with the statement decreased with income level. Those with income levels under \$60,000 (the vast majority of respondents) had an agree rate of 54%, while those over \$100,000 had an agree rate of 38%.

This statement presents an 8% difference in agree rates between racialized and/or Indigenous respondents (60%) and those who are not racialized or Indigenous (52%). There are no significant variances between those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ (50% agree) and those who did not (54%).

10. Who Should be Eligible for the CDB?

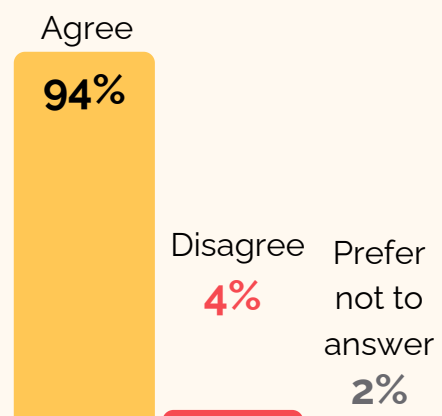
3. Those disabled people who do not receive a federal, territorial or provincial benefit should have a separate application to apply for the CDB.

	%	Frequency
Agree	74.59%	3009
Disagree	15.27%	616
Prefer not to answer	10.14%	409
Total		4034



4. Disabled people whose level of disability changes – because disability is permanent or temporary, stable or progressive or episodic – must be able to access the CDB as their situation changes.

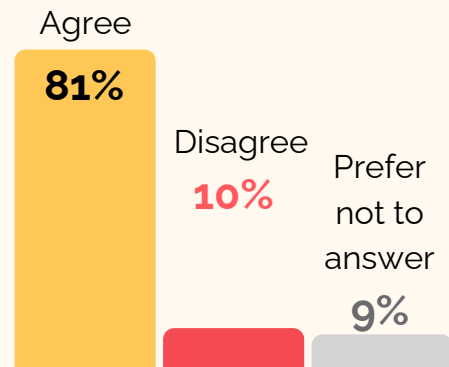
	%	Frequency
Agree	94.26%	3809
Prefer not to answer	3.66%	148
Disagree	2.08%	84
Total		4041



10. Who Should be Eligible for the CDB?

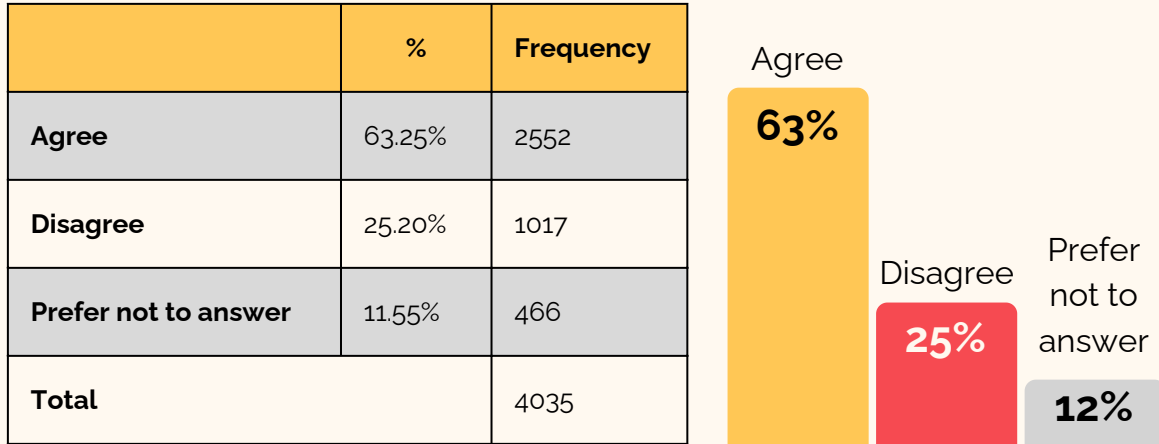
5. People with disabilities with any type of employment should be eligible for the CDB.

	%	Frequency
Agree	80.84%	3265
Disagree	10.37%	419
Prefer not to answer	8.79%	355
Total		4039



10. Who Should be Eligible for the CDB?

6. Disabled people of all residency statuses should be eligible for the CDB.



Commentary:

This statement was one that showed some divergence.

People who identified as trans and/or gender non-conforming were the most likely to agree with this statement (80%) while women (63%) and men (61%) both agreed with this statement much less frequently.

Those in the 18-35 (70%) age group along with those over 65 (68%) were most likely to agree with this statement. Those between 36-64, the largest group of respondents, agreed at a rate of 61%.

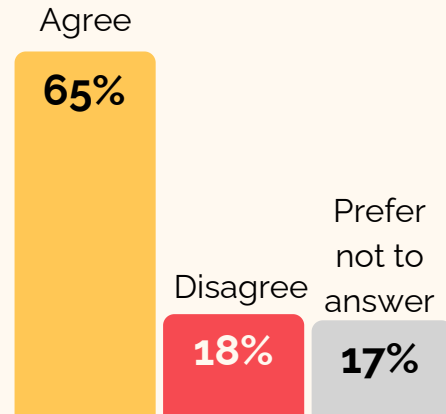
Those who identified as racialized and/or Indigenous had an agree rate of 69% while those who are not racialized or Indigenous agreed at a rate of 62%. Those who identified as 2SLGBTQIA+ were more likely to agree (73%) than those who did not (61%).

There was very little deviation between respondents who identified as Canadian Citizens (63%) and those who identified as permanent residents, immigrants, refugees and/or newcomers (68%).

10. Who Should be Eligible for the CDB?

7. Residents of self-governing First Nations who develop their own eligibility criteria for disability benefits should be eligible for the CDB.

	%	Frequency
Agree	64.70%	2614
Disagree	18.19%	735
Prefer not to answer	17.10%	691
Total		4040



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

a. High Level Summary

This section asked respondents about what the application process for the CDB should entail. All questions were framed as statements with single response options of “agree”, “disagree” or “prefer not to answer”.

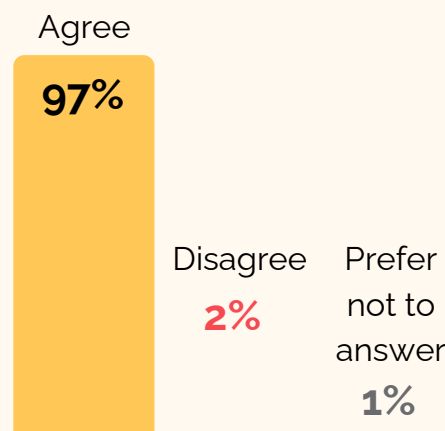
Unsurprisingly, respondents want the application process to be easy, fast, simple and seamless. They indicated a strongest preference for the application process to be available online but were also keen for it to be available in person and on the phone.

There was almost unanimous support for the application process to be available any time of year and for it to be supported by a strong communications campaign ensuring awareness amongst people with disabilities across the country. 94% of respondents agreed that the application process should be pre-loaded with the information the government already has access to and that the process should be available through existing government services and portals. Somewhat surprisingly, while 99% wanted accessible customer support available during business hours to assist with the application process, only 68% suggested such support would be helpful after business hours.

b. Responses and Observations

1. I want the application process to be easy.

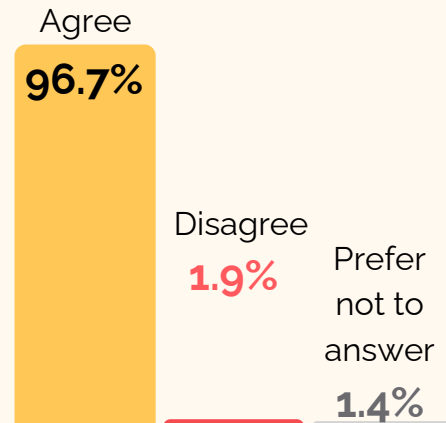
	%	Frequency
Agree	97.08%	3893
Disagree	1.95%	78
Prefer not to answer	0.97%	39
Total		4010



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

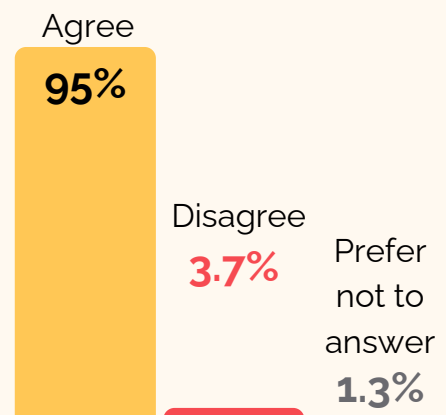
2. The application process should be seamless and fast.

	%	Frequency
Agree	96.68%	3874
Disagree	1.90%	76
Prefer not to answer	1.42%	57
Total		4007



3. I want a plain and simple application process.

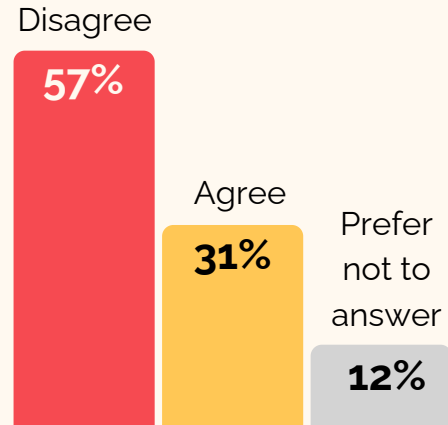
	%	Frequency
Agree	94.99%	3808
Disagree	3.69%	148
Prefer not to answer	1.32%	53
Total		4009



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

4. I want a rigorous application process.

	%	Frequency
Disagree	57.03%	2267
Agree	30.57%	1215
Prefer not to answer	12.40%	493
Total		3975



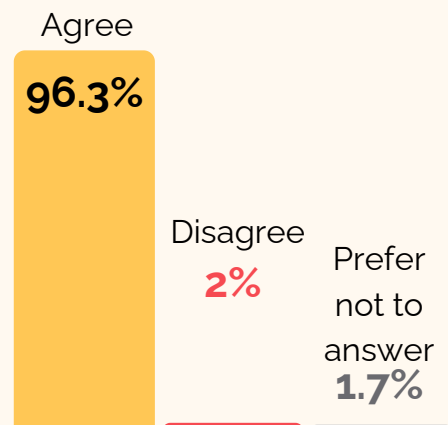
Commentary:

More respondents disagreed with this statement than agreed with it.

Those who identified as caregivers without a disability were more likely to prefer a rigorous application process (42%) than those who identified as disabled (29%).

5. The application process should be available online.

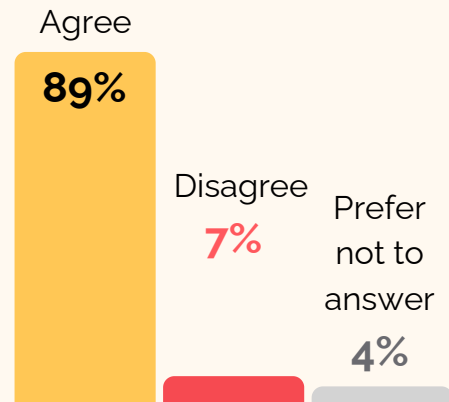
	%	Frequency
Agree	96.28%	3858
Disagree	2.07%	83
Prefer not to answer	1.65%	66
Total		4007



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

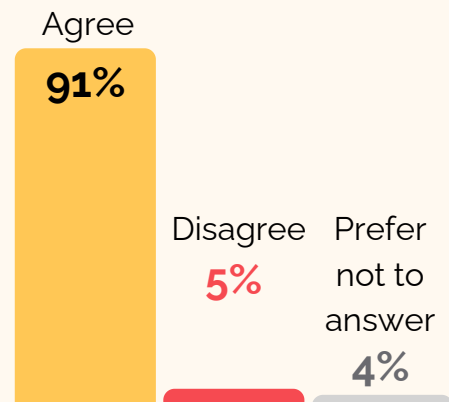
6. The application process should be available by phone.

	%	Frequency
Agree	88.87%	3560
Disagree	6.86%	275
Prefer not to answer	4.27%	171
Total		4006



7. The application process should be available in person.

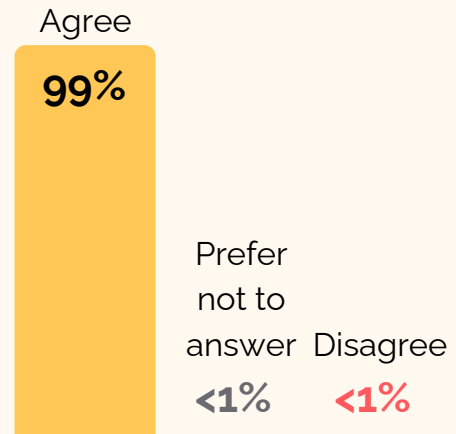
	%	Frequency
Agree	91.26%	3646
Disagree	5.13%	205
Prefer not to answer	3.60%	144
Total		3995



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

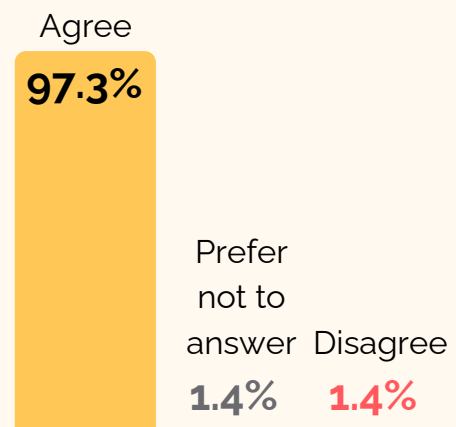
8. I should be able to apply for the CDB any time of the year.

	%	Frequency
Agree	99.30%	3980
Prefer not to answer	0.45%	18
Disagree	0.25%	10
Total		4008



9. The application process should have clear and quick timelines.

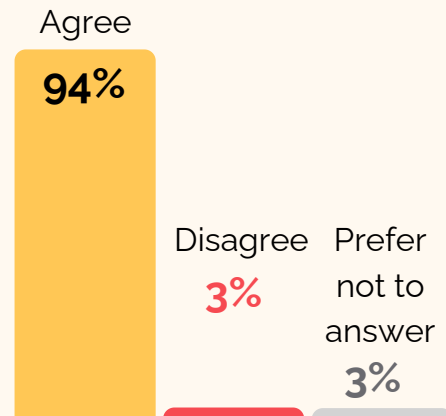
	%	Frequency
Agree	97.25%	3895
Prefer not to answer	1.40%	56
Disagree	1.35%	54
Total		4005



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

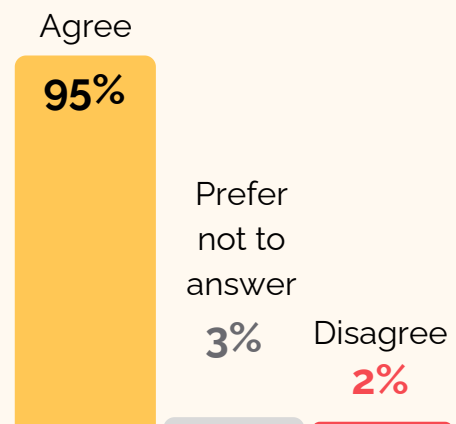
10. The application should be pre-loaded with the information the government already has access to.

	%	Frequency
Agree	93.77%	3761
Disagree	3.19%	128
Prefer not to answer	3.04%	122
Total		4011



11. The application process should be available through existing government services and portals.

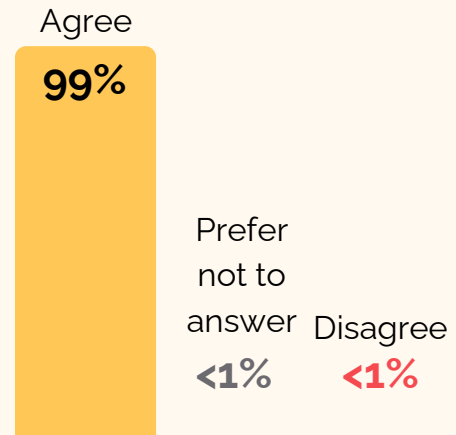
	%	Frequency
Agree	94.71%	3792
Prefer not to answer	3.22%	129
Disagree	2.07%	83
Total		4004



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

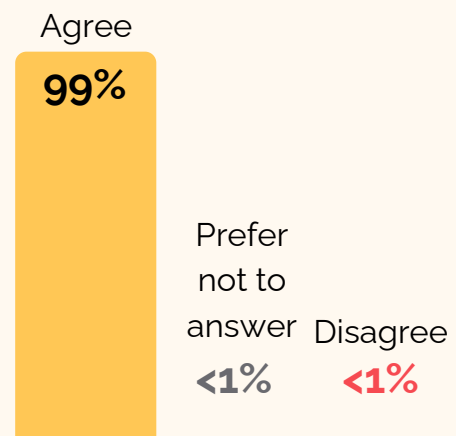
12. The CDB should be supported by a strong communications plan so people with disabilities know about it.

	%	Frequency
Agree	99.13%	3973
Prefer not to answer	0.62%	25
Disagree	0.25%	10
Total		4008



13. There should be accessible customer support available during business hours to assist with the application process.

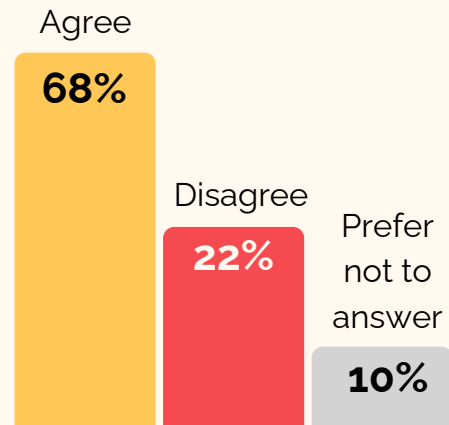
	%	Frequency
Agree	98.95%	3962
Prefer not to answer	0.67%	27
Disagree	0.37%	15
Total		4004



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

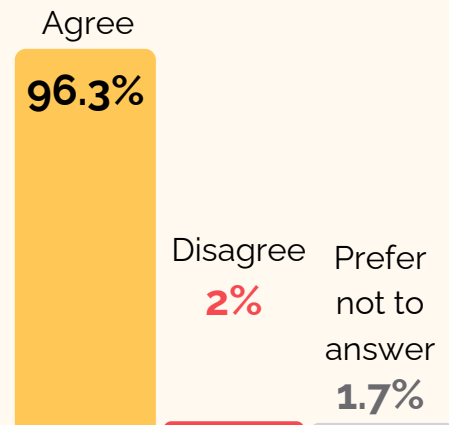
14. There should be accessible customer support available after business hours to assist with the application process.

	%	Frequency
Agree	68.25%	2730
Disagree	22.25%	890
Prefer not to answer	9.50%	380
Total		3975



15. The application should include dedicated pathways for Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Indigenous, Métis, and Inuit) with disabilities.

	%	Frequency
Agree	96.28%	3858
Disagree	2.07%	83
Prefer not to answer	1.65%	66
Total		4007



Commentary:

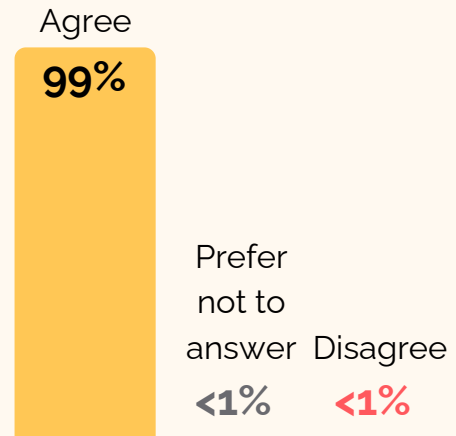
We have broken down the responses to this question with regard to identification as Indigenous, racialized or other.

Respondents who identify as Indigenous agreed with this statement at a rate of 83%. Those who identify as racialized agree at a rate of 72%, while those who do not identify as Indigenous or racialized agree at a rate of 65%.

11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

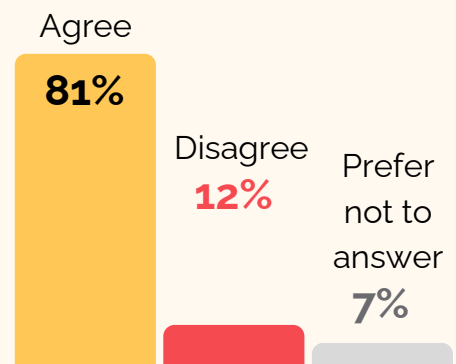
16. The application should include options to be paid via direct deposit.

	%	Frequency
Agree	99.45%	3987
Prefer not to answer	0.37%	15
Disagree	0.17%	7
Total		4009



17. The application should include options to be paid by physical cheque.

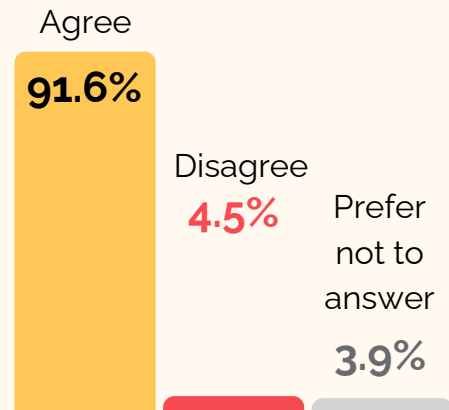
	%	Frequency
Agree	80.57%	3226
Disagree	11.99%	480
Prefer not to answer	7.44%	298
Total		4004



11. How should a Disabled Person apply for the CDB?

18. The CDB should partner with disability organizations to assist with the application process.

	%	Frequency
Agree	91.60%	3674
Disagree	4.46%	179
Prefer not to answer	3.94%	158
Total		4011



12. How should the data from the CDB be used?

a. High Level Summary

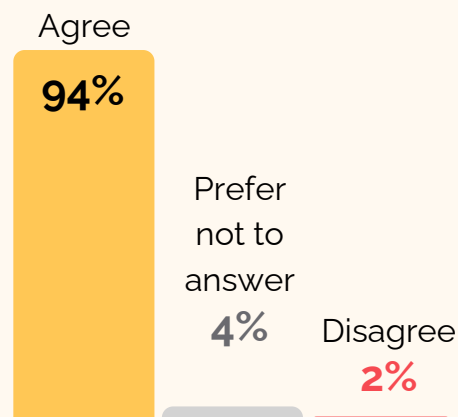
This short final section asked respondents about how the information that the government collects related to the CDB should be used. All questions were framed as statements with single response options of “agree”, “disagree” or “prefer not to answer”.

A significant majority of respondents prized transparency in the data collection and usage practices of the CDB application process, though only 85% of respondents suggested that the application should allow recipients to opt out of their data being used for policy research. Additionally, 94% of respondents were interested in having the CDB program aim to fill gaps in disability data to improve future policy.

b. Responses and Observations

1. The CDB should aim to fill gaps in disability data to improve future policy.

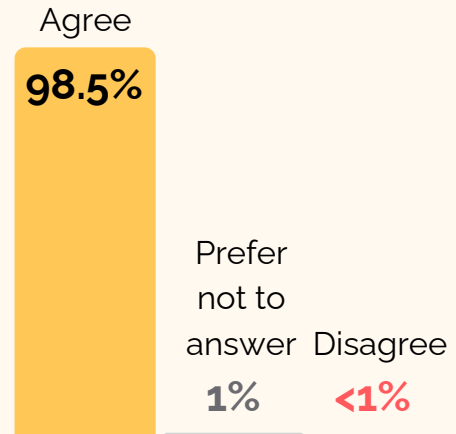
	%	Frequency
Agree	94.29%	3763
Prefer not to answer	4.13%	165
Disagree	1.58%	63
Total		3991



12. How should the data from the CDB be used?

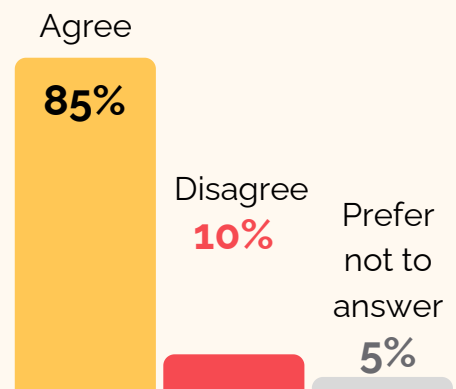
2. The application process should include clear language about data usage.

	%	Frequency
Agree	98.50%	3934
Prefer not to answer	1.03%	41
Disagree	0.48%	19
Total		3994



3. The application should allow recipients to opt out of their data being used for policy research.

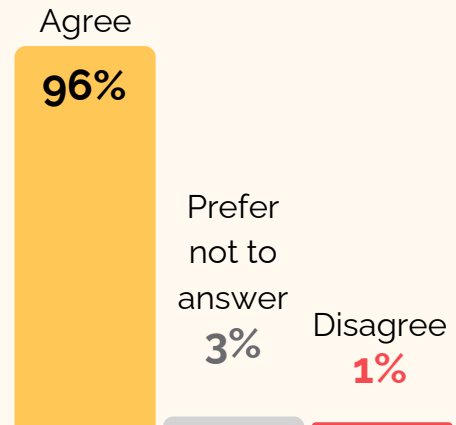
	%	Frequency
Agree	85.26%	3402
Disagree	10.23%	408
Prefer not to answer	4.51%	180
Total		3990



12. How should the data from the CDB be used?

4. The CDB should publicly report on its impact and progress.

	%	Frequency
Agree	96.29%	3840
Prefer not to answer	2.58%	103
Disagree	1.13%	45
Total		3988



13. Additional comments, summary/synthesis

In order to maximize accessibility, this survey did not include any open text fields; however, we did provide contact information for people to reach out to our team for support or with questions and additional comments.

We received almost 50 additional comments by email, text and telephone. These comments shared personal stories, pleas for assistance, and expressed the urgency with which people with disabilities need substantial government support. The feedback also touched on broader systemic issues like the need for disability rights and the impact of bureaucratic systems that often seem indifferent to the real struggles of people with disabilities. There was a strong desire for the program to not only provide financial support but also to address the broader challenges faced by the disabled community, including systemic barriers, social inclusion and the right to a dignified life.

High-Level Themes

Captured below are the high level themes that emerged from these comments.

- 1. Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Program Design and Management:** Many commenters emphasized the importance of involving people with disabilities, caregivers and advocates in the design, management and direction of the CDB program. This inclusion is seen as essential for addressing the actual issues and hardships faced by people with disabilities.
- 2. Access to CDB for People Excluded from Other Disability Supports:** There was a strong sentiment that people who have been excluded from existing disability support programs need swift and direct access to the CDB. This group often faces precarious situations due to ineligibility for existing supports.
- 3. Challenges in Accessing Disability Support:** Commenters highlighted the difficulties in accessing disability support due to various barriers, including practitioner bias, dismissal of invisible illnesses and gaps in medical knowledge. There is a call for the CDB to be accessible and accommodating to these challenges, including ensuring that customer service providers have substantial accessibility training.

13. Additional comments, summary/synthesis

4. **Consideration for Families and Caregivers:** The feedback underlined the necessity of considering the needs and concerns of families supporting children or adult relatives with disabilities. The CDB could provide crucial support and peace of mind for these families.

5. **Financial Struggles and Cost of Living:** Several comments focused on the financial struggles faced by people with disabilities, including the inadequacy of existing support programs like the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). The rising cost of living, including food and housing, was raised as a significant concern, with calls for the CDB to offer substantial financial relief from dire situations.

6. **Impact of Disability on Quality of Life:** Individuals shared personal experiences illustrating how disabilities have led to increased expenses, reduced income, and challenges in maintaining a stable and dignified life. The need for the CDB to comprehensively address these aspects was emphasized.

Suggestions for CDB Implementation:

1. **Sufficient Benefit Amount:** Proposals for the CDB benefit amount ranged from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month, reflecting the high cost of living and additional expenses associated with disabilities.

2. **No Clawbacks or Impact on Other Benefits:** It's crucial that the CDB not be clawed back by provincial or territorial programs and that it does not negatively impact other federal benefits.

3. **Ease of Access and Application:** The process for accessing the CDB should be straightforward, with minimal bureaucratic hurdles. Some suggest automatic eligibility for those already receiving other disability benefits.

4. **Continuous Support and Transition from Child to Adult:** Seamless transition of support from childhood to adulthood, without the need for reapplication, was a common request.

5. **Fair and Inclusive Eligibility Criteria:** The CDB should have criteria that are fair, transparent and inclusive of various types of disabilities, ensuring no one is left out due to rigid or narrow definitions.

13. Conclusion

This report demonstrates the overwhelmingly high levels of agreement amongst a broad diversity of people with disabilities related to the CDB. Reflecting over 4500 survey responses it also illustrates how much disabled people are eager to be listened to and to have their lived experience taken into account when policies are developed.

Significantly, 76% of the responses to this survey are from the people who will benefit the most: those whose annual income falls below \$40,000. People shared time and again that the cost of living as a disabled person is unmanageable due to the challenges with employment and all of the additional costs that disability brings with it.

While this survey allowed us to reach a large number of disabled people across the country, it purposefully stayed high level. In phase two of the Shape the CDB project, we supported peer-to-peer conversations where disabled people spoke with other disabled people to dive deeper into some of the major questions that remain: how much should the CDB be? What should the application process be like? Who should be eligible? Who should not? Please explore the report from this process at disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/shape-the-cdb-phase-2.

Appendix

[Complete survey text.](#)

Sources

p. 4 - ¹ Disability Without Poverty. 2023, [Disability Poverty in Canada: A 2023 Report Card](#). (PDF).

p. 4 - ² Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. "[Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017 to 2022](#)." The Daily, 18 Dec. 2023.

p. 4 - ³ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada. "[Insights on Canadian Society Low Income Among Persons with a Disability in Canada](#)." Low Income among Persons with a Disability in Canada, 11 Aug. 2017.

p. 4 - ⁴ Laidley, Jennefer, and Mohy Tabbara. [Welfare in Canada, 2022](#), 1 July 2023.

p. 4 - ⁵ Angus Reid Institute. "[Canadians Concerned about Disability Poverty, on-Board with Proposed New National Benefit](#)." Angus Reid Institute, 2021.

Links

For more information about the Shape the CDB project by Disability Without Poverty, please visit our website at disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca or follow us on social media.

Sign up for our newsletter at disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/newsletter.



Please read the full report from the Shape the CDB Peer-to-Peer conversations at disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/shape-the-cdb-phase-2.

Please read the capstone report from the entire Shape the CDB process at disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca/shape-the-cdb-final-report.



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sans
pauvreté**