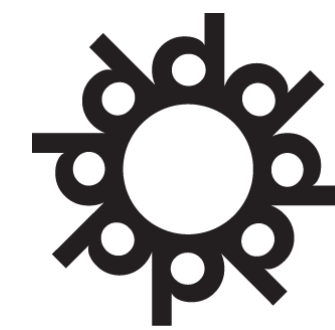


# When Opportunity Knocks

ABLE 2021



**disability  
without  
poverty**

**le handicap  
sans  
pauvreté**

Michelle Hewitt, Guillaume Parent & Rabia Khedr

# Legend



Canadian



Canadian living in poverty



Canadian living with disability



Canadian living with disability in poverty



# Legend



Canadian



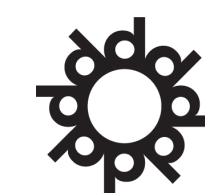
Canadian living in poverty



Canadian living with disability



Canadian living with disability in poverty



disability  
without  
poverty

le handicap  
sans  
pauvreté

# Statistics



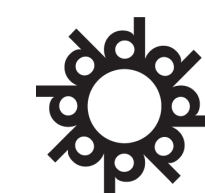
10 out of 100 Canadians live in poverty.



22% of Canadians are disabled.



41% of Canadians living in poverty are disabled.



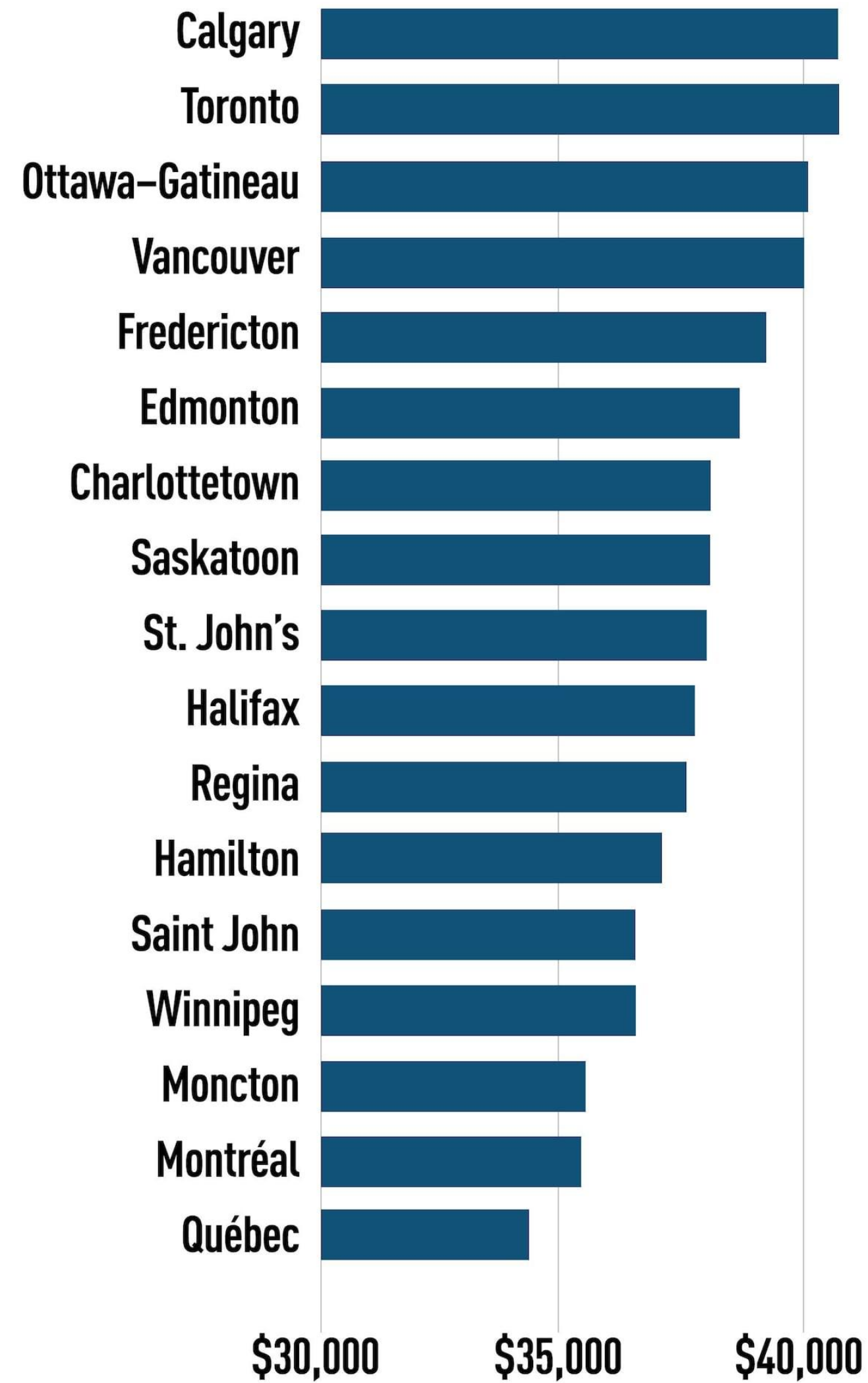
disability  
without  
poverty

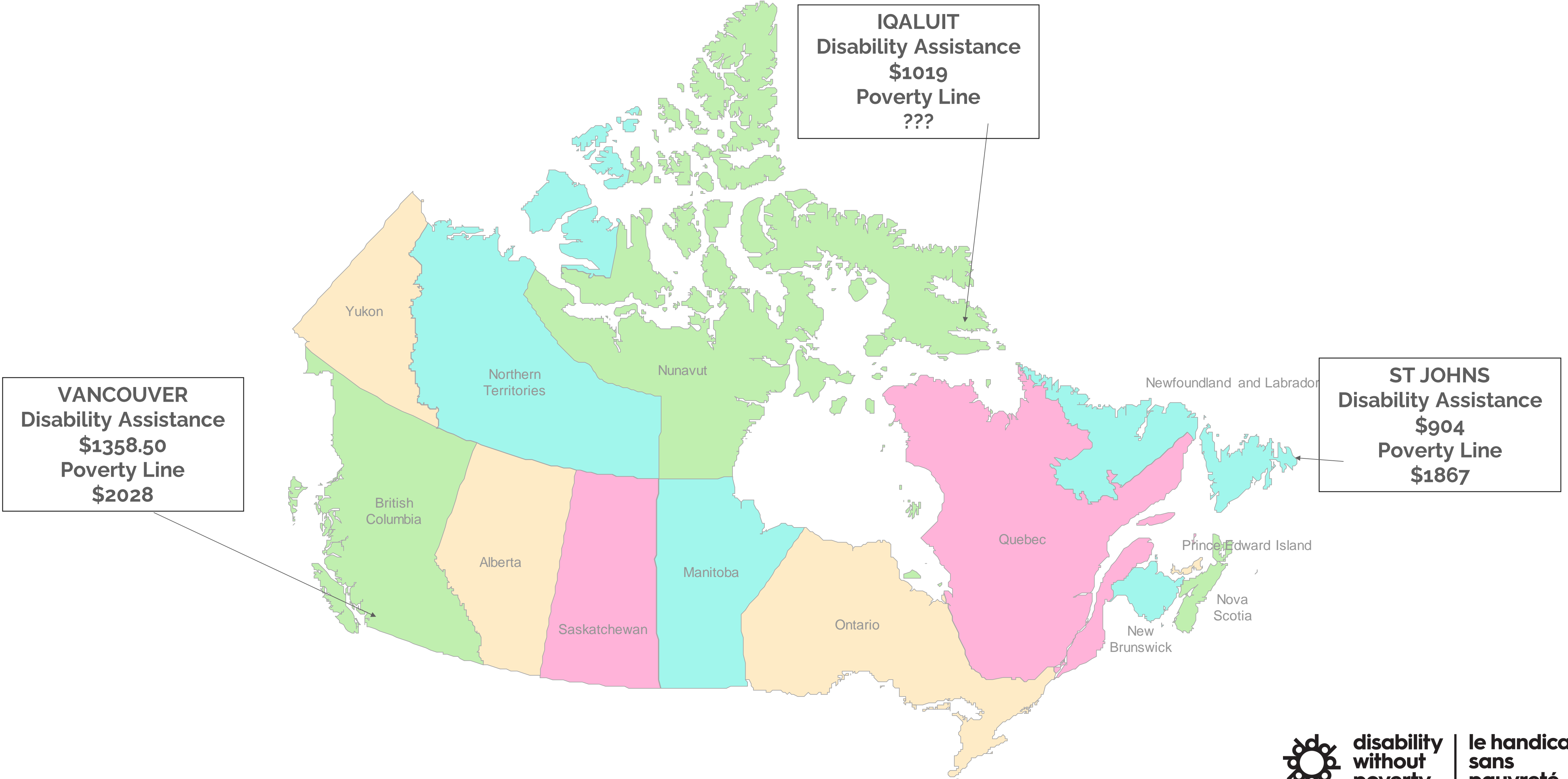
le handicap  
sans  
pauvreté

# Poverty line by metropolitan area

## POVERTY

Minimum income needed to be considered living above the poverty line





**VANCOUVER**  
Disability Assistance  
\$1358.50  
Poverty Line  
\$2028

**IQALUIT**  
Disability Assistance  
\$1019  
Poverty Line  
???

**ST JOHNS**  
Disability Assistance  
\$904  
Poverty Line  
\$1867

**I AM MADELINE**

# Key Events

- Throne speech, September 2020,
- Spring Budget 2021,
- Bill C35, June 2021
- Liberal Election platform, Summer 2021
- Throne Speech, November 2021



**A promise too big to be left to  
government to do on their own.**

# The development of the benefit must

- Include disabled people in all aspects of the design of the benefit.
- Balance thorough examination of the situation with a speedy response to get the money into the hands of disabled people as quickly as possible.

# The benefit itself:

The Canada Disability Benefit must be an individualized benefit, so that disabled people have financial independence. The Canada Disability Benefit should belong to the individual disabled person, not be means tested across a relationship or a family, giving disabled people their own income, and the autonomy that this brings.

# The benefit itself:

The new benefit must be in addition to any current federal, territorial and provincial benefits and services, and private insurance payments that disabled people receive. The complexity of supports needed by disabled people means that a suite of supports are needed, including housing, health care, equipment provision, community care and so on. No single benefit can cover these needs. Hence, there must be no claw backs, financially or of goods and services.

# The benefit itself:

Access to this benefit must have the fewest hoops – disabled people who already receive a federal, territorial or provincial benefit get immediate access to the benefit.

# The benefit itself:

Those disabled people who do not receive a federal, territorial or provincial benefit need a separate application to apply, one that also gives them speedy access to the benefit.

# The benefit itself:

Accessibility must also include disabled people whose level of disability changes – because disability is permanent or temporary, stable or progressive or episodic – and they must be able to access this benefit as their situation changes.

# The benefit itself:

There must also be a generous earnings exemption, so that disabled people who are able to work have the chance to keep the money they earn. To make work pay for these disabled people, they must benefit from the wages they earn, rather than lose it paying for the supports that they need to live.



# Key Findings from Angus Reid Survey:

- Nine out of ten Canadians favor a CDB. Strongest support from Quebec.
- 88% agree with the statement “A CDB is an essential commitment for the government to make. It’s time the country came together to end disability poverty.”
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) believe the CDB should be set above the poverty level
- 74% believe the three-year consultation timeline for the CDB is too slow.

# Disability Without Poverty

We want people with disabilities to be **prosperous**.

Realize our **power**.

Pursue our **passions**.

**Participate** in every aspect of society .

# Led by disabled people

We strive to represent the full diversity of our community. Disabilities may be physical, mental and cognitive; visible or invisible; chronic and episodic.

We respect the human rights of persons of every race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and social status and welcome your involvement.



**Rabia Khedr**



**Guillaume Parent**



**Michelle Hewitt**



**Luca Patuelli**



**Al Etmanski**



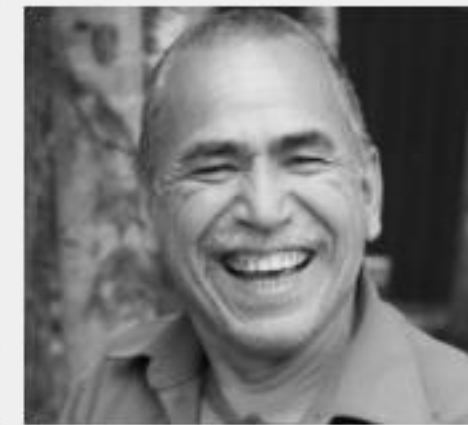
**Jayne Whyte**



**Zoe Elverum**



**Steven Estey**



**Gary Tinker**



**Andrea van Vugt**



**Bill Adair**



**Meenu Sikand**



**Ali Mohamed**



**Sabrina Shawanda  
Wabanosse**



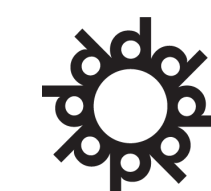
**Brenda Lenahan**



**Clare Li**



**Tricia Lins**



**disability  
without  
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# Mobilize Our Voice and Power

As disabled people, we have to make sure we are involved in all stages of securing a Disability Benefit from design to legislation to implementation. We listen to the voices of disabled people living in poverty, and take their stories to our elected officials. Through actions like our e-petition we are mobilizing the voices of disabled people and their allies.

# Work with Government on Designing the Disability Benefit

We want to make sure the Canada Disability Benefit significantly reduces disability poverty. We are working with economists and policy experts to help us identify principles and design features. We expect the government to work side by side with us as we are determined to find the quickest way to get a new monthly Disability Benefit into the bank accounts of disabled Canadians.

# Secure public support for ending disability poverty

We won't end poverty for people with disabilities without the support of every Canadian. It also means being active on social media, in mainstream media, recruiting thought leaders and champions and doing public opinion polling. We have enlisted disabled artists, putting together a series of monthly performances online to invite everyone in. Everyone's engagement is paramount for success.

# Independently financed

Our ability to advocate and partner with government is compromised when we take government funds.

We are supported by private and community foundations to preserve our independence.

# So far, we have:

- Created the Disability Without Poverty movement and established credibility with government,
- Recruited a Leadership Team representing people with disabilities from around the country,
- Released a public opinion survey that will allow us to shape the narrative,
- Written and had published many OpEds,  
Met with the Prime Minister and Minister Qualtrough,
- Run an active social media campaign during the election,
- Wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, signed by 200 prominent Canadians.



# Moving forward, we:

- Have a parliamentary e-petition running for 60 days,
- Are talking to government ministers, civil servants and policy makers,
- Are accelerating strategies to secure provincial government cooperation, building support provincially and territorially,
- Are talking to community groups large and small, talk to individuals to secure strong grassroots support from all Canadians.

**Together we will make sure eradicating  
disability poverty remains a national priority.**

**Join with us. Take action.**