

Our 2026 Budget Submission

Plain Language Version

Following People First of Canada plain language principles

About This Document

Inclusion Canada asked the government for money and changes to help people with disabilities in Canada. This document explains our 6 main recommendations for Budget 2026.

We want Canada to stop managing poverty and start eliminating it.

The Problem We're Solving

Right now in Canada:

- 1.5 million people with disabilities live in poverty
- The new Canada Disability Benefit starting in July 2025 is only \$200 per month
- This is not enough to live on
- Many people with disabilities can't get the supports they need

Our 6 Recommendations

1. Fix the Canada Disability Benefit

The Canada Disability Benefit needs to give people enough money to live.

What we're asking for:

- 2026: Increase the benefit to \$800 per month
- 2027: Increase to \$1,100 per month
- 2028: Increase to \$1,393 per month

Why this matters: Right now, \$200 per month only pays for about 6 days of groceries. People need at least \$2,400 total per month (including provincial benefits) to meet basic needs.

Three important changes needed:

1. Make the benefit amount adequate for living
2. Let more people qualify - not just those with the Disability Tax Credit
3. Set up automatic tax filing so people don't lose their benefits

2. Check All Government Programs for Inclusion

What we're asking for: \$5 million per year for a special team at Treasury Board

What they would do: Check every new government program to make sure it works for people with disabilities. This stops barriers before they start.

Why this matters: Right now, many government programs accidentally leave out people with disabilities. This would fix that problem.

3. Fund Disability Organizations Properly

What we're asking for: \$75 million more per year for the Social Development Partnerships Program - Disability Component

How the money would be used:

- 40% for projects that implement the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 35% for "Nothing About Us Without Us" capacity building
- 25% for data and innovation projects

Why this matters: Disability organizations do important work but operate on very small budgets. For every dollar the government invests, these organizations create \$3 worth of volunteer value.

The funding would be for 5-year agreements, which helps organizations plan better.

4. Create Real Housing Options

What we're asking for: Stop funding group homes and institutions. Use that money for real homes in the community where people have choice.

Two parts to this:

1. Redirect housing money to accessible, affordable homes where people choose who they live with
2. Fix the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) rules so people can:
 - Choose their own legal representative
 - Access their money when they need it
 - Use RDSP money for a house down payment

Why this matters: Where you live determines how you live. Everyone deserves to choose their home and who they live with.

5. Support Real Jobs for Real Pay

What we're asking for:

- \$8 million per year for Ready, Willing & Able (a successful employment program)
- \$30 million over 3 years to help provinces close sheltered workshops

Why this matters: Thousands of people with disabilities work in sheltered workshops earning less than minimum wage. Meanwhile, employers face labour shortages. People with disabilities want real jobs in the community.

The benefit: When someone moves from social assistance to employment, it saves the government \$20,000 per year and that person pays taxes.

6. Support Families

What we're asking for:

- Double the Child Disability Benefit to \$6,300 per year
- Raise the income level where the benefit gets reduced to \$75,000

- Invest \$250 million over 5 years in inclusive childcare

Why this matters: Families face about \$10,000 in extra costs each year related to their child's disability. Many mothers have to leave work because their children are excluded from childcare.

Goals for childcare:

- Zero children expelled because of disability
- 100% acceptance at registration
- Mandatory training for all childcare providers

The Economic Case

Total investment needed: Less than 3.5% of government program spending

What we get back:

- \$3 billion in positive returns within 5 years
- More people working and paying taxes
- Less spending on healthcare
- Stronger economy with 8 million more people participating fully

This Aligns with International Commitments

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities told Canada in March 2025 to take "immediate and transformative action" on:

- Poverty (paragraph 56)
- Employment (paragraph 54)
- Community living (paragraph 40)

Our recommendations directly address these requirements.

Take Action Before August 28

The government is accepting input until August 28, 2025.

What you can do:

1. Email the government at: yourbudget-votrebudget@fin.gc.ca
2. Tell them you support our 6 recommendations
3. Share this with others in your community
4. Contact your Member of Parliament

If you need help: Contact your provincial or territorial association. They can help you make a submission or answer questions.

The Bottom Line

Budget 2026 is our chance to transform Canada from a country that manages disability poverty to one that eliminates it.

We have the plan. We have the evidence. We need the government to act.

Every person with a disability deserves:

- Enough money to live with dignity
- A home of their choice
- A real job if they want to work
- Support for their family

Together, we can make this happen.

About Inclusion Canada

We are a national federation of 13 provincial/territorial associations and over 300 local associations. We work for the full inclusion and human rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

For 60 years, we have been advocating for change.