



Disability Policy
Research Program

kids
brain health
network



réseau pour
la santé du cerveau
des enfants

Disability Policy in Canada

Federal Report

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Disability Policy in Canada Report is commissioned by and in partnership with funding support from Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN), in collaboration with researchers from the Disability Policy Research Program (DiPo) and McGill University. The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of disability policy at the federal level in Canada.

In this report we provide detailed information about disability-related policies, laws, plans of action, and programs/services, all obtained from a variety of publicly available sources.

We also provide information regarding experiences of parents and caregivers of children, youth, and young adults with disabilities applying for and accessing federal programs, sourced from the following study conducted by our team:

Finlay, B., Wittevrongel, K., Materula, D., Hébert, ML., O'Grady, K., Lach, LM., Nicholas, D., & Zwicker, JD. (2023). Pan-Canadian caregiver experiences in accessing government disability programs: A mixed methods study. Research in developmental disabilities, 134, 104420. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2022.104420>

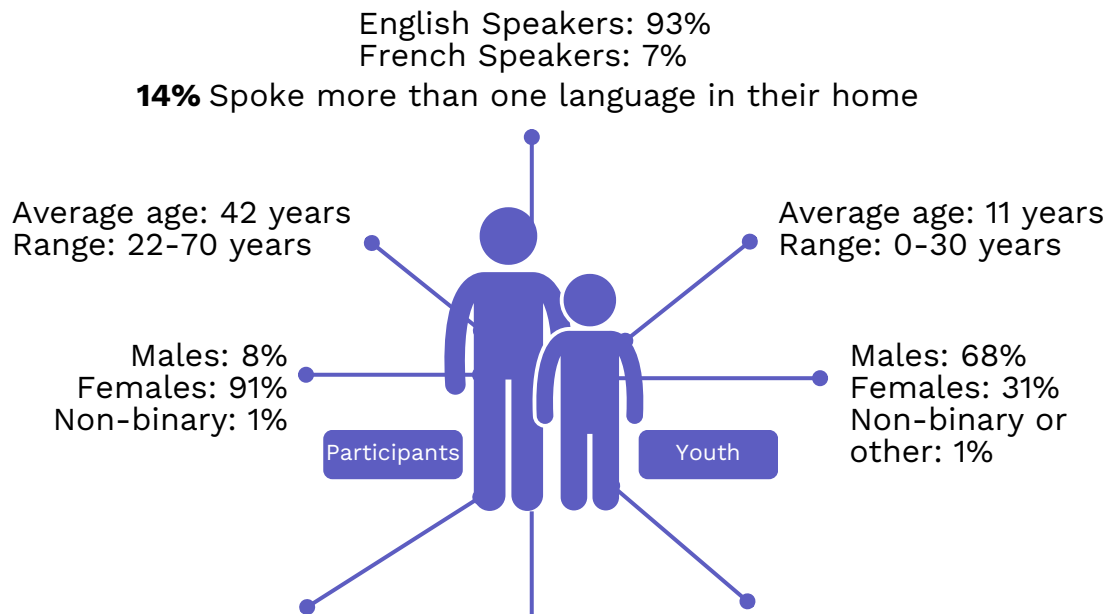
In this study, we used an online survey and follow-up phone interviews to learn about the experiences of parents and caregivers when applying for and accessing disability programs. We provide more information about the individuals we spoke with on the following page.

Suggested citation for this report:

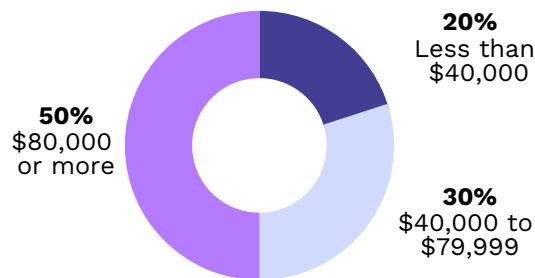
Finlay, B., Ragot, S., Lach, L. M., & Zwicker, J. D. (2023). Disability Policy in Canada Federal Report. Kids Brain Health Network.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

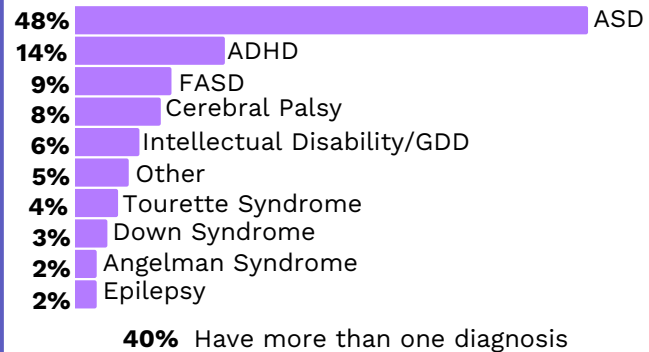
499 Survey Participants **81** Interview Participants



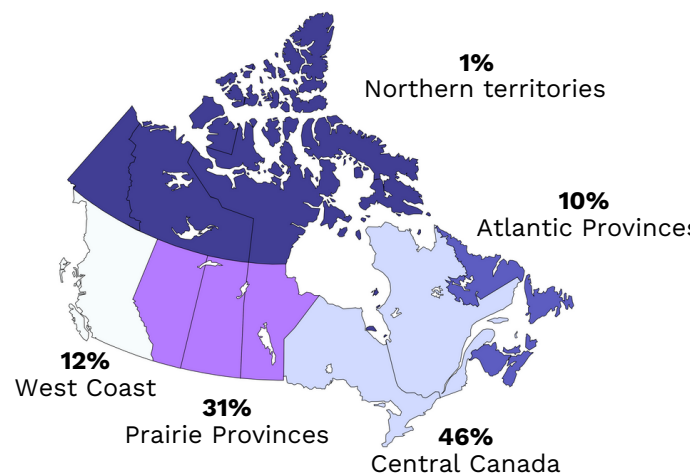
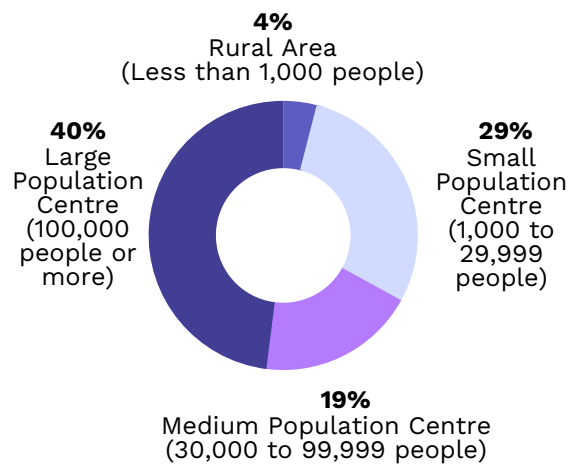
Household Income



Primary Diagnosis



Location



INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY POLICY

“Public policy can be generally defined as a system of laws, regulatory measures, courses of action, and funding priorities concerning a given topic promulgated by a governmental entity or its representatives.”

-Kilpatrick, 2016

“A set of interrelated decision taken by a political actor or group of actors concerning the selection of goals and the means of achieving them within a specified situation where these decisions should, in principle, be within the power of these actors to achieve”

-Jenkins, 1978

What is Disability Policy?

As alluded to above, there are many different ways to conceptualize and define public policy, and by extension, disability policy. For the purposes of this report, disability policy is broadly defined as what governments and other decision-making entities chose to do or not do that impacts persons with disabilities and their families. In Canada, disability policy is delivered by all levels of government in many different sectors, including health, education, finance, and social services.

Federal Policy in Canada

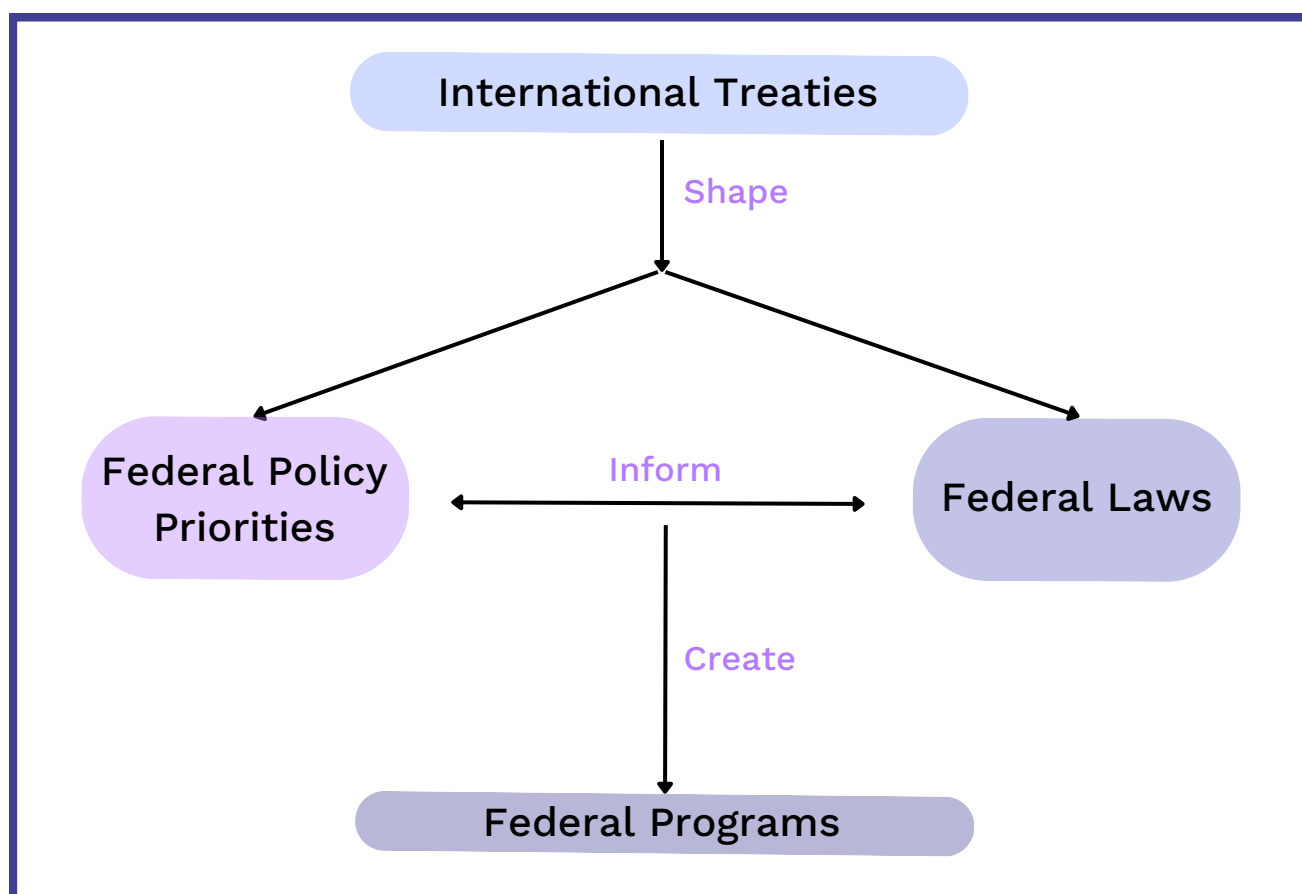
Policy at the federal level in Canada is comprised of four main aspects:

- [International treaties](#) are legally binding agreements between two or more countries. These treaties are negotiated by a group of countries, often through an existing body such as the United Nations.
- [Federal policy priorities](#). The purpose of the federal government is to create laws and policies in the interest of the nation. Each federal government when elected has a specific policy direction, which includes a number of goals they plan to accomplish. The federal government will outline these goals and their plan for accomplishing these goals in a number of different ways, including through the release of plans of action relating to a specific policy area, the Speech from the Throne, mandate letters, and through their election platforms.
- [Federal laws](#) (also referred to as Acts) allow systems to be put in place to help the Government of Canada carry out policies they want to implement. Laws are created from bills that are introduced in the House of Commons or

the Senate. For a bill to become a law, it must go through a specific legislative process. After a bill becomes law, regulations for the law are developed. Regulations are rules used to carry out the intent of the law and provide more specific information than the Act.

- Federal programs are government initiatives that provide support to individuals and organizations. These initiatives can include personal services, community services, or income support, among others. At the federal level in Canada, most programs for persons with disabilities and their families are delivered through the tax system.

International treaties provide an overarching framework of goals that policies implemented by the federal government should aim to accomplish. Federal policy priorities can inform the laws that need to be created or changed to achieve a specific policy objective. Alternatively, laws can provide direction for federal policy priorities within a given portfolio. Federal programs stem from and allow for the implementation of federal policy priorities and federal laws. These aspects and their interactions are summarized in the schematic below.



The following sections of this report will expand on these four aspects by providing specific examples from the disability policy context.

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) is an international treaty that upholds and protects the rights of persons with disabilities worldwide. Canada, along with 183 other states parties, has adopted the UN CRPD, which means that they accept the legal obligations contained in the UN CRPD. These obligations include ensuring there are national laws to prevent discrimination, eliminating barriers to accessibility, and working to promote the capabilities and contributions of persons with disabilities. Associated with the creation of laws are the provision of disability programs that have the purpose of providing support to persons with disabilities to ensure they are able to fully participate in society.

It is important to note that, as outlined in Article 4 of the UN CRPD, states parties are obligated to undertake measures to the maximum of their available resources. This recognizes that realizing the rights outlined in the UN CRPD is dependent upon states parties having adequate resources, such as money and time. This means that state parties' compliance to the obligations contained in the UN CRPD is contingent upon the resources available to a given states party.

Contained in the UN CRPD are processes that help to ensure that states parties are meeting the obligations outlined in the UN CRPD. For example, states parties must regularly report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to explain what actions they are taking to implement the UN CPRD. In Canada , the Canadian Human Rights Commission is also tasked with monitoring how well Canada is implementing the obligations outlined in the UN CRPD.

Canada and 99 other states parties have also signed on to the Optional Protocol to the UN CRPD. The Optional Protocol creates a process for people to make complaints directly to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UN CRPD includes a total of 50 articles. Throughout this report, we will make a link between these articles and federal disability policy to demonstrate how government actions can fulfill requirements under the UN CRPD. For the purposes of this report, we have sorted the articles with similar aims into ten categories, outlined below. Articles that are not included in this report are administrative in nature, related to reporting requirements, or are outside the scope of government action in this context.

Plain language versions of select UN CRPD articles and the Optional Protocol can be found [here](#).



Equality

Description

This category includes articles that promote equality for persons with disabilities both before and under the law, and ensure that persons with disabilities do not face discrimination.

Relevant Articles

Article 4: General obligations

Article 5: Equality and non-discrimination

Article 6: Children with disabilities

Article 7: Women with disabilities

Article 10: Right to life

Article 14: Liberty and security of person

Article 17: Protecting the integrity of the person

Article 22: Respect for privacy



Accessibility

Description

This category includes the article that ensures that persons with disabilities can access public spaces, systems, and facilities, such as the physical environment, transportation and communication technologies.

Relevant Article

Article 9 – Accessibility



Social Participation

Description

This category includes articles that ensure that persons with disabilities are able to participate in society fully and on an equal basis with others.

Relevant Articles

Article 18: Liberty of movement and nationality

Article 20: Personal mobility

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

Article 29: Participation in political and public life

Article 30: Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport



Employment and Financial Security

Description

This category includes articles that ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to work, and have access to inclusive and accessible workplaces. It also includes articles that outline the responsibility of states parties to alleviate poverty and promote financial security of persons with disabilities.

Relevant Articles

Article 27: Work and employment

Article 28: Adequate standard of living and social protection



Health and Social Services

Description

This category includes articles that ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to healthcare and social services, allowing them to have the highest attainable standard of health and well-being, achieve inclusion, and maintain maximum independence.

Relevant Articles

Article 25: Health

Article 26: Habilitation and rehabilitation



Public Education and Information

Description

This category includes the article that requires states parties to provide public information about persons with disabilities to foster respect and combat stereotypes.

Relevant Article

Article 8: Awareness-raising



Legal Capacity and Justice

Description

This category includes articles that ensure persons with disabilities have equality with respect to legal capacity and access to justice.

Relevant Articles

Article 12: Equal recognition before the law

Article 13: Access to justice



Caregiving and Family

Description

This category includes the article that maintains the rights of persons with disabilities to have equal rights with respect to family life.

Relevant Articles

Article 23: Respect for home and the family



Education

Description

This category includes the article that maintains the right to education for persons with disabilities through the provision of inclusive and quality education, accommodations, and support.

Relevant Articles

Article 24: Education



Housing and Related Supports

Description

This category includes the article that ensures that persons with disabilities have equality in their ability to choose where they would like to live and are able to live as independently as possible in the community through the provision of in-home and community supports.

Relevant Articles

Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community



LINKING UP: POLICY AND THE UN CRPD

At the top of each page in the following sections, we will indicate which categories align with the federal policy element we describe in each section using the icons pictured above. This will demonstrate how policy can fulfill requirements under the UN CRPD. This report will not provide a measurement of the extent to which the requirements under each category are met, but rather alignment of federal policy with categories.

FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan was introduced by the Government of Canada in 2022 and includes four key pillars of action. This Plan "builds on existing programs and measures that have sought to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and establishes new and meaningful actions." The Plan is guided by principles established in the Accessible Canada Act.

Outlined below are the four pillars of action with a few key actions listed under each pillar.



Pillar 1: Financial Security

- Develop the Canada Disability Benefit
- Undertake research to understand the additional costs of disability
- Update eligibility and improve access to the Disability Tax Credit

Pillar 2: Employment

- Implement an employment strategy for persons with disabilities
- Invest in the Opportunities Fund
- Modernize the Employment Equity Act
- Embed disability inclusion within existing labour market programs



Pillar 3: Accessible and Inclusive Communities

- Develop new regulations under the Accessible Canada Act
- Improve accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in communities and workplaces through the Enabling Accessibility Fund

Pillar 4: A Modern Approach to Disability

- Fill disability data gaps and develop indicators to measure progress of the Action Plan. This will be achieved by developing a Disability Data Improvement Strategy in collaboration with the disability community.



FEDERAL LAWS

Laws Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In Canada, there are two main pieces of legislation that maintain the rights of persons with disabilities and protect against discrimination at the federal level:

1. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides “equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination” for those with mental or physical disability.
2. Canadian Human Rights Act protects Canadians with disabilities from discrimination when they are employed by or receive services from entities under federal jurisdiction.

Accessible Canada Act

The Accessible Canada Act (ACA) came into force in 2019 with the goal of realizing a barrier-free Canada by 2040. Seven priority areas were identified in this legislation: employment, built environment, information and communication technologies (ICT), communication other than ICT, design and delivery of programs and services, procurement of goods, services and facilities, and transportation.

The ACA requires regulated entities to prepare and publish accessibility plans, set up feedback processes, and report openly on progress. In recognition of this requirement, many Acts, such as the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Act and the Canada Transportation Act, were amended after the ACA was passed.

Enforcement of the ACA is tasked to the following entities:

1. Accessibility Commissioner (sits on Canadian Human Rights Commission)
2. Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
3. Canadian Transportation Agency

In addition, the following roles/bodies were created as a result of the passing of the ACA:

- Chief Accessibility Officer: Independent special advisor who provides advice on a wide range of accessibility issues. The Chief Accessibility Officer also monitors and reports on systemic and emerging accessibility issues, and will produce an annual report detailing progress and outcomes achieved under the ACA.
- Accessibility Standards Canada: Departmental corporation committed to creating accessibility standards for federally-regulated entities and federal organizations.

Canada Disability Benefit Act

The Canada Disability Benefit Act received royal assent in June 2023. This Act established the framework for the Canada Disability Benefit, which aims to reduce poverty among persons with disabilities through a financial benefit. The implication of this legislation, with respect to the design of the Benefit, is not known at the time of publication. The passing of this Act is the first step in this policy-making process.

Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder Act

The Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder Act received royal assent in March 2023. This Act established that the Minister of Health must develop a federal framework on autism spectrum disorder that must include a variety of measures to support autistic individuals, including financial support, support for caregivers, and a national public awareness campaign, among others.

Other Federal Disability-Related Legislation

Outlined below is a list of other federal legislation that is related to persons with disabilities in Canada:

1. Employment Equity Act. The goal of this Act is to achieve workplace equality for designated groups, with persons with disabilities being one of these groups.
2. Canada Pension Plan Act. This Act established Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability benefit.
3. Income Tax Act. This Act established the Disability Tax Credit and other disability-related tax credits.
4. Canada Disability Savings Act. This Act established the Registered Disability Savings Plan.
5. Canada Student Loans Act and Canada Student Financial Assistance Act. These Acts established protection to borrowers who are unable to pay student loans because of a severe, permanent disability.
6. Criminal Code. This Act established protections and accommodations for victims, witnesses or jurors with disabilities.
7. Canada Evidence Act. This Act established accommodations for witnesses with physical disabilities.
8. Canada Elections Act. This Act established special voting procedures and other accommodations for persons with disabilities.



Did you know?

Jordan's Principle, a child-first principle to ensure First Nations children get the services they need when they need them, was established through a motion in the House of Commons in 2007. Currently, Jordan's Principle is a legal obligation with no end date. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Call to Action #3 "[calls upon] all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle."

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Federal Tax Credits

Federal tax credits are a benefit provided by government that reduce the amount of income taxes an individual owes each year. There are many federal tax credits that are available to persons with disabilities and their families, in recognition of the additional, unavoidable costs associated with disability.

There are two types of federal tax credits:

- 1.Non-refundable tax credits reduce the amount of income tax owed but do not produce a tax refund if the amount of the credit exceeds the income tax owed.
- 2.Refundable tax credits also reduce the amount of tax owed and will create a tax refund if the amount of the credit exceeds the income tax owed.

Outlined below are federal tax credits available to persons with disabilities and their families in Canada.

Tax Credit	Type	Description and Eligibility
<u>Disability Tax Credit (DTC)</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces tax payable for persons with disabilities and acts as the gateway to many other federal tax measures • Must submit form T2201 to receive • Can be transferred to supporting persons
<u>Amount for eligible dependent</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This amount can be claimed for dependents over the age of 18 only if they have a disability
<u>Canada Caregiver Credit</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports caregivers with expenses involved in taking care of spouse/common-law partner or dependent • Statement from medical practitioner not required if claimant has approved T2201
<u>Medical expenses tax credit</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows claimants to claim eligible medical expenses on tax return • Some medical expenses require approved T2201 form to be claimed
<u>Medical expense supplement</u>	Refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This credit is designed for individuals with low incomes and high medical expenses



MEASURING UP: DISABILITY POLICY IN ACTION

Experiences Accessing the Disability Tax Credit

In our survey and interviews with parents and caregivers of youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities, the most commonly discussed program was the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). We highlight the barriers and facilitators shared by our participants below.



Administrative Challenges and Delays

- Delays in approval for the DTC as a result of lengthy processing times and inconsistent knowledge of staff.
- Reasons for application rejection were not always clear and were at times viewed as arbitrary. Many participants were left frustrated that they could not access the DTC despite the need for support.
- Lack of updates on application status to applicants.



Difficulties with Application Form

- The T2201 form lacked clear instructions and criteria. Many were unsure what information was needed to complete the form, resulting in requests from government for additional information.
- Specific wording was often needed for applications to be approved.



Physician Knowledge and Expertise

- Physicians have a key role in determining access to the DTC.
- Many participants noted that the primary reason they were successful in their DTC application was because their physician had previous experience successfully filling out the T2201 form, was persistent in the face of rejections, and/or waived fees for filling out the form.



Backdating and Reapplying for the DTC

- Backdating is inconsistent between diagnoses and within the same diagnosis – some individuals are backdated to birth, while others are backdated to date of diagnosis.
- Many participants questioned the need to reapply for the DTC for conditions that are lifelong.
- Timelines for reapplication are not standardized. Some participants report that timelines differ between approvals.

Of note, many of these barriers and facilitators are in line with observations and recommendations highlighted by the [Disability Advisory Committee](#) in their previous annual reports.

“The amount of information they require that has no clear criteria. So that you’re probably gonna reject it or being asked for more information over and over again until you send them what they need. Like you don’t know what that is, so how do you know what to send them.”

–Parent Participant

Tax Credit	Type	Description and Eligibility
<u>Home buyers' amount</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This tax credit is designed for first-time home buyers. Persons with disabilities do not have to be first-time buyers if they are eligible for the DTC or if the home was purchased for someone eligible for the DTC that allowed the person to live in a more accessible home
<u>Home accessibility expenses</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowners can claim this credit for eligible renovations to improve accessibility of home DTC-eligible individuals of any age are eligible for this credit
<u>Canada workers benefit</u>	Refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This credit is designed for low-income workers. Disability supplements are available for DTC-eligible claimants
<u>Tuition amount</u>	Non-refundable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible tuition can be claimed on tax returns Part-time students eligible for the DTC are considered full-time students for the purposes of claiming this credit

Federal Tax Deductions

The Federal Government also provides tax deductions. These reduce taxable income, which subsequently decreases the income tax owed in a given tax year. Outlined below are the tax deductions available to persons with disabilities.

Deduction	Description and Eligibility
<u>Disability supports deduction</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People with disabilities can claim eligible expenses incurred to work, attend school, or do research Some expenses require DTC eligibility
<u>Child care expenses</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This deduction allows parents and guardians to deduct eligible childcare expenses. Children with a disability are exempt from the age limit of 16 years of age typically associated with this deduction



Did you know?

Persons with disabilities are able to access the [Home Buyers' Plan](#), which allows individuals to withdraw from their RRSP to purchase a home, even if they are not a first time home-buyer.

Federal Tax Benefits, Refunds and Rebates

Persons with disabilities and their families may also be eligible to receive tax-free benefits, rebates, and refunds from the federal government.

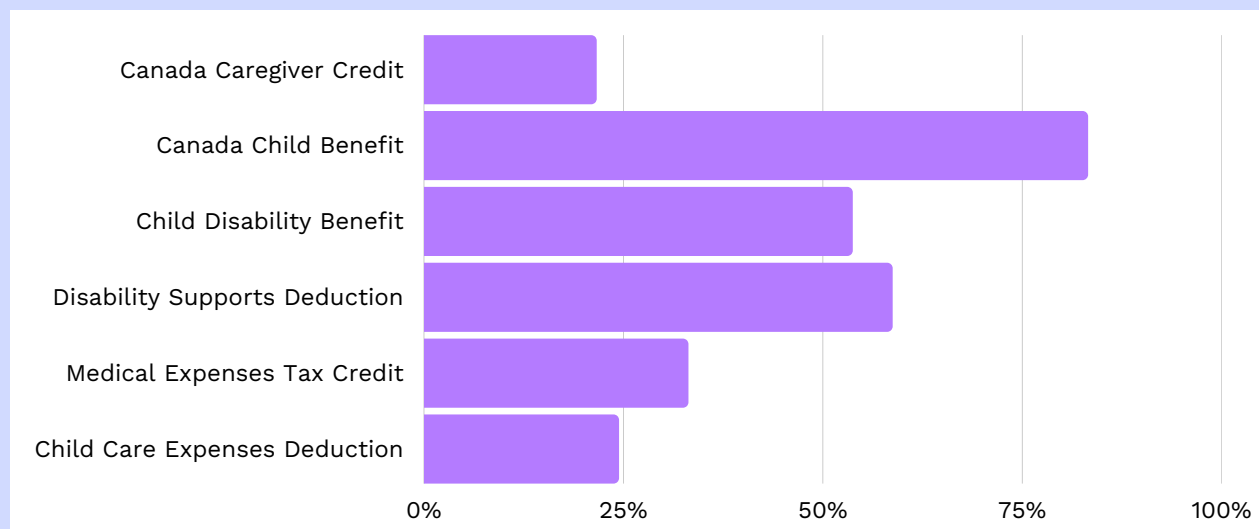
Name	Type	Description and Eligibility
Canada Child Benefit	Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax-free monthly payment for eligible families to help with the cost of raising children under 18 years of age The Child Disability Benefit, which is a supplement to Canada Child Benefit, is available to parents of children with an approved T2201 form under the age of 18 years
Federal Excise Tax Refund	Tax refund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with a permanent mobility impairment that cannot safely use public transportation can receive a refund of part of the federal excise tax on the gasoline they buy. A qualified medical practitioner must certify the impairment To apply, Form XE8, Application for Refund of Federal Excise Tax on Gasoline, must be submitted
GST/HST Rebates	Tax rebate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons with disabilities are able to request a refund from a supplier or a rebate from the Canada Revenue Agency for GST/HST paid on goods and services that are exempt supplies or zero-rated supplies



MEASURING UP: DISABILITY POLICY IN ACTION

Experiences Accessing Federal Tax Measures

We asked 499 parents and caregivers of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities about their experiences accessing a selection of the federal tax measures discussed in this report. The chart below highlights the percentage of participants that were currently (at the time of the survey) accessing or had previously accessed each program.



78%

of participants experienced some level of difficulty applying for disability programs, with 47% finding the process of applying to be very difficult and challenging.

Other Programs Provided by the Federal Government

While tax credits and deductions are the primary way the federal government provides direct support to persons with disabilities in Canada, there are many other programs that exist, which are described below.

Disability Benefits for those with Service-Related Injuries

A tax-free financial payment is available to members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans, and current/former members of the RCMP that have an illness or injury from their service.

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

The Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a long-term savings plan to help people with disabilities (under the age of 60 years), who are approved for the DTC, save for the future. Individuals of certain ages and income levels may also be eligible for grants and bonds from the Government of Canada to help with long-term savings. This includes the Canada Disability Savings Grant and Canada Disability Savings Bond.

MEASURING UP: DISABILITY POLICY IN ACTION

Experiences Accessing the RDSP

Many survey and interview participants also shared their experiences accessing the RDSP. Key barriers of this process are highlighted below.



Inconsistent Knowledge at Banks

- Many found it difficult to find a staff member that knew how to open an RDSP and that was knowledgeable enough to answer participants' questions. Several phone calls to different banks/staff members were often required to access the RDSP.
- Participants that did not find the process of applying for and accessing the RDSP difficult often reported having supportive staff at their bank who had knowledge of the RDSP and contribution rules.



Lack of Comprehensive Information

- Many participants struggled to find information about the RDSP. The information that they could find was not always clear. Participants were required to do a lot of independent research to learn about the RDSP.
- Participants found it hard to understand the rules for contributions, deposits, and withdrawals, which, in some cases, created hesitancy to apply.



Fears Regarding Loss of DTC Eligibility

- Some participants were hesitant to access the RDSP due to fears regarding the potential loss of their DTC eligibility. These participants had concerns about what would happen to their RDSP contributions if their child lost DTC eligibility.



Family Income Level as a Barrier to Access

- Some higher income earners felt that the RDSP would have little benefit to them and did not feel it was necessary to apply.
- Some lower income earners reported that they could not afford to contribute to the RDSP, resulting in their choice not to apply.

31%

of participants were currently (at the time of the survey) accessing or had previously accessed the RDSP, compared to the 59% that currently or previously accessed the DTC.

Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefits

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability benefit is a monthly payment that individuals can receive if they:

- are under 65
- have made enough contributions into the CPP
- have a mental or physical disability that regularly stops you from doing any type of substantially gainful work
- have a disability that is long-term and of indefinite duration, or is likely to result in death

The CPP also provides benefits to dependent children (under the age of 18 or under the age of 25 in full-time attendance of a recognized school or university) of disabled or deceased CPP contributors. There are two types of children's benefits:

- A disabled contributor's child's benefit – a monthly payment for a child of the person receiving a CPP disability benefit
- A surviving child's benefit – a monthly payment for a child of the deceased contributor. For the benefit to be paid, the deceased contributor must have made sufficient contributions to the CPP

Education- and Employment-Related Funding

Students with disabilities can get access to the following funding programs:

- Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities – Students with disabilities in financial need can receive \$4,000 per year. Students residing in the Northwest Territories, Quebec, and Nunavut are not eligible.
- Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment – Students with disabilities in financial need that require the use of services or equipment can receive up to \$20,000 per year.

The Government of Canada also provides funding through:

- Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities – This provides funding to eligible organizations that support persons with disabilities to increase their economic participation and independence.
- Enabling Accessibility Fund – This provides funding for projects that make Canadian communities and workplaces more accessible to persons with disabilities.

Employers may also be able to claim disability-related employment benefits on their taxes if they provide benefits or allowances to an employee with a disability.

Programs Provided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

Funding for a range of health, social, and educational needs is provided for First Nations children under the age of majority through Jordan's Principle.

A child must meet at least one of the following criteria to be eligible:

- is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act
- has one parent or guardian who is registered or eligible to be registered under the Indian Act
- is recognized by their nation for the purposes of Jordan's Principle
- is ordinarily resident on reserve

To receive funding, applicants need to provide a letter of support detailing how the requested product, service, or support meets the child's needs. This document can be from an Elder, knowledge keeper, or other professional.

The Inuit First Child Initiative provides funding for needed products, supports, and services. To be eligible for this program, children must be recognized by an Inuit land claim organization and under the age of majority in their province or territory of residence.

The Assisted Living Program provides funds to service providers to enable them to provide non-medical, social support services to individuals living on-reserve with chronic illness or disability.

ISC also supports First Nations students' special education needs through two programs:

1. The Elementary and Secondary Education Program - Funds special education services for First Nations Students with mild to profound learning disabilities. Funding is provided for programming, remedial instruction, clinical services, and resource teacher staffing.
2. The High-Cost Special Education Program - Funds additional services for high-cost education students with moderate to profound learning disabilities. Funding is provided for direct service support in the form of personnel, adaptive materials, and resource services

Programs Provided by Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is a Crown corporation governed by a board of directors and responsible to Parliament through the Minister for CMHC.

The CMHC provides the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities, which provides funding to modify on-reserve housing to meet accessibility needs of persons with disabilities. This funding can be used by First Nations or First Nation members to modify their home or to adapt on-reserve affordable housing to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

CONCLUSION

In this report, we provide a comprehensive overview of disability policy at the federal level in Canada. While federal disability policy exists with the intention of supporting persons with disabilities and their families, there are many individuals that are not able to access this support as a result of the numerous barriers that exist. We highlight some of these barriers throughout this report.

Moving forward, it is crucial to improve access, in part through greater awareness, education, and support. A few specific actions we recommend based on the content in this report are as follows:

- Increase awareness of available programs to individuals with disabilities and their families/caregivers.
- Design and implement education and training programs for individuals who administer programs and professionals that act as unofficial gatekeepers to accessing programs (such as physicians and staff at banks).
- Provide navigation support to persons with disabilities and their families to ensure they are able to access the programs to which they are entitled.
- Develop clear and common eligibility criteria and application processes across programs to simplify the process of accessing disability programs for individuals and families.



















LINKING UP: SUMMARY

We link federal disability policy to relevant UN CRPD articles to demonstrate that disability policy in Canada can and should recognize and be informed in part by UN CRPD articles, where relevant. The federal policy outlined in this report meets all the UN CRPD categories described earlier in the report. A chart summarizing how different articles are met by federal disability policy can be found on the following page.

While federal disability policy meets requirements under many of the articles in the UN CRPD, we want to re-emphasize that the extent to which these articles are met by federal policy is not outlined in this report. On that note, many articles, such as Health (Article 25), Habilitation and Rehabilitation (Article 26), and Education (Article 24) are met to a greater extent by programs provided by provincial and territorial governments, as a result of the federalist structure of Canadian governments.



LINKING UP: SUMMARY

Policy Aspect	UN CRPD Categories	Corresponding UN CRPD Articles
Policy Priorities	 	Equality: 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 17, 22 Public Education and Information: 8
Laws	     	Equality: 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 17, 22 Accessibility: 9 Social Participation: 18, 20, 21, 29, 30 Legal Capacity and Justice: 12, 13 Employment and Financial Security: 27, 28 Education: 24
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Disability Policy Research Program

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www.dipo.ca

The Disability Policy Research program is a multi-disciplinary group of researchers with the mission to provide and use evidence based information to shape public policy and improve the lives of persons with disabilities.



Discovery 2 – Room 204, Simon Fraser University
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Kids Brain Health Network is a national network that develops and harnesses scientific advances in technologies, interventions and supports with the goal of helping children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families live the best lives. The science of children's brain health is making advancements and KBHN is bridging the gaps between these scientific advances and implementing solutions that directly address the needs of children and families. In delivering on its mission, KBHN is advancing federal responsibilities and priorities aimed at building a healthier future for all kids.

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