



Canada Disability Benefit

Design Recommendations

In 2020, the Government of Canada promised to introduce a new Canada Disability Benefit. This document explains Inclusion Canada's suggested design for this benefit.

"This benefit has the potential to significantly address issues of inequality, poverty and discrimination experienced by people with disabilities." - Inclusion Canada



The Government promised to talk with people, provinces, and territories about the benefit. They haven't said when the benefit will be ready for people to start getting payments.

The Government of Canada said the new Canada Disability Benefit will:

- be a new permanent income support program from the Canadian Government
- focus on low to modest-income people with disabilities
- support working-age people with disabilities (usually 18-64)
- be modelled after the Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) program (OAS/GIS)

Who we think should get the benefit:

- people with a disability
- to start, 'disability' should, at minimum, include everyone who already gets federal disability benefits or provincial/territorial disability income assistance
- the definition of disability should then be expanded to align with the Accessible Canada Act





How we think it should work:

- apply anytime
- no employment requirement or asset test
- automatically signed-up when you file your income tax return
- information and application processes are accessible and easy to understand
- move between provinces and still get the benefit

What we think the benefit should look like:

- up to \$2,200 a month. When combined with other federal, provincial/territorial programs brings all people with disabilities up to a minimum income of \$2,200 per month
- paid to every person who qualifies
- allows people to earn and keep their employment income
- no income tax paid on the benefit money
- benefit amount increased four times per year to keep up with the cost of living



We don't want:

- existing benefits and supports reduced or eliminated (federal or provincial/territorial)
- the benefit tied to family income or paid to the household
- a lower benefit for people who are married or live with someone else.
- people with disabilities being excluded and left in poverty
- decisions being made without the disability community's meaningful participation
- this process to take too long - people with disabilities need financial support now

How you can help:

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

- tell them why the Canada Disability Benefit matters to you.
- ask them to support Inclusion Canada's design.
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