

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau,  
P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of National Revenue  
7th Floor  
555 Mackenzie Avenue  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0L5

Dear Minister Bibeau,

We are writing as representatives of a coalition of disability organizations from across Canada in relation to the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) and more specifically, the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

As you are aware, eligibility for individuals to apply for the upcoming Canada Disability Benefit is dependent upon, among other criteria, having the Disability Tax Credit Certificate. As you would also be aware, there are great challenges in navigating the DTC process and associated barriers accessing it.

In Budget 2024 the federal government announced “\$243 million over six years, beginning in 2024-25, and \$41 million per year ongoing, to cover the cost of the medical forms required to apply for the Disability Tax Credit.” This was a positive development and one measure that could reduce some of the accessibility barriers to accessing the DTC.

Currently, the government is working with various disability organizations to assist as many persons with disabilities as possible to apply for and be approved for the DTC in preparation for the implementation of the CDB in July of 2025. We have learned that the Canada Revenue Agency may only release funding for this initiative in fiscal year 2025-26. This is very concerning as it will delay the ability of organizations to help those who desperately need access to the CDB.

People with disabilities find themselves trapped in a system of severe, legislated poverty. Eliminating the cost of medical professional fees, required to complete the Disability Tax Credit, removes a barrier to accessing essential financial supports individuals may qualify for. Your personal assistance is crucial in overcoming this hurdle and ensuring equitable access to much-needed financial assistance.

We are requesting the immediate release of this earmarked funding that will supplement our organizations' work in helping to navigate the application process to the DTC. We appreciate your personal attention to this issue and look forward to your positive reply.

Sincerely,

**Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians**  
**Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW)**  
**Canadian Down Syndrome Society**  
**Canadian Institute of the Blind**  
**Council of Canadians with Disabilities**  
**DAWN Canada**  
**Disability Alliance BC**  
**Disability Without Poverty**  
**Independent Living Canada**  
**Indigenous Disability Canada**  
**Inclusion Canada**  
**L'Arche Canada**  
**March of Dimes**  
**Muscular Dystrophy Canada**  
**Plan Institute**  
**Realize Canada**  
**Rick Hansen Foundation**  
**Spinal Cord Injury Canada**  
**Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility**

Copy  
Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Honourable Kamal Khera