

# Disability Without Poverty (DWP) Better the Benefit Campaign Canada

## Disability Benefit (CDB) Timeline:

**September 2020:** Prime Minister Trudeau proposes a Canada Disability Benefit to support the financial security of persons with disabilities.

**June 2023:** The CDB Act passes unanimously.

**November 2023:** DWP conducts a consultation project known as *Shape The CDB*.

**March 2024:** Shape the CDB findings and [Disability With Possibility](#) report released.

**April 2024:** The CDB is in the Budget.

**June 2024:** The CDB Act comes into force and regulations are to be available for the public.

**July 2025:** Some people with disabilities are expected to receive the CDB.

**2025 is a federal election year.**

## Background

Over 30% of disabled people in our survey are also carers to disabled people.

62% have an annual income below \$24,000.

27% of Canadians are disabled.

1.5 million disabled people in Canada live in poverty.

41% of people who live in poverty are disabled.

No provincial or territorial disability assistance payment raises people above the poverty line.

The 2024 federal budget allocated \$6.1 billion to be rolled out over 6 years commencing July 2025.

The benefit's maximum is \$2,400 annually. The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is the eligibility tool. The expectation from the government is that with funding of medical forms, eligibility will double from the current 300,000 on the DTC, to 600,000. Draft regulations will be shared with the public in June 2024.

**A Canada Disability Benefit should be transformative. It still can be. We need your help to make sure the federal government gets the message loud and clear: \$200 a month to so few people with disabilities is far below what is needed. We expect better.**

# **Better the Benefit Campaign: Call to Action for People with Disabilities**

You may be angry, disappointed and upset by the Canada Disability Benefit as it is today. We want to help you turn your reaction into action.

We need your help to make sure the message is loud and clear.  
\$200 a month to so few people with disabilities is far below what is needed.

## **Take Action:**

Reach out and talk to elected officials at all levels of government. Schedule a meeting or talk to them at community events this summer.

The Canadian Government is working on regulations. This is your chance to give input. Stay tuned to our social media and website for more details about this process.

Please meet with your local politicians. Tell them your concerns about the amount, eligibility, and application process.

Use this poster to start a conversation with your elected politician from the city (Councillor), the province (MLA or MPP) or the country (MP). The poster has 7 very important points. Ask the official to write or talk to Cabinet Ministers or the Prime Minister using these points:

- 1. Urgency** - the benefit must happen quickly; July 2025 is a long time away from now.
- 2. Dignity** - disabled people want to make their own decisions and be included in their care.
- 3. Added Costs** - disability costs more and this must be included in the regulations.
- 4. Inclusive Eligibility** - invisible and episodic disabilities must be included.
- 5. Simple Application** - make sure the application is easy to use and that help is provided.
- 6. A Fair Benefit** - the benefit must work for the people it is helping.
- 7. Keep Disabled People involved in the process** - we know best what our needs are.

## **Ask the federal government:**

To raise the amount of the CDB.

To individualize the benefit rather than means-test against family income.

To simplify the application process.

To work with provinces and territories to automatically enrol anyone who already receives provincial and territorial support.

To confirm with provinces that there will be no clawbacks of any kind related to the CDB.

# **Better the Benefit Campaign: Call to Action for Service Providers & Advocates**

The Canada Disability Benefit is budgeted now and no one is happy with the amount.

The CDB is getting \$6.1 billion over 6 years starting July 2025. People with disabilities who qualify for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) will have to apply and could get up to \$2,400 per year. This does not lift 1.6 million people with disabilities out of poverty.

## **How to Help:**

Support people with disabilities living in poverty by arranging a meeting with elected officials and attending with them. Attend community events with people with disabilities and engage elected officials who are there.

## **Information that can help you - 7 key findings:**

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- 5. Simple Application** - make sure the application is easy to use and that help is provided.
- 6. A Fair Benefit** - the benefit must work for the people it is helping.
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## **Ask politicians to ask the federal government:**

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