

Will the Benefit Meet
the Needs of Indigenous
Communities?

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Critique of the CDB

Why the DTC Will
Become More
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The Magazine of Disability Alliance BC

CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT
What protection does it actually offer?

SPECIAL
EDITION

2024
FALL/WINTER



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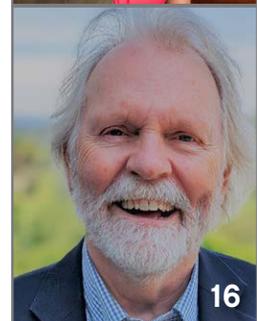
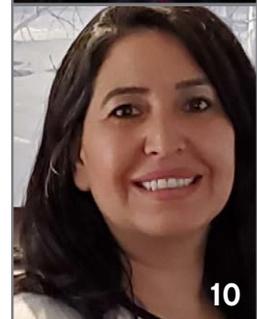
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editorial

by Cynthia Minh

The initial excitement around the CDB has dimmed. People have been waiting too long for too little.

When the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) was first announced in the federal government's Throne Speech in 2020, it carried the potential of setting a new standard for disability-related social support. Initially intended to lift people with disabilities out of poverty, the CDB provided the chance to address the longstanding financial cost of disability, and the opportunity to design a program with accessibility at the forefront.

Following the announcement, there was much anticipation about how the CDB would take shape. How much would the benefit be? Who would be able access it?

It would be another few years before we got some answers. The CDB Act was finally unanimously approved by Parliament in 2023 and the plan for its roll-out was announced a year later.

This year's federal budget revealed that the CDB is set to be delivered in July 2025 and will provide only up to \$200/month or \$2,400/year to working age adults. In June 2024, the government published proposed regulations for the benefit

which include application hurdles and restrictive income thresholds.

The initial excitement around the CDB has dimmed. People have been waiting too long for too little.

Earnings Threshold

What the proposed regulations set out is limiting and inaccessible. For many people living in poverty, \$200/month is not enough to cover rising costs of living in BC. Not only is the amount low, but to access the full benefit, applicants would need to make under \$23,000 a year. The benefit gradually decreases, until it phases out completely when income rises above \$45,000.

Like provincial disability assistance earnings thresholds, income thresholds can disincentivize people living in poverty who rely on financial support to enter the workforce. Thresholds can also make it difficult for people with disabilities who are employed to balance when they can participate in a mainstream work environment and times when they need greater financial flexibility due to health-related concerns.

Income Tax and DTC Requirements

The proposed regulations also set up an eligibility process that feels unnecessarily burdensome. To qualify, people who want to apply for the CDB will need to file their taxes, and apply for and maintain eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

These qualifications are already high barrier gateways to other federal financial programs, like the Child Disability Benefit and Registered Disability Savings Plan. The DTC requires people to prove their disability within an ableist medical model that has demonstrated misconceptions and bias around the DTC's eligibility criteria.

At DABC, we have had decades-long experience helping to support people with disabilities through complex applications like the DTC and tax filing. We understand how hard it is to navigate through these programs, especially with the lack of support to do so.

We will continue to advocate for a CDB that provides adequate financial support that can be easily accessed by those who qualify.

Where We Need to Go

We will continue to advocate for a CDB that provides adequate financial support that can be easily accessed by those who qualify. This means:

- taking into consideration the diverse needs of the community
- lifting income thresholds to respect an individual's right to autonomy and full participation in society
- moving towards an application system that does not require medical certification
- removing administrative barriers that are confusing for applicants and funding adequate support for individuals that need it

All of these steps will require meaningful engagement with the disability community.

In this edition, you will hear what members of our community have to say about the CDB.

We hear from Michael Prince about his reasons for stepping down from a CDB advisory committee. Evelyn Huntjens, with Indigenous Disability Canada and Disabled Women's Net-

work Canada, provides insight into what needs to change for the CDB to truly support Indigenous people with disabilities.

Amanda Lockitch from Disability Without Poverty explains her organization's stance on the CDB project. Stephanie Debisschop from Plan Institute previews their new projects around CDB information and application support.

You can also read highlights from our own in-depth report critiquing the benefit.

This moment sees different community members coming together towards collective action. We believe the CDB still has the potential to chart a new path for social programs and to be an opportunity for the federal government to look at disability supports through a different, more person-centred lens.

There is still a lot of work to be done.

CYNTHIA MINH IS DIRECTOR OF DABC'S TAX AID AND ACCESS RDSP PROGRAMS. 

DABC Speaks Out on the Disability Earnings Cap

In addition to our work advocating for a better Canada Disability Benefit, DABC is also advocating for the abolition of the annual earning exemption limit for PWD recipients.

Read our op-ed, "Why the Disability Earnings Cap Is Holding People Back" published on July 4 by The Tyee, here: <https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2024/07/04/Disability-Earnings-Cap-Holding-People-Back/>.

From the Op-ed:

"As an employer, I feel disgusted by the fact that I am complicit in working within the constraints of an ableist system. It's a system that forces disabled employees to make choices about their work based on how much a person on disability assistance is allowed to earn as employment income before they are rendered ineligible for PWD income — income that is a lifeline as much as it is constraining, and not enough."

CDB

DABC'S In-depth Review

When first announced in September 2020's throne speech, the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) held the promise of lifting people with disabilities out of poverty. However, the CDB as proposed underdelivers on this promise.

With years of expertise in providing free one-to-one support to people with disabilities accessing federal and provincial disability programs, Disability Alliance BC (DABC) delivered an in-depth review of the proposed CDB regulation.

This article is a look at some of our key concerns and a summary of our recommendations. Writers in this Transition edition look in detail at some of the core problems we touch on here.

We invite you to read our full report at <https://disabilityalliancebc.org/dabcs-review-of-the-canada-disability-benefit-proposed-regulation/>.

AGE RESTRICTION

Restricting eligibility to working age adults (18-64) does not adequately address additional financial burdens people with disabilities face, regardless of age.

The government cites in the proposed regulations that this decision was made because “the rate of poverty among working age persons, aged 18 to 65, with disabilities is higher than those 65 years and older.” In fact, the rate of poverty is actually higher for seniors:

Nearly 20% of seniors with disabilities live in poverty. The [rate for working age people with disabilities living in poverty is 15.2%](#).

DTC REQUIREMENT

Using the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to determine eligibility to the CDB reinforces barriers that will exclude many people with disabilities from accessing financial support.

We support the call shared by advocates across the country for people who are already receiving other disability supports to access a shorter, streamlined application process for the DTC.

There are high barriers to accessing the DTC, including a lack of awareness, overwhelming application process, as well as added administrative burdens and financial burdens, all of which the federal government is aware, as they have cited these reasons within their regulatory impact analysis statement.

Unlike other disability benefit applications, DTC eligibility is not always indefinite—eligibility can



sometimes last one year or multiple years. This means that many people have to reapply for the DTC periodically in order to maintain eligibility for all DTC-connected supports.

We believe that asking individuals to prove and re-prove their disability through medical certification perpetuates ableism.

These policies see disability through a medical model lens—a lens that links disability to someone's medical condition, instead of more contemporary understandings of disability which

acknowledge social factors such as attitudes, institutions and environments which hinder participation in community.

We support the call shared by advocates across the country for people who are already receiving other disability supports to access a shorter, streamlined application process for the DTC.

INCOME TAX FILING

Verifying income through tax filing can add administrative burden to an already overwhelming application process.

While we understand the need to have income verified to qualify for the CDB, requiring applicants to file their taxes makes it difficult for people facing high barriers to tax filing to get the benefit to which they are entitled. Through our Tax AID program, we see first-hand the number of people living in poverty that still require tax filing support due to health-related barriers and feelings of overwhelm.

We recommend that the government move towards a model that utilizes alternative ways for individuals to prove their income. Other government programs that have moved into these new models have paved the way.

APPLICATION PROCESS

As set out in the proposed regulations, once an individual meets the eligibility requirements, they can fill out a separate application form through Service Canada in Spring 2025 to apply for the CDB.

Having a separate application process in addition to the DTC adds

an administrative step on top of an already overwhelming process.

For many people with disabilities, managing complex paperwork and administrative tasks is exhausting. In addition, given that DTC eligibility may only last a period of time, more clarification is needed on whether someone would need to resubmit a new CDB application if they lose DTC eligibility.

BENEFIT AMOUNT

The Canada Disability Benefit amount is not enough to meaningfully lift people out of poverty. The maximum amount people can receive from the benefit is \$200/month, up to \$2,400 a year.

There has been much anticipation for the CDB to be a poverty reduction vehicle that considers the disproportionate rates of poverty among people with disabilities. However, this benefit will not be enough to change the living circumstances of someone in financial hardship.

The government states that the benefit amount was set to \$200 in part because they are basing the rate on the official poverty line. We question this assertion. Currently, the poverty line for a single individual in BC is \$21,535 - \$25,285 (depending on location). https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/ref/dict/tab/index-eng.cfm?ID=t2_2

Federal and provincial income assistance programs do not adequately address costs of living.

This is especially true in urban areas where costs are reported to be even higher.

It is also unclear whether the CDB amount will be taxable.

The government states that the benefit amount was set to \$200 in part because they are basing the rate on the official poverty line. We question this assertion.

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

The benefit should take into account regional disparities in the cost of living.

We acknowledge that it may be more difficult for federal programs to justify and implement systems that take regional disparities into consideration. However, distributing the benefit in equal amounts across the country would not equitably lift people out of poverty.

RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS

We are pleased to see that people with disabilities will be able to access the CDB retroactively. However, the CDB's retroactive access is limited to the past two years which does not adequately reflect the financial circumstances of people living with disabilities for longer periods of time.

We advocate for access to retroactive benefits to be extended to 10 years. This change will also provide more meaningful financial support for people who have been trapped in cycles of poverty.

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INCOME TESTING

The income threshold for the CDB is too restrictive and will leave many living in poverty without access.

Under the proposed regulations, how much someone receives from the CDB will depend on the amount of income they make. People can receive the maximum benefit if they make under \$23,000 for single individuals and \$32,500 for couples (combined income with a spouse or common-law partner).

People are allowed to earn an additional \$10,000 in working income for single individuals and an additional \$14,000 in a couple (combined income with a spouse or partner).

If someone makes over the income threshold, their benefit amount will gradually reduce. Once someone makes above a certain income threshold, they will no longer receive any payments.

Income thresholds and earning exemptions can negatively impact or disincentivize participation in the workforce.

These policies force people with disabilities to make tough decisions between trying to earn enough to make a living or risk losing financial support for periods of time that they are unable to succeed in mainstream work environments. People with disabilities require a social security net that is more flexible and dynamic, and considers systemic barriers to employment.

FAMILY INCOME

Income should be based on an individual instead of family income. DABC strongly advocates for social supports to be based on individual income instead of family income.

Measuring income by family income makes assumptions about the way that income is distributed in a household—that the higher earner in the family will share their income equally with the spouse with the lower income.

The government’s decision to use family income is based on “mitigat[ing] the impact of spousal/partner income sources on the value of the Benefit.” Measuring income by family income makes assumptions about the way that income is distributed in a household—that the higher earner in the family will share their income equally with the spouse with the lower income. These assumptions are rooted in heteronormative ideals that contribute to greater gender inequities.

PENALTIES

People with disabilities should have more opportunities for debt forgiveness.

While we are happy to see that punitive measures will not be taken unless someone knowingly applies for the benefit incorrectly, we see how having benefits and income garnished can deepen cycles of poverty. For example, people with disabilities who were initially told they would be eligible for CERB now face tens of thousands of dollars in debt simply because they were told incorrect information about eligibility criteria, or because they misunderstood eligibility criteria. It can take lifetimes for people to repay.

NAVIGATION SUPPORT

We are pleased to see that the government intends to invest in community organizations that will help people access free navigational support through federal, provincial, territorial and local programs.

As stated in the regulations, the government will contribute \$22.4 million over five years starting in 2025–26, and \$3.8 million per year after, to support a navigation support program delivered by community organizations to help connect vulnerable persons with disabilities to federal, provincial, territorial and local programs.

We also note that the government intends to advance an inclusive and culturally appropriate approach to the design and delivery of the CDB, that will attend to needs voiced by Indigenous communities including:



“a lack of access to medical professionals; the need for Indigenous-specific and community-based navigation services; the impacts of racism and discrimination in the medical system; the importance of including an Indigenous understanding of disability in the design and delivery of the [CDB]; and the need to ensure other supports and services are not negatively impacted by the [CDB].”

We support this direction and would like to see future initiatives which meaningfully address social and cultural inequities.

CONCLUSION

Understanding that the Canada Disability Benefit Act was crafted as framework legislation, and that much of the policy and requirements are detailed in the proposed regulation, now is the time to make bold changes—before it is passed into law. We urge the federal government to consider our recommendations which, if implemented, will demonstrate a greater commitment to the well being of people with disabilities across Canada.

DABC has advocated on the CDB since 2022. [See our submission](#) to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Please also see Disability Without Poverty's [Disability Poverty in Canada: A 2023 Report Card](#). 

SUMMARY OF DABC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand residency status eligibility criteria
- Create a shorter, streamlined DTC application process for individuals who are already on disability assistance or CPP-D
- Reform DTC eligibility criteria and application processes to increase access to and uptake of the credit and other connected benefits like the CDB
- Provide alternative ways for individuals to prove their income
- Designate the CDB amount as non-taxable income
- Clarify further whether an individual would need to resubmit a new CDB application if they lose DTC eligibility
- Ensure that accessibility testing of the CDB includes feedback from a diverse range of people with disabilities
- Clarify further what types of representatives are able to apply on behalf of applicants
- Clarify further the process of representatives entering into an agreement with Service Canada
- Reassess coverage amounts for completed medical forms across all federal benefits
- Increase medical practitioner coverage funding to support a greater number of applications and provide the opportunity for people to request reimbursement for medical practitioner fees they may have to pay on top of what is being covered
- Increase the CDB amount, and adjust for regional disparities
- Extend access to retroactive benefits to 10 years to align with the DTC
- Clarify further what types of income will be included in the income threshold amount
- Abolish the earnings exemption limit
- Base the income threshold on individual income instead of family income
- Ensure that the appeals process is accessible
- Extend the period to request a reconsideration to at least one year, and allow applicants to reapply with new information at any stage of the process
- Add debt forgiveness programs for people with disabilities
- Recognize the different impacts of racism and discrimination in the medical system faced by all minority groups, and address ways to reduce discrimination through the design and delivery of the CDB



Will the CDB Address Core Concerns for Indigenous Peoples?

I by Evelyn Huntjens

The upcoming Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) has brought both hope and concern for individuals and their families who may qualify. Indigenous people, especially those with disabilities, routinely find many barriers in accessing the supports they need. The CDB could help solve some of these issues, but only if it recognizes and addresses the complex problems Indigenous people face.

Barriers in the DTC

One of the biggest barriers Indigenous people and communities face is the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) for which people must qualify to access the CDB. The DTC can be very inaccessible, due to confusing and challenging barriers that keep eligible people from accessing it.

In many Indigenous communities, and in rural and northern areas, there can be delays in accessing medical appointments. If you don't have a doctor, getting the DTC becomes almost impossible which

delays or blocks access to this benefit, and therefore the CDB.

Because many Indigenous people with disability live in poverty, tax credits like the DTC don't help. The DTC offers a reduction in income taxes, but not a refund. It is only valuable because of its link to other benefits such as the Registered Disability Savings Plan. But, the potential financial benefits of the RDSP are years away, as it can only be accessed without penalty after age 60.

Ableism and racism in our healthcare system is rampant for Indigenous people with these disabilities.

All of these factors make applying for the DTC either too difficult or a low priority. This is even though 55% of people with severe and very severe disabilities are potentially eligible for the DTC. Given the trends in statistics, the percentage of Indigenous peoples who are not accessing the DTC is likely higher. Additional resources are needed to support access to the DTC and therefore to the CDB.

On top of these issues, approval for the DTC doesn't guarantee re-approval. Even if you have a lifelong condition, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requires you to reapply every 3-5 years. This is a huge barrier, especially for those with "invisible disabilities" that are harder to "prove," but significantly impact daily life.

Ableism and racism in our healthcare system is rampant for Indigenous people with these disabilities.

People have been intimidated and shamed, and told they don't qualify. It is not the healthcare practitioner's role to approve the DTC, but they are often the gatekeepers to access.

Gaps in the CDB Regulations

The CDB has the potential to offer direct financial support to people with disabilities, but there are many gaps in the rules that need to be fixed. There's a risk that, without specific steps to include Indigenous communities, the CDB could create the same barriers as the DTC.

The CDB needs to take into account that Indigenous people living with disability in rural or remote communities often require direct supports to access benefits. The application process for the CDB should be simple, so people who don't have reliable healthcare can still navigate the application process and be approved. And, people who receive disability income assistance should have an automatic approval process for the CDB.

There's a risk that, without specific steps to include Indigenous communities, the CDB could create the same barriers as the DTC.

Another hurdle is the doctor's fee for completing the DTC. An individual or family living on disability income assistance cannot be out of pocket as much as \$250 in a month and still put food on the table. Many Indigenous communities' programs and services do not provide resources to cover this application

cost or travel to have the form completed. This will perpetuate poverty for those who live with disability, whether they qualify or not.

It seems contradictory to make commitments to inclusive communities and full participation for all citizens and then create a new program with processes that have substantial barriers.

Without addressing these issues, Indigenous people with disabilities could be left out again.

Empowering Indigenous People with Disabilities

One important step in developing a truly inclusive process is to ensure

Indigenous people are involved in making decisions about accessing the CDB in their communities. Community-based navigation programs should also be available to support Indigenous people with disabilities.

Allyship with Indigenous people with disabilities should go beyond government policies.

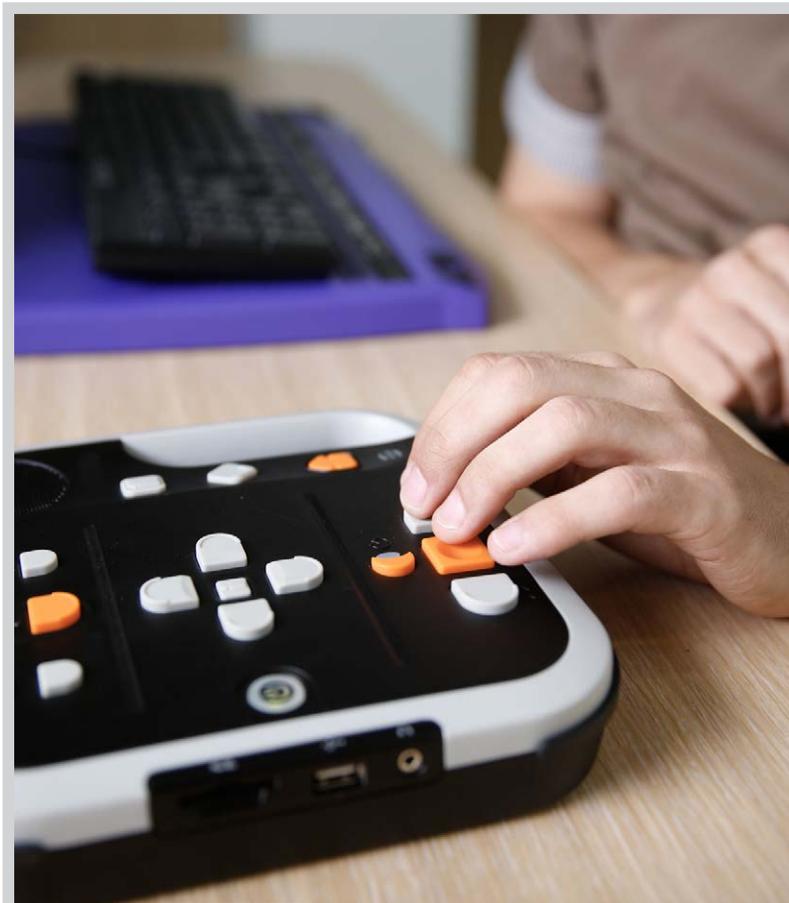
There should be public campaigns to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by Indigenous people with disabilities. And, Indigenous people with disability should also have leadership roles to build stronger networks of support.

The Canada Disability Benefit has the potential to provide much-

needed support, but it's crucial that the federal government addresses the current gaps. Then, the CDB can become a tool that truly empowers and supports Indigenous people with disabilities.

Learn more at [BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society](#) and [DAWN Canada](#)

EVELYN HUNTJENS JOINS DAWN CANADA AS THE DIRECTOR OF INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES TO LEAD THE ORGANIZATION IN AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES. EVELYN RESIDES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC WITHIN THE ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF THE QUW'UTSUN PEOPLE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE XENI GWET'IN FIRST NATION. 



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Snapshots of Accessibility Projects Grantees

DABC's 2023/24 Accessibility Projects Grants will be coming to a close at the end of 2025. We checked in with the grantees at the halfway point of their projects and, as always, were very impressed with the progress they had made towards lasting impacts for people with disabilities across BC.

The following are two examples of this work, from projects that have been taking place during 2024 in the Lower Mainland.

To learn more about the grants, including a full list of the projects funded during this granting cycle and to see who is awarded the 2024/25 grants, please visit our program page at [Accessibility Projects Grants](#).

221A Artist Run Centre Society

Community Programs Centering Chinatown and DTES Residents with Disabilities

This series of community-led creative gatherings, cultural workshops and food shares aims to cultivate healthy communities in the geographic area surrounding x̱aw̱sshewá'y New Growth 《新生林》 – an Indigenous garden in Vancouver's Chinatown/Downtown Eastside.

This area has a high number of residents with disabilities and this project's goal is to meet their unmet needs by investing in a slow, mindful, community-care approach to cultural programming.

x̱aw̱sshewá'y New Growth 《新生林》 is uniquely accessible. It is designed to be as self-sustaining as possible using permaculture technology, allowing folks with disabilities to steward the garden with flexibility around responding to bodily fluctuations, Designed by artist, ethnobotanist and educator T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss, it nurtures healthy coexistence with the plants and pollinators of this territory's ecosystem.

Compared to surrounding urban areas, it is a sensory-reduced experience and its flat terrain makes it accessible to people with mobility limitations. There is a Wi-Fi mesh network at the garden, mitigating the digital divide in the surrounding area, developed by Christina Battle during her Fellowship with 221A.

The garden is useful to the blind and partially sighted community as it has a visual describing service available via phone, and to Indigenous communities because of its difficult-to-find traditional medicines and plants.

Essentially, the garden was ready to welcome intersectional disability communities. What it needed was programming that centers them which is where this project came in. In terms of organization, a core team of artist-facilitators and garden stewards who live with mental health diversities and chronic illnesses have been invited



to engage in intergenerational peer knowledge-sharing, professional development and mentorship via the visioning, coordination and facilitation of disability community-centered programs, alongside 221A programming staff.

Because food sharing is so central to the project, monthly activities could not begin until the garden's oven was rebuilt. However, this too became part of the process of building community at the garden. From material acquisition to worksite safety, every hand involved in replacing the several-year-old cob oven included users affected by a lack of harm reduction infrastructures. The rebuild was led by Artisan and Masonry Foreman, Jerome Tisiga-Bradford.

"Because this oven was built in a spiritually energetic, harm reduction-centred way, it's going to totally transform the garden into a more welcoming space for the community we intend to serve and collaborate with," says jaz -whitford, Community Outreach & Program Developer. "I could feel it the whole time we were building."

Visit: [221A](#)

The Kettle Society Art Against Stigma

The Kettle Society empowers people living with mental illness, substance use, poverty and/or homelessness in Vancouver by providing housing, employment, community services and enrichment programs. Its art-based programs paused at the beginning of the pandemic and for several years after so they applied



for an Accessibility Projects Grant to pilot their relaunching.

Art Against Stigma's purpose is to help individuals who are living with mental health diagnoses rediscover their voices through artistic expression. Programs include group art therapy, creative writing, choir practice, art scholarships and public performances. One of the participants said "I was nervous to participate, I didn't think I had a creative bone. Turns out I do and spending time making art is healing for me."

Over the course of the Spring and Summer, low-barrier activities and programming invited individuals to explore different creative outlets including singing, creative writing, painting, drawing, crafting and so on. The scholarship fund launched in June 2024, giving participants the opportunity to apply for gift cards to invest in supplies that will allow them to try a new creative outlet

or reconnect with an artistic hobby. Participants will submit their art for our exhibit in winter showcases.

The program cumulated with a three-day art exhibit as part of the Eastside Culture Crawl in November which showcased a range of artistic disciplines and created awareness about the benefits of artistic expression for people with mental health disabilities. There was also a performance of the choir on opening night. There will be another holiday-themed choir performance in mid-December, with invitations extended to Kettle donors, volunteers, members and community partners.

Visit: [Support The Kettle](#) 

Advertise with DABC

DABC's Flagship publication since 1977

From its early years in print, to its current form as a digital magazine, Transition has been an integral part of DABC's history and a hub for the disability community for over four decades.

With content ranging from policy news to personal stories, the pages of Transition provide a trusted platform where writers and readers with direct lived experience and other contributors working in the disability sphere share perspectives.

We publish three times a year, with each edition presenting a timely theme relevant to the community. Past editions have focused on topics such as Parenting With Disability, Disability Justice, Respecting Disability Language and Identity, and Healthcare: Navigating an Ableist System.

Readership

- Over 3,000 magazines emailed to subscribers
- Featured on our website
- Theme articles promoted through our blog and social media
- Distributed to libraries, community centres, MLA offices and other public facilities

Non-profit Discounts

We're glad to offer all Transition advertising, including ads bundled with our e-newsletter advertising, at a 25% discount to non-profit organizations and a 35% discount for non-profit organizations who are also DABC members (minimum cost per ad \$50).

Choose Bundled Ads

Combine Transition magazine and Our Voice e-newsletter advertising into a package bundle to amplify your message, while achieving savings for your ongoing support. Our Voice offers readers regular updates including news, events, opportunities and more.

Our current readership includes policy makers, healthcare and housing providers, organizations serving the disability community, and individuals spanning a wide range of lived experiences with all disabilities.

See our Media Kit for rates and details.

https://dabc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DABC_MediaKit.pdf





DABC Workshops

Outside of our direct services, DABC also provides training and workshops to community organizations, health care providers, businesses and government on a variety of topics.

If you are an organization that wants to collaborate, please visit <https://disabilityalliancebc.org/program/workshops/>.

You can also follow our social media for more information on workshops available to the public.



Contact DABC Programs and Services

DABC offers in-person and remote appointments. However, please note that in-person services are available by appointment only. Below is the contact information for our core programs—to book your appointment or ask about the services and support we can provide.

Advocacy Access

If you need help with provincial disability benefits or CPP Disability, contact Advocacy Access:

advocacy@dabc.ca

604-872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278 (Toll-free)

Tax AID DABC

If you are a person with a disability who needs assistance filing your income taxes, contact Tax AID DABC:

taxaid@dabc.ca

Call or text 236-477-1717 or call toll-free 1-877-940-7797

Book your appointment online at <https://www.taxaid.janeapp.com>

Access RDSP

If you need help with the Disability Tax Credit or Registered Disability Savings Plan, contact Access RDSP:

604-872-1278 or 1-800-663-1278 (Toll-free)

rdsp@dabc.ca <https://www.rdsp.com>

Disability Law Clinic

Our Disability Law Clinic can help with legal issues related to disability rights:

236-427-1108

lawclinic@dabc.ca

The Right Fit

For questions about the Right Fit Program and for media inquiries, please contact:

Isabelle Groc, Right Fit Program Manager

rightfit@dabc.ca <https://therightfitbc.org>

If you are a wheelchair user looking for wheelchair accessible housing in the Lower Mainland, please contact:

The Right Fit Navigation Team

navigation@therightfitbc.org 604-777-7576

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Why I Resigned from a CDB Advisory Group

BY MICHAEL J. PRINCE

A few days after the April 2024 federal government budget outlined key details about the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB), I contacted the Honourable Kamal Khera, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities, and gave formal notice of my resignation from the Minister's Disability Advisory Group effective immediately.

The Trudeau government's decisions around the Canada Disability Benefit announced in the federal budget triggered my resignation.

The budget fails to heed the long-declared recommendations by national disability organizations and other groups for a properly-funded benefit, one that recognizes the additional costs of living for people with disabilities.

The benefit, although depicted as a key pillar in the government's plan to provide direct support to those who need it most, does not adequately address the serious needs of more than one million adults living with disabilities across the country, many of whom live in poverty.

I initially thought the benefit amount of \$200 was a misprint.

The benefit is too low and too few people in need are covered. It is complicated to access, lacks collaboration, and waits too long to meaningfully reduce poverty.

In 2020, the federal government described the CDB as modeled after the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for low-income seniors aged sixty-five and older.

In 2024, the maximum benefit amount of the GIS is \$12,785 annually. For the CDB, the proposed maximum benefit amount is \$2,400 per year for low-income people with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64. The proposed maximum *annual* payment for the CDB equates to about *two months* of the support for low-income seniors.

A Retreat from Real Poverty Reduction

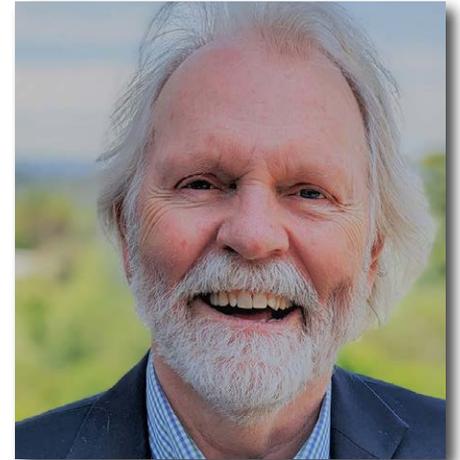
The government estimates that more than 600,000 low-income people with disabilities may qualify for the CDB. However, Employment and Social Development Canada later revealed the CDB might, at most, lift only 25,000 recipients out of financial poverty.

These numbers for coverage and poverty reduction fall well short of the estimated 1.2 million people with disabilities across Canada living in poverty. In contrast to previous statements about the intended effects of the CDB, it simply may not bring significant poverty-reduction effects.

So Much for "Nothing About Us, Without Us"

The budget included a statement that, in the spirit of "nothing about us without us", the government would provide meaningful opportunities for people living with disability to collaborate.

However, not on everything. Whatever the eventual design of



I initially thought the benefit amount of \$200 was a misprint.

the program, the budget adds the fundamental constraint that "the design will need to fit the investment proposed in Budget 2024."

This fiscal condition, set down by the Minister of Finance, means that the issues of benefit adequacy, effectiveness as a poverty-reduction policy and the coverage of the program are not truly up for discussion.

In the words of this budget, the federal government "aspires to see" that, one day, the combined amount of federal and provincial or territorial income supports for people with disabilities grow to the level of Old Age Security and the GIS to tackle disability poverty.

Significant Investments are Required

The history of social policy in Canada teaches us that major reform in income support often comes from federal leadership in investments and program reform. It has long been apparent that not all provinces and none of the territories have the financial capacity to tackle disability poverty in a fundamental and sustainable way.

Out of sync with public opinion and community needs, this budget announcement fails to take strong federal responsibility for income security for working-age adults with disabilities who are working hard to join the middle class.

The proposed maximum **annual** payment for the CDB equates to about **two months** of the support for low-income seniors.

I concluded my voice was no longer making a difference on this advisory group and that by remaining, people would assume I supported this benefit design. So I resigned.

However, I continue to work with self-advocates and community allies in other ways and places.

MICHAEL J. PRINCE IS LANSDOWNE PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL POLICY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA. FROM 2018 TO 2024, HE WAS BOARD CHAIR OF COMMUNITY LIVING BC. HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINISTERIAL DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUP FROM APRIL 2020 TO APRIL 2024. 

Community Voices on the CDB

I am 65 this year, so my CPP-D will convert to a lower amount. People with an ongoing disability, who have the Disability Tax Credit, no matter the age, should be eligible for the CDB without an OAS/GIS clawback. Otherwise, what's the point?

Lots of seniors work to meet expenses, but it's impossible for me to do this. Some of my 65-year-old friends have a lot more ability and can work or have been working all along and could save. I am still disabled, with extra expenses, and we need the extra \$200 per month. ~ **DABC Social Media Follower**

In tough times or smooth sailing, people with disabilities are the first to be ignored and last to be remembered, regardless of all grand statements to the contrary. This is not an opinion. It is a fact that's been proven time and time again by history and the inactions of all jurisdictions of government throughout Canada.

~ **@The280Times on X**

The CDB amounts are far too low and do not bring people with disabilities to the poverty line which is a minimum expectation. The DTC criteria is far too strict and it uses the medical approach to disability. Many people don't know it exists. It also is taking too long to start on June 2025 vs. COVID payments which were put in place very quickly.

~ **DABC Social Media Follower**

The CDB is way too little money to make a difference.

It is far too late. Why did the government announce this in March 2024 when applications won't start until spring 2025 and payments until summer 2025? Instead of more administrative rules to apply for it, the government ought to make it automatic for anyone who:

- is of a given age, if that's a factor
- has DTC status, and
- whose previous year's reported income is under a threshold (again, if it's a factor).

Anyone who meets the criteria, but not in this exact way, could still apply. Administrative opt-ins are an unnecessary barrier for those most in need and least able to complete the admin tasks.

~ **Fay Melling, Victoria, BC**

DABC Petition on BC's Ventilator Allocation Framework

If we were to run out of ventilators, who would decide who gets to use what we have, and who does not, and how would that decision be made?

We are concerned that BC's policy for who gets ventilators does not take human rights and equity principles into account. BC has not released its policy about this, and we think they should.

Background

In 2020, DABC learned that the BC Ministry of Health had developed a draft framework for allocating ventilators and other critical life-saving medical equipment, if demand for those resources surged beyond their supply.

If we were to run out of ventilators, who would decide who gets to use what we have, and who does not, and how would that decision be made?

We believe it is in the public's interest to know what is in the draft framework and to be allowed to provide comment and feedback.

Also in 2020, DABC became aware of serious human rights concerns raised by disability and human rights advocates in response to a draft critical care triage protocol created by the Ontario Ministry of Health which was circulated to hospitals. ARCH Disability Law Centre submitted an Open Letter to Government on needed changes to that protocol, signed by 204 organizations and 4,828 individuals.

DABC expressed our concerns in a public letter to Minister of Health Adrian Dix on April 8, 2020. A copy of this letter can be seen here

<https://disabilityalliancebc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Letter-to-Minister-Dix-Re-Triage-Protocol.pdf>

In May 2020, DABC submitted a Freedom of Information request to BC's Ministry of Health to access the Ventilator Allocation Framework in its final or draft form. In 2022, we updated our request for the same information.

We have made a complaint and are proceeding to formal inquiry at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC

Over two years after our initial request, we received a set of documents representing nearly 1,400 pages of information.

No frameworks were included in the records DABC received, with the Ministry claiming several exemptions to DABC's public right of access.

We have made a complaint and are proceeding to formal inquiry at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC. The inquiry process is ongoing.

Call to Action

We believe it is in the public interest to know what is in the Draft Ventilator Allocation Framework and to be allowed to provide feedback. If you agree we urge you to click on the link below to sign a petition.

<https://win.newmode.net/disabilityalliancebc/dabccallsfortransparencyinventilatorallocationframework> 

*Best wishes to
everyone for the
holiday season
and 2025.*

*From all of us
at DABC.*



DWP Project Aims to Engage the Public

Disappointment around the CDB is also fueling hope. | by Amanda Lockitch

Disability Without Poverty is an advocacy organization led by disabled Canadians who are dedicated to transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities through the elimination of poverty and the promotion of economic equity.

Our mission is to address and dismantle systemic barriers that perpetuate poverty among people with disabilities, ensuring they have access to the resources, opportunities and supports necessary to thrive.

We work towards creating a more inclusive society where everyone, regardless of ability, can achieve financial stability and participate fully in their communities.

Through Disability Without Poverty's (DWP) strong partnerships with unions, food security organizations, and disability and poverty reduction advocates, we tap into a shared frustration over the disappointing Canada Disability Benefit (CDB). While these groups are angry and motivated to fight for a benefit that truly serves its intended recipients, there is now a deep resignation as well.

It is as though the government ignored the clear and consistent feedback from self-advocates, organizations and stakeholders.

From the moment the CDB was announced in the 2024 Federal Budget, the disability community has voiced its disappointment. It was only amplified upon reading the draft regulations.

The reality of the CDB falls far short of the promises made. The government's justification for moving slowly to "ensure they got it right" rings hollow in the face of a benefit capped at \$2,400 annually—just \$200 a month. The rollout is expected to begin in July 2025 and ultimately will lift a mere 25,000 disabled Canadians to the poverty line by 2028.

It is as though the government ignored the clear and consistent feedback from self-advocates, organizations and stakeholders.

However, we have not lost hope that real, lasting change is possible. DWP remains committed to centering the voices, ideas and leadership of disabled Canadians through our work and partnerships.

Fulfilling the promise made in the 2020 Speech from the Throne—to lift disabled Canadians out of poverty—will have widespread benefits for the country. It will ease the strain on the healthcare system, as financial stability leads to less stress, better nutrition, and access to medication and preventive care. It will also help those who are able to work get back into the workforce, improving overall economic participation.

Shape the CDB Project

In an effort to ensure a Nothing About Without Us approach by the government in the creation of the CDB, Disability Without Poverty launched the Shape the CDB project. Aimed at helping the government learn about and understand the needs of people with disabilities, we reached out to disability communities starting in October 2023.

We particularly sought out what the government calls the "hardest-to-reach" populations such as those

who are incarcerated or institutionalized; Indigenous peoples; 2SLG-BTQ+ people; individuals who live in rural or remote settings, are precariously housed, and/or are recent immigrants.

At DWP, we are also channeling our collective disappointment into a positive vision: Disability With Possibility. This project is the culmination of what we learned from people with disabilities across Canada through this project. By showcasing the potential, passion and resilience of the disability community, we aim to inspire the broader Canadian public to join us in demanding meaningful change.

What Our Survey Told Us

Phase I of the Shape of the CDB Project was an online survey with 4,500 participants. Phase II was a set of peer-to-peer interviews conducted by and for these “hardest-to-reach” populations that engaged roughly 300 people.

The statistics from Phase 1 and the stories from Phase II paint a stark picture here in BC and are echoed nationally:

- 16.5% of Canadians with disabilities live in poverty
- 27% of Canadians identify as a person with disability
- 41% of those living in poverty have a disability
- In our BC study, 37% of participants with disabilities are also caregivers for other disabled individuals
- More than 63% of study participants in BC reported earning

less than \$24,000 annually—well below the poverty line.

- Transportation emerged as a major concern for BC participants
- [No provincial or territorial disability assistance currently brings individuals up to the poverty line in any major city in Canada.](#)

We Need to do Better

Before the federal budget or the release of the draft CDB regulations, two key concerns were clear: the adequacy of the benefit amount and the complexity of the application process. Both concerns have been validated. The CDB offers only \$200 per month through the cumbersome application process of the Disability Tax Credit that in the end would benefit only 300,000 of the 1.5 million Canadians with disabilities living in poverty. Too little for too few. This benefit must become what it promises to be—a chance to lift disabled Canadians out of systemic poverty.

- [Disability Without Poverty Shape the CDB Report](#)
- [Disability With Possibility Video](#)

AMANDA LOCKITCH IS THE MULTITASKING MOMPREENEUR, A WEARER OF MANY HATS FUELED BY A PASSION FOR JUSTICE AND FAMILY. SHE HAS WORKED IN MANY CAPACITIES WITHIN DISABILITY WITHOUT POVERTY AND CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THE CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT CAN BECOME THE BENEFIT IT IS MEANT TO BE. 



Remembering Mike Prescott

The DABC staff and board wish to send our condolences to the friends, family and loved ones of Mike Prescott, who passed away in September 2024.

Mike worked for DABC as our Accessible Organizations Project Manager from May 2022 to July 2024. We will remember his dry humour, his love of travel, and his dedication to improving the lives and experiences of people with disabilities. Mike’s stellar work on the Accessible Organizations Project lives on in the numerous resources he developed and the compelling words he shared with others to advocate for accessibility in community.

We honour his memory by committing ourselves to the values he upheld in advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

Contact Tax AID DABC for free income tax assistance and other tax-related issues.

We can file multiple years and self-employment taxes.

We offer drop off services and one-on-one appointments in-person, over the phone, through video conference, by email or by mail.

Contact us by calling or texting 236-477-1717, or send us an email at taxaid@dabc.ca. You can also book an appointment online at <https://www.taxaid.janeapp.com>.



Are you eligible for our services?
Please see the next page to learn more.
Program details at <https://taxaiddabc.org>.



Tax Assistance & InFormation For People with Disabilities



CONTACT THE TAX AID REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU FOR LOCAL SUPPORT

- LOWER MAINLAND (AND ALL OF BC) | DABC | 236-477-1717 | Toll Free 1-877-940-7797
- INTERIOR | KELOWNA | Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society | 250-763-4905 ext. 215

Yes, our income tax services are FREE.

Am I eligible for Tax AID DABC services?

We provide free tax-filing support to people receiving disability supports including: Persons with Disabilities (PWD), Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB), Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPP-D), WorkSafeBC (WCB) or the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). We also assist people with disabilities with income below \$35,000 and those with family incomes below \$42,000.

What if I Haven't Filed Taxes for Years?

We can help people file their taxes for up to 10 previous years.

What if I Don't Have All My Tax Documents (T5007, T4s)?

Don't worry! We will help you locate tax slips that the government already has on file.

My Income is Low. Why Should I File Taxes?

There are many advantages to filing your income taxes! Our clients usually receive \$500 to \$900 in income tax credits for each year they file. People eligible for an income tax refund, and those with dependent children, often receive much more.

If you haven't filed your taxes for multiple years, your refunds may grow dramatically.

Other benefits you may be eligible for include:

- GST Credits
- BC Sales Tax and Climate Action Tax Credits
- Canada Workers Benefit
- Canada Child Benefit
- Registered Disability Savings Plan Grants and Bonds

Income tax filing can also help you qualify for MSP Premium Assistance coverage, subsidized housing, and other income-tested benefits.

New Drop Off Service

Have all of your tax slips ready? If you are living in Vancouver and your tax situation is straightforward, you can now drop off your tax information to our advocates for faster support. Bring in your ID and tax slips to our office. You can pick up your package when your taxes are ready.

What Should I Do Next?

Contact Disability Alliance BC or one of our Regional Partners. We'll set up an appointment to meet with you. Call us today! We're here to help.

CONTACT THE TAX AID REGIONAL PARTNER NEAREST YOU FOR LOCAL SUPPORT

- **VANCOUVER ISLAND | VICTORIA** | Together Against Poverty Society | 250-361-3521
- **NORTHERN | PRINCE GEORGE** | Active Support Against Poverty Society | Toll-Free 1-877-563-6112

Plan Institute Developing Resources for the CDB

BY STEPHANIE DEBISSCHOP

Plan Institute is in the process of creating a comprehensive set of supports and services to address the many gaps and barriers that exist around the proposed Canada Disability Benefit (CDB).

We are hiring new advisors for our national Disability Planning Helpline who will provide one-to-one support with applications for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and eventually the CDB. This support will be available to anyone, anywhere in the country, at no cost.

[Canadadisabilitybenefit.ca](https://canadadisabilitybenefit.ca) is our new website that will be a central place for all things CDB.



Our Helpline currently supports individuals and families on a variety of topics, including the Registered Disability Savings Plan; wills, trusts and estate planning; and provincial and federal disability supports.

We'll also be developing resources and hosting educational webinars on the DTC and CDB to help individuals learn about and navigate the process, and will be conducting extensive outreach and collaboration with organizations across the country to increase awareness and support.

We'll be working with Disability Alliance BC (DABC) and other partners to ensure that every individual in Canada who may be eligible for the DTC receives it—and the CDB—as soon as possible. We're also committed to educating medical practitioners and other professionals about the need for the DTC to reduce barriers to accessing it.

[Canadadisabilitybenefit.ca](https://canadadisabilitybenefit.ca) is our new website that will be a central place for all things CDB. From supports, resources, information, education, links to advocacy opportunities, and more, the website aims to be a hub for accessing clear and accurate information to help as many individuals as possible receive the CDB.

Although there are still many unknowns about how the CDB will work in practice, we're already getting questions through our national Disability Planning Helpline. Below are some of the main questions and areas of concern we've been hearing from the community, some of which are touched on by other authors in this Transition.

Qualifying for the Benefit

It is likely that the Disability Tax Credit will be the main qualification criterion—and perhaps the greatest barrier—for accessing the CDB.

The DTC application process is notoriously complicated, needing input from a medical practitioner and requiring carefully chosen language to succeed. It can take months or even years to be approved.

Not only is the process complex, it can also be costly. While the federal government has announced they will be providing funds to help pay for medical fees related to the DTC, the amount and mechanism for dispersing those funds remains a question mark.

With that in mind, we are making it a priority to ensure as many people as possible are approved for the DTC and are ready to apply for and receive the CDB when it is launched. While exceptional, comprehensive and free support with the DTC application process is available in BC through DABC services, the same is not true across the country. In many other provinces and territories, the only option is to pay for help with applications or try to navigate the process alone.

Clawbacks

We know that many people in the community share our concerns about how the CDB will interact with other provincial/territorial and federal benefits.

Together with our partners and community, we are advocating for every province and territory to

We are hiring new advisors for our national Disability Planning Helpline who will provide one-to-one support with applications for the Disability Tax Credit and eventually the CDB.

guarantee that the CDB will be exempt from clawbacks of other social assistance. While some provinces and territories, including BC, have confirmed they will not clawback provincial disability assistance, there are still many regions who have yet to make the commitment.

Our friends at Maytree have developed [an advocacy toolkit](#) for anyone who wants to pressure their local government officials to commit to exempting the CDB from clawbacks.

Applying for the CDB

How applications for the CDB will work in practice is one of the biggest unknowns.

The CDB will be administered through Service Canada which suggests the application process may look similar to other programs under their administration. The community at large has been very vocal about the need to ensure the application process is as low barrier as possible, and we continue to join those from across the country in the push for this.

Benefit Amount

Like so many others in the community, we were disappointed to learn the Benefit amount is slated to be far below what we had hoped for – just \$2,400 per year or \$200 per month

We know this is not enough.

This amount will fall well short of ensuring people living with disabilities in Canada are lifted out of poverty.

The CDB is an important step towards financial security. Together with our community, Plan Institute will continue to work to empower people in their rights, and advance towards our collective goal of eliminating disability poverty in Canada.

We'd love to hear from you! If you would like to connect with Plan Institute, please call our free national Disability Planning Helpline at 1-844-311-7526, email us at info@planinstitute.ca or visit us at planinstitute.ca or rdsp.com.

STEPHANIE JOINED PLAN INSTITUTE IN 2012 AND HAS SERVED AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SINCE 2019. SHE HAS SPENT 15 YEARS WORKING WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ON DISABILITY ISSUES, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY ON COMMUNITY INTEGRATION INITIATIVES. STEPHANIE HAS A STRONG BELIEF IN THE RIGHT TO FULL AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP FOR EVERYONE AND IS A STAUNCH ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHT TO A LIFE FREE FROM POVERTY. SHE LIVES IN NORTH VANCOUVER ON THE UNCEDED TERRITORY OF THE TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION WITH HER HUSBAND AND THREE CHILDREN. 



Yes, I'd Like to Donate to DABC

Your support will help us continue our advocacy and frontline support of people living with a disability.

- \$50 will contribute toward the cost of matching a disabled family with accessible housing
- \$100 will help fund disability education workshops for doctors and social workers
- \$500 will support legal representation for a person with a disability who has experienced discrimination



Other \$ _____

How to Donate

You can donate by cheque or online by credit card. You can choose to make a one-time or monthly donation. We will send a charitable tax receipt for any donation over \$10.

Cheque donations can be sent to our office, along with this tear off donor form. You can make a secure online credit card donation in seconds through [Keela](#). Or, call us at 604-872-1278 and we will help you make your donation.

You can also support our work with an annual membership fee. Memberships are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for groups. Join at dabc.ca/support-us.

Thank you for your support.



The Importance of the Disability Tax Credit

Why you should apply for the federal benefit now.

I by Cynthia Minh

To qualify for the upcoming Canada Disability Benefit (CDB), you are required to have the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). However, most people eligible for the credit do not have it yet.

In this article, I'll explain the DTC and why it is important to get it now.

What is the DTC?

The DTC is a key disability benefit in Canada. On its own, it helps reduce income taxes you may owe. It is non-refundable, so it will not provide extra money if you do not owe

any taxes. But there are two important things to keep in mind:

- The credit is retroactive up to 10 years before you apply,
- Any credit amounts that have not been claimed can be transferred to an eligible family member that financially supports with food, shelter or clothing costs.

Access to Other Supports

The DTC is a gateway to many other tax-related and federal programs, including an extra supplement for anyone receiving the Canada Workers Benefit, the Child Disability Benefit and the Registered Disability Savings Plan—a long-term savings plan that includes up to \$90,000 in government contributions.

The application process can be daunting, but DABC's Access RDSP program offers free support through the application and appeals process.

The DTC is one of the primary ways the government assesses disability. When the government released a \$600 one-time payment for people with disabilities during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DTC was the first named benefit that allowed people to receive payment.

This year's new Canada Dental Care Plan has been made available to DTC recipients before it will be released to the general public next year.

The application process can be daunting, but DABC's Access RDSP program offers free support through the application and appeals process.

We have also created an online app called My DTC to help people navigate the application. The app features handbooks detailing the DTC process for both applicants and medical practitioners. It also includes a questionnaire that will generate supporting materials for medical practitioners and a "to-do" checklist of all the tasks required in the process.

Please visit mydttc.dabc.ca to get started or contact us for more information and support at 604-872-1278 or rdsp@dabc.ca.

Do I Qualify?

The DTC is available to people of all ages and incomes. To be eligible, you must have residential ties to Canada and have a severe mental or physical health condition that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year.

A condition would be considered severe if you have restrictions in basic daily living activities (seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, dressing, eating/preparing food and mental functioning necessary for everyday living).

You can also qualify if you need life-sustaining therapy to support a vital function that takes up a lot of time during your week.

You can apply by filling out the Disability Tax Credit Certificate (form T2201) with the help of a medical practitioner. Doctors and nurses can fill out all sections of the form, but

other practitioners like occupational therapists, optometrists, psychologists (and more) can certify different categories, depending on the disability.

Application Tips

- Currently, the DTC is a separate application process from other benefits. Even if you are receiving the provincial PWD or federal CPP-D benefits, you may still need to apply for the DTC. You can find out if you have the DTC by calling the Canada Revenue Agency CRA (1-(800)-959-8281).
- Eligibility is not based on diagnosis. Even if you have not been diagnosed, you may still qualify.
- Since this application is more concerned with daily functioning, providing specific examples about your restrictions is important. When filling out the application, think about comparing yourself to someone your age without the same restrictions. *Does it take you longer to do the activity? Do you ever need support to complete an activity?*
- If you have episodic but persistent symptoms you can still qualify.

Covering the Cost of Medical Practitioner fees

Medical practitioners may charge a fee for helping to complete the form. Currently, fee amounts are unregulated and can cost anywhere between \$75 to \$250.

In this year's federal budget, the government promised to allocate \$41 million towards medical practitioner fees as early as 2025.

That's why DABC has launched a fundraising campaign! We want to help clients cover these exorbitant practitioner fees that can prevent them from accessing benefits.

We know waiting until 2025 for help to cover these fees may not be an option for many people and that the subsidies may fail to cover the entire cost. That's why DABC has launched a fundraising campaign! We want to help clients cover these exorbitant practitioner fees that can prevent them from accessing benefits.

To help support people with disabilities through this application, please visit the [fund donation page](#).

Follow us on social media for updates on when we will be accepting applications to the fund.

The DTC application is burdensome and overwhelming and should not be the only way for people to get important benefits like the Canada Disability Benefit. DABC will continue to advocate for benefits to become harmonized, so individuals do not need to prove and re-prove their disability.

If the DTC remains the primary qualifier, however, DABC will continue to advocate for improvements that need to be made to ensure the credit is accessible.

CYNTHIA MINH IS DIRECTOR OF DABC'S TAX AID AND ACCESS RDSP PROGRAMS. 

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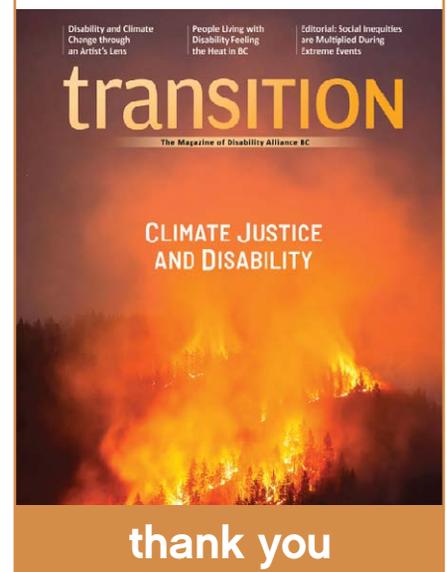
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You can also receive Transition and support DABC by becoming a member. Visit our [Membership Page](#) to learn about your membership benefits and what your membership means to us.





The Right Fit is a multi-partner service designed to address the crisis in wheelchair accessible housing.

We help match affordable, accessible homes and independent living supports with people who need them in the Vancouver region.

For questions about the program, to learn more how to be involved, and for media inquiries, please contact:
Isabelle Groc, Right Fit Program Manager
rightfit@dabc.ca <https://therightfitbc.org>

Need a Vacant Accessible Unit?

If you are a wheelchair user or an organization representing wheelchair users, please contact:
The Right Fit Navigation Team
navigation@therightfitbc.org 604-777-7576

Have a Vacant Accessible Unit?

If you are a housing provider in the public or private housing market, and have an accessible vacant unit, or you would like to learn about our Accessibility Checklist, please contact:
Anna Chow , Accessible Housing Coordinator
housing@therightfitbc.org

Disability Alliance BC (DABC) is the Right Fit's sponsoring organization and oversees the program. The Individualized Funding Resource Centre (IFRC) is responsible for client management.

transition

The views and opinions expressed within the pages of Transition are not necessarily those held by the total DABC membership or Board of Directors. The material presented is meant to be thought-provoking and to promote dialogue.

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- Job search support and virtual training
- Distance learning technologies
- Ergonomic and/or assistive technology solutions
- Potential wage subsidies

Contact us today!

T 1 877 673 4636 E info@neilsquire.ca

www.neilsquire.ca/creativeemployment



Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities





Connect with DABC

About Us

Our mission is to support people with all disabilities to live with dignity, independence and as equal and full participants in the community. We champion issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities through our direct services, community partnerships, advocacy, research and publications.

Services and Programs

Our **Advocacy Access Program** provides one-on-one assistance with provincial and federal (Canada Pension Plan Disability) income supports and other benefits. The **Disability Law Clinic** provides free legal advice to people with disabilities about human rights and discrimination. We also offer advice to people having problems with their disability benefits. **Tax AID DABC** helps people with disabilities living on low incomes to file their income taxes year-round. **Access RDSP**

helps people with the Disability Tax Credit and with opening a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The **Right Fit Program** helps to match affordable wheelchair-accessible homes in the Vancouver region with people who need them.

Our programs and projects respond to community need and increase people's ability to participate and contribute.

Growing Partnerships

We stay connected with a large network of community organizations across BC and regularly provide them with updates about issues of importance to the disability community.

Free Publications

We publish a range of capacity-building, self-help guides and help sheets in reader-friendly language. Resources are provided free of charge, either by mail or download.

How to Support Us

You can support our work by:

- becoming a member
- making a one-time or monthly donation
- advertising your business or organization in Transition magazine or our e-newsletter, or
- considering a planned giving legacy to DABC.

Learn more, donate or become a member at dabc.ca/support-us. Or, fill out and return the form on the next page. Your support will help us continue our work on behalf of people with disabilities across BC.

Follow Us

Want to know more about our work? Check us out online.





Become a Member

Numbers matter. The more members we have, the stronger our voice in the community. Your membership plays a pivotal role in helping us advance our mission.

You can become a Disability Alliance BC member today as a Core (voting) member or an Allied (non-voting) member. Core Members are people with disabilities and self-help groups where at least 50% of members have a disability. We welcome both individual and group members.

Membership Fees:

Individual \$15 Group \$25

1. Sign up online at [Become a Member](#), or
2. Return your payment with this form to: DABC, 1450-605 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3.

Please check the applicable boxes

New membership or Renewal Core Membership or Allied Membership

Name _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City/Prov _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

We thank you for your support!

A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO THE DISABILITY TAX CREDIT



Created by Access RDSP in partnership with Island Health Authority, with thanks to our funders BC's Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Vancouver Foundation.

[Download the booklet.](#)

Access RDSP
Change your tomorrow today



vancouver
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Thank you
for helping
us grow.

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YEARS OF ADVOCACY

Thank you to the Province of BC – Community Gaming Grants for their continuing support.