CONTACT LIST & FAQ

**Contact List**

**This list is intended as a base that you can build on with additional contacts. It is recommended that you send correspondence out individually to each contact.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Contact List | | | | |
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| Northwest Territories | Premier R.J Simpson  [premier@gov.nt.ca](mailto:premier@gov.nt.ca) | Minister Lesa Semmler  (Ministry of Health and Social Services)  [Lesa\_semmler@ntassembly.ca](mailto:Lesa_semmler@ntassembly.ca) | Minister Caroline Wawzonek  (Ministry of Finance and Deputy Premier)  [caroline\_wawzonek@gov.nt.ca](mailto:caroline_wawzonek@gov.nt.ca) | Deputy Minister  Jo-Anne Cecchetto  (Ministry of Health and Social Services)  [Jo-Anne\_Cecchetto@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Jo-Anne_Cecchetto@gov.nt.ca) | Assistant Deputy Minister Jeannie Mathison  (Finance, Policy and Planning in Ministry of Health and Social Services)  [Jeannie\_Mathison@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Jeannie_Mathison@gov.nt.ca) |
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**Frequently asked questions**

1. **What is the Canada Disability Benefit?**

The Canada Disability Benefit is a new federal benefit of up to $200 per month starting in July 2025, for low-income people aged 18-64 who have a disability. The benefit is intended to address the poverty faced by many people with disabilities and to increase their financial security. You must qualify for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) in order to receive the Canada Disability Benefit. The federal government anticipates that about 600,000 Canadians will be eligible.

1. **Have other provinces and territories committed to not clawing back the CDB?**

According to a *Toronto Star* article, **Manitoba’s provincial government** has confirmed that it would not claw back social assistance supports in response to the CDB. (Source: <https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/how-come-the-federal-government-wont-say-how-many-people-its-disability-benefit-will-lift/article_b95e726a-088a-11ef-b016-7b385b8c0b0e.html>)

According to a *CBC* article, **Newfoundland and Labrador’s provincial government** has confirmed that it would not claw back social assistance supports in response to the CDB. In addition, the government has announced a new income top-up for people with disabilities who will be receiving the CDB, valued at $400 extra per month for low-income recipients. (Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-disability-benefit-1.7228262>)

According to the *Toronto Star*, **Nunavut** has also been added to the list committing against clawbacks of the CDB. (Source : <https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/ndp-wants-to-dramatically-change-who-will-qualify-for-the-trudeau-governments-disability-benefit-a/article_9fccbf3e-2999-11ef-9072-8b3dbee816b0.html>)

According to unofficially established correspondence with **Nova Scotia’s provincial government**, the province has also confirmed that it would not claw back social assistance supports in response to the CDB. This commitment has not yet been made public.

According to an official letter from the **Government of Saskatchewan** addressed to Maytree, the province wrote that its “intent is for the CDB to be exempt from Income Assistance benefits.”

According to an Information Bulletin released on September 12, 2024, the **Government of British Columbia** announced its decision that "people receiving disability assistance can keep all of the new Canada Disability Benefit (CDB)."

(Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024SDPR0014-001497>)

***[Note that we will add more jurisdictions as announcements are made]***

1. **What is the difference between a refundable tax credit and a benefit? How does this impact CDB clawbacks?**

Refundable tax credits, such as the GST/HST tax credit, are received when you file your tax return. If a person is eligible, they can receive these credits regardless of whether they owe taxes: the amount of the credit either reduces the amount of taxes owed or is provided as a transfer if no taxes are owed.

Benefits, such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement, are income supports that an individual can apply to at any time if they are eligible. While they are typically not linked to taxes owing, most benefits are income-tested and, therefore, require a completed tax return to assess eligibility.

According to the recently released regulations, the CDB is expected to be treated as a benefit and not a refundable tax credit. Many social assistance regulations already exempt refundable tax credits from determining social assistance benefits. However, benefits typically have to be added to the list of exempt “unearned income,” otherwise they can claw back social assistance.

1. **Where can I find the poverty rate by disability status by province or territory?**

Currently, disaggregated data for the number of people with disabilities living in poverty by each province or territory is not available.

1. **What is total welfare income?**

Welfare income encompasses a household’s entire income from all government transfers. For eligible households, this may include social assistance payments where individuals and families who receive benefits from a social assistance program may also receive additional support through tax credits, child benefits for eligible households, and additional automatic social assistance payments. These jointly comprise the welfare income of a household. Note that the amounts differ based on the jurisdiction, other income and household composition.[[1]](#footnote-2)

1. **Where can I find official government documents on the CDB?**

* Canada Disability Benefit Act (Bill C-22): <https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-22/royal-assent>
* CDB regulations: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits/summary-regulations.html>
* 2024 Federal Budget (section: Launching the Canada Disability Benefit): <https://www.budget.canada.ca/2024/report-rapport/chap2-en.html#s2-1>

1. Laidley, J. & Tabbara, M. (July 2023). *Welfare in Canada, 2022*. Maytree. <https://maytree.com/changing-systems/data-measuring/welfare-in-canada/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)