



Canada Disability Benefit

Design Recommendations

In 2023, the Government of Canada passed Bill C-22, the Canada Disability Benefit Act. This document explains Inclusion Canada's suggested design for the new benefit.

"A well-designed Benefit has the potential to significantly address issues of inequality, poverty and discrimination experienced by people with disabilities." - Inclusion Canada

In Budget 2024, the Government of Canada announced that the new Canada Disability Benefit will:

- be \$6.1 billion over 6 years. This will be \$1.4 billion per year once fully implemented.
- be a maximum of \$2,400 per year. This is \$200 per month, or just \$6.66 per day.
- be accessed only through the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). Only people who qualify for the DTC will be eligible.
- be paid to people starting in December 2025.
- estimated only to help 600,000 people, but 1.5 million people with disabilities live in poverty.



In Budget 2024, the Government allocated insufficient funding for the Canada Disability Benefit. Without an increase, people with disabilities will continue to live in poverty.

What this means:

- this will not lift people with disabilities out of poverty. It is not enough to close the gap.
- using the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to access the Benefit is restrictive. Less than half of those who need it will qualify.
- even though the budget has been announced, the regulations still have to be developed.





What we told the Government the Benefit should look like:

- Available to working-age people with a disability (ages 18-64)
- 'disability' should, at minimum, include everyone who already gets federal disability benefits or provincial/territorial disability income assistance
- the definition of disability should be broad and align with the Accessible Canada Act. It should be based on a social model of disability, not a medical model.
- apply anytime
- no employment requirement or asset test
- information and application processes are accessible and easy to understand
- move between provinces and still get the Benefit

- \$2,400 a month. When combined with other federal, provincial/territorial programs, it must bring all people with disabilities up to a minimum income of \$2,400 per month
- Automatic eligibility
- Not tied to the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)
- Income-tested, with a \$35,000 earnings exemption
- Based on individual income, not household/family income
- Non-taxable
- No claw backs or reductions to existing supports. No one should be worse off.



How you can help:

Click [here](#) to call, email or write to your Member of Parliament

- Tell them to #BuildOnTheBudget and change their plan
 - [Use this letter template](#)
- Ask them to support Inclusion Canada's design and increase the monthly amount of the Canada Disability Benefit. \$200/month is not enough.
- Share this document with them

You can read Inclusion Canada's full recommendations on our website at

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