

"The CDB should include the following:

1. All Canadians with documented disabilities from the time they are 18 years old till the time they die should automatically be eligible to get the Canada disability benefit.
2. The provincial governments should not be allowed to claw back the CDB from their clients on provincial social assistance."
3. There should be a rule in regards to how those getting the CDB should not experience an increase in their rent.

Sincerely Mary

Dear MP

We thank you for your service to your constituents. The pandemic has made life hard for all of us and we appreciate your leadership and support. As a caring Canadian, I am writing to you to ask for your help. Action is urgently needed to help lift people with disabilities out of poverty. You have the power to make a difference. I am asking for your full support for the Canada Disability Benefit Act in this session of Parliament.

I believe poverty is a violation of people's rights and dignity. It is deep-rooted and systemic, but it is not unavoidable in a society like ours.

The shocking reality is that in Canada, one of the richest countries in the world:

- 22% of individuals have a disability, a number expected to increase with long COVID.
- Over 1.4 million people with disabilities can't afford the food or rent or medication they need.
- People with disabilities account for 41% of those affected by poverty.

These are people we know and meet every day – our friends, family, and neighbours. These are people who show up every day to contribute to their communities, and yet they struggle to meet their basic needs. Some simply cannot work due to the severity of their disabilities. In a recent Angus Reid poll, 88% of Canadians have said this needs to end, and want to see people with disabilities lifted out of poverty.

Canada has obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This is an opportunity to show our commitment to act locally, as well as globally toward fulfilling those obligations.

I am urging you to help fast-track the Canada Disability Benefit bill into law, putting an end to disability poverty. Doing so will give people with disabilities the ability to meet their basic needs and increase their contribution to our economy.

Please listen to organizations such as Disability Without Poverty. Having people with disabilities involved in the co-design and implementation of this federal income supplement will ensure its success. There are promising signs already, with 43 Senators and 78 MPs signing open letters voicing their call to end disability poverty and a unanimous motion to table the bill. We need to move from support to action.

Together, we can build a more just and equitable Canada. One where people with disabilities can live meaningful lives with independence, autonomy, and dignity which we all desire and deserve.

Kavin