



**disability
without
poverty**

**le handicap
sans
pauvreté**

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Almost 18,000 Canadians signed petition to urge Prime Minister Trudeau to fast track the Canada Disability Benefit

(Toronto) – Close to 18,000 members of the public have voiced demands that the Prime Minister and the federal government:

- Fast-track the design and implementation of the Canada Disability Benefit
- Actively and genuinely involve disabled people every step of the way, from start to finish.

People with disabilities have often been “legislated into poverty” by earnings criteria for government support, not only pandemic-specific programs. They are more likely to live below the poverty line, according to data from Statistics Canada. “People who live in poverty cannot wait any longer. We are committed to a Canada where no disabled person lives in poverty,” Michelle Hewitt, Disability Without Poverty Co-Chair says.

Canadians across the political spectrum agree. In [a recent Angus Reid survey](#), 89 per cent of Canadians say it’s time for fast action to end poverty for people with disabilities. The majority support the benefit because it’s “the right thing to do” and because the current levels of support for disabled people are inadequate.

1.4 million people with disabilities in Canada live in poverty. This means that many don’t have enough money for food and have to depend on food banks. They cannot afford a decent place to live.

“We know people with disabilities have been pushed further into deeper poverty as a result of the pandemic. We truly want to make sure that people with disabilities experiencing poverty receive a liveable income through various

sources and that there are no clawbacks,” says Rabia Khedr, National Director, Disability Without Poverty.

The Parliamentary e-petition was launched in November and sponsored by MP Mike Morrice, representing the riding of Kitchener Centre in Ontario.

MP Morrice is expecting to present this petition to the House of Commons in the 45-day time frame, now that the petition has closed.

“We need attention, support and innovation to build capacity towards the path of accessibility and inclusion. This petition is one small step supporting a giant leap toward ending disability poverty,” says Khedr.

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About Disability Without Poverty

We are a Canadian grassroots movement led by people with disabilities, with room for everyone to join. We are supported by private and community foundations to preserve our independence and ability to advocate and partner with government.

For more information, please visit www.disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca