

END POVERTY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

▶ **DISABILITY POVERTY**

- People with disabilities are about twice as likely to live in poverty.
- 1/3 of people living in poverty are women with disabilities. It is even worse for racialized people and lone parents.
- A single person living with a disability who qualifies for the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) receives \$1169 per month.
- Over the last fifteen years, people with disabilities have not seen the same increase to income guarantees as children and seniors.

Disability should not mean a life in poverty without dignity.

▶ **CANADA DISABILITY BENEFIT (CDB)**

- In September 2021, the Disability Inclusion Plan was announced in The Speech from the Throne.
- In April 2021, Budget 2021 announce \$11.9 million over three years for consultations to "reform the eligibility process for federal disability programs and benefits."
- In June 2021, Bill C-35 on the CDB was introduced (not passed) in the House of Commons.
- There is still little clarity on who will qualify or the benefit amount.

People with disabilities need easily accessible money in their pockets now!

▶ **DISABILITY TAX CREDIT (DTC)**

- The DTC is a gateway for eligibility to other disability benefits and services, including the \$600 one-time payment to persons with disabilities during the pandemic.
- In 2018, applications related to mental function had the highest rate of rejection at 22.5%.
- Doctors are not paid to fill out the DTC Certificate form, which is a barrier to applicants.
- The use of "90% of the time" on the DTC Certificate form is the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA's) position. It is not defined in law and it discriminates against episodic disabilities.

People with disabilities need money for housing, nutritious food, non-insured medical needs and the extra costs associated with living with a disability.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Ask candidates if they are committed to raising incomes for people with disabilities and broadening eligibility for existing and future benefits.

Ask candidates if they will make the DTC more accessible by broadening the list of mental functions, paying doctors to fill out the form, and ending the CRA's arbitrary use of language.

Ask candidates if they will extend the DTC and current and future disability benefits to everyone living in Canada, regardless of their immigration status.