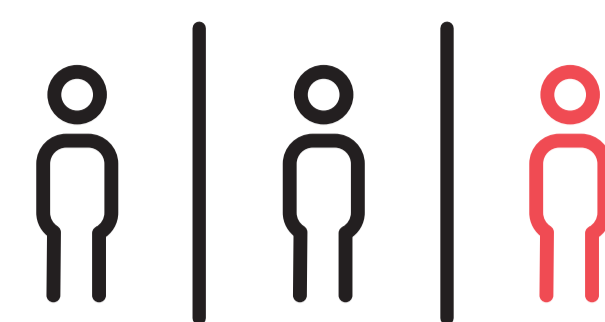


1 in 6 people with disabilities lived in poverty in 2022.



1 in 3 people with disabilities living alone lived in poverty.



People with disabilities would need, on average, **30% more income** to reach the poverty line.

REPORT CARD



ISSUED TO:
Government of Canada

- ✗ The amount of the Canada Disability Benefit is inadequate.
- ✗ The restrictive Disability Tax Credit is used to determine eligibility.
- ✗ The current design may result in clawbacks to existing provincial and territorial support programs.



disabilitywithoutpoverty.ca

DISABILITY POVERTY REPORT CARD

This year, the report card gives the government a failing grade of F.



From 2013 to 2022, the poverty rate for people with disabilities was on average **twice as high** than the poverty rate for people without disabilities.



Proposed Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) amounts, when combined with disability assistance rates **will not lift people out of poverty.**

Seven Principles for the Canada Disability Benefit:

- 1. URGENCY:** The current situation is critical. Disabled people living in poverty are facing extreme hardship and life-threatening challenges.
- 2. DIGNITY:** 97% of survey respondents feel the CDB could transform their lives if adequate enough to lift them out of poverty.
- 3. ADDED COSTS:** The Canada Disability Benefit Act states that additional costs associated with living with a disability must be taken into consideration regarding the amount of the benefit.
- 4. INCLUSIVE ELIGIBILITY:** 96% of survey respondents agree that disabled people who already receive a federal, territorial or provincial benefit should get immediate access to the CDB.
- 5. SIMPLE APPLICATION:** Over 95% of survey respondents want an application process that is easy, seamless, fast and simple.
- 6. A FAIR BENEFIT:** 95.5% of survey respondents feel the CDB needs to be responsive to the changing circumstances of applicants.
- 7. KEEP DISABLED PEOPLE INVOLVED:** 98% of survey respondents agree that the government must include people with disabilities in developing, implementing and monitoring the CDB program.

These principles can be actioned through a regulatory regime that includes the following recommendations:

- 1. Substantially increase the amount of the CDB.** The proposed amount of the CDB is insufficient to lift people with disabilities who are the lowest income earners, whether social assistance or in working poverty, out of poverty.
- 2. To individualize the benefit rather than means-test against family income.** The income test for CDB eligibility must be based on the individual income, rather than a couple's income where they are in a couple family.
- 3. To simplify the application process.** Eligibility for the CDB must not solely rely on the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), which is much harder to obtain for certain types of disabilities such as mental health issues or episodic disabilities.
- 4. To work with provinces and territories to automatically enroll anyone who already receives provincial and territorial supports.** The federal government must expand eligibility to include people who are already receiving provincial and territorial disability assistance rather than forcing them to apply to the DTC.
- 5. To confirm with provinces that there will be no clawbacks of any kind related to the CDB.** It is imperative that the CDB be designed as an exempted refundable tax credit so the provinces and territories do not claw it back, such as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), the Canada Worker's Benefit (CWB) and the Goods and Services Tax Credit (GSTC).