TALKING POINTS

**Explaining the issue to a decision-maker**

To the user of the toolkit,

We have provided a loose script with key points that you can use at these meetings. In addition, we suggest that you personalize your approach and consider mentioning:

* Stories of people with lived experience and the positive impact the CDB could have on their lives
* Other context that is specific to your organization or jurisdiction.

In addition, if you are based in a territory, be sure to adjust all references to the “provincial” government.

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* Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today. We are here to ask that the provincial government do its part to support people with disabilities by changing social assistance regulations so that the entire value of the new Canada Disability Benefit reaches its intended recipients.
* As you may know, people with disabilities experience disproportionately high rates of poverty, and provincial income supports are far from adequate.
* The federal government has recently introduced a new Canada Disability Benefit. The benefit is addressing the poverty faced by many people with disabilities and serves to increase their financial security.
* If your government takes no action, recipients of the Canada Disability Benefit who also receive social assistance will experience a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their social assistance benefits.
* Several jurisdictions have already agreed not to claw back the Canada Disability Benefit, including Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Nunavut. Some have decided to augment the new benefit, such as Newfoundland and Labrador announcing a $400 per month top-up to the Canada Disability Benefit.
* If any provincial government claws back the value of the Canada Disability Benefit, this decision – on top of denying support to people who need it – may undermine potential federal investments like the Canada Disability Benefit in the future.

* Your government can improve the lives of people with disabilities at no cost by simply exempting the Canada Disability Benefit from the calculations for social assistance. This can be done by adding one line to the social assistance regulations.
* Avoiding a clawback is only the first step. We hope the government will also commit to adequately supporting people with disabilities by investing in much-needed income supports and services to raise all people with disabilities out of poverty.