

January 23, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, MP Prime Minister of Canada House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca	The Honourable Mark Holland, MP Leader of the Government in the House of Commons House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Mark.holland@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Andrew Scheer, MP House Leader of the Official Opposition House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca	Alain Therrien, MP House Leader of the Bloc Québécois House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Alain.therrien@parl.gc.ca
Peter Julian, MP House Leader of the NDP House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Peter.julian@parl.gc.ca	

Dear Prime Minister and House Leaders:

We are writing to you for the fourth time as a growing collective of stakeholder organizations in support of Bill C-22, the *Canada Disability Benefit Act*. We are asking you all to work together to prioritize Bill C-22 for third reading as one of the first orders of legislative business when the House of Commons resumes sitting later this month. This letter follows our correspondence dated June 13, 2022, August 25, 2022 and December 12, 2022 requesting Bill C-22 be brought before the House of Commons at critical junctures along the legislative path. We thank you for your collective work to bring this vital legislation to this important stage in the process. We are asking once again for your support of Bill C-22, as you have over the last six months, and to prioritize this now for the final third reading and subsequent vote.

At second reading, the House of Commons voted unanimously in favour of Bill C-22 and referred the legislation to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA). Many of our community members were present for the vote and celebrated the result. Beginning on October 31, 2022, HUMA held four meetings to study the legislation, supported by 36 witnesses and 153 written briefs, the vast majority of which recommended that C-22 be passed as quickly as possible. On December 14, 2022, the committee tabled in the

House of Commons, “Report 6 – Bill C-22, Canada Disability Benefit Act”, making the legislation ready for consideration at third reading.

As you know, the urgent income insecurity and affordability crisis facing millions of people with disabilities in Canada coupled with the high inflation especially affecting basic goods makes bringing this legislation back for third reading a critical and time-sensitive priority. We remain ready to work with the government to build the regulations as required in the legislation and as affirmed in committee study.

We recognize that there are multiple legislative priorities as the House of Commons resumes sitting. However, people with disabilities have waited long enough and need to know they are a priority for their federal elected representatives. Given the short length of the winter legislative session and our desire to see the legislation passed in both the House and Senate and referred to Governor General Simon for Royal Assent before the next break in the calendar, time is of the essence. Our community simply cannot wait as another legislative session passes by, not knowing whether Members of Parliament and Senators will deliver on their support for the dignity and financial security of all people living with disabilities in Canada.

We would appreciate the favour of your reply with all possible haste.

Sincerely,

ABLE2: Support for People with Disabilities	Heather Lacey	Executive Director
Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians	Marcia Yale	National President
Avalon Employ	Fraser Piccott	Vice-President
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	Rowan Burdge	Provincial Director
BCANDS (BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society)	Neil Belanger	Executive Director
Brain Injury Canada	Michelle McDonald	Executive Director
Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion	Heather Johnstone	
Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work	Maureen Haan	President & CEO
Canadian Labour Congress	Bilan Arte	
Citizens for Public Justice	Willard Metzger	Executive Director
CNIB	John Rafferty	President & CEO
Community Food Centres Canada	Nick Saul	CEO
Community Foundations of Canada	Michelle Baldwin	Senior Advisor, Transformation Director,
Community Foundations of Canada	Dana Decent	Partnerships
Community Foundations of Canada	Andrew Chunilall	CEO
Community Legal Services of Ottawa	Leah Landry	Community Developer
Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre	Jennifer Martino	Executive Director

DEEN Support Services Disability Alliance BC Disability Without Poverty	Omar Mansour Helaine Boyd Michelle Hewitt	Vice-Chair Executive Director Co-Chair
DisAbled Women's Network of Canada Down Syndrome Resource Foundation Easter Seals Canada	Bonnie Brayton Wayne Leslie Dave Starrett	CEO CEO President & CEO
Environmental Health Association of Canada	Michel Gaudet	Executive Director
Environmental Health Association of Quebec Every Canadian Counts Feed Ontario (Ontario Association of Food Banks) Finautonome & Finandicap Guelph & Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Imagine Canada Independent Living Canada	Rohini Peris Dr. William Cowie Carolyn Stewart Guillaume Parent Dominica McPherson Julia Hanigsberg Bruce MacDonald Krista Carr	President & CEO Executive Director Executive Director Président Director President & CEO President & CEO Executive Vice-President National Executive Director Executive Director Executive Director
L'Arche Canada Leadnow Maple Leaf Centre for Food Security	Louis Pilotte Shanaaz Gokool Sarah Stern	Executive Director Executive Director Executive Director
March of Dimes Canada Maytree Mount Paul Community Food Centre	Len Baker Elizabeth McIsaac Dawn Christie	President & CEO President & CEO Manager
MS Canada	Benjamin Davis	Senior Vice-President, Mission Community Action and Engagement Programmer
NorWest Co-op Community Food Centre ODSP Action Coalition	Tyler Engel Trevor Manson	Secretary Co-chair Founder/Executive Director
Ontario Disability Coalition Partners for Planning	Sherry Caldwell Jill Teeple Stephanie	Executive Director Executive Director
PLAN Institute Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network posAbilities Association of British Columbia	Debisschop Rebecca Pauls Fernando Coelho	Executive Director Executive Director CEO

Prosper Canada	Elizabeth Mulholland	CEO
Rick Hansen Foundation	Doramy Ehling	CEO
Spinal Cord Injury Canada	Bill Adair	Executive Director
The Local Community Food Centre	Debra Swan	Executive Director
The Table Community Food Centre	Ramsey Hart	Executive Director

UFCW Canada (United Food and Commercial Workers Union)	Paul Meinema	National President
UNITI	Doug Tennant	CEO
Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility	Christopher Sutton	CEO

West Scarborough Community Legal Services	Christis McQuarrie	Director/Lawyer
YWCA Toronto	Heather McGregor	CEO

Accessibility for All
 Accessibility Simplified
 Accessibrand
 ACMCRN Arachnoiditis & Chronic Meningitis Collaborative Research Network
 Adele Furrie Consulting Inc.
 ADHD Advocacy Society of BC
 Alberta Abilities Lodges Society
 Alberta Amputee Sports and Recreation Association
 All-Together Housing
 Aphasie Rive-Sud
 Association de l'Ouie de l'Outaouais
 Association d'informations en logements et immeubles adaptés - AILIA
 Association du Québec pour Enfants avec Problèmes Auditifs Mtl Régional
 Association pour la santé environnementale du Québec - Environmental Health Association of Québec (ASEQ-EHAQ)
 Association québécoise de la dysphasie, Région Montréal
 Association Sclérose en Plaques Rive-Sud
 Autism Alliance of Canada
 BCEdAccess Society
 Brain Injury Society of Toronto
 Breast Cancer Support Fund

Bridges to Belonging
British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society
(BCANDS)
Canadian Abilities Foundation
Canadian Academy of Audiology
Canadian Association of the Deaf - Association des Sourds
du Canada (CAD-ASC)
Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB)
Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf
Canadian Down Syndrome Society
Canadian Down Syndrome Society
Canadian Mental Health Association, Alberta East Central
Region
Cerebral Palsy Foundation (Saint John) Inc.
Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario
CNIB Foundation
Communication Disabilities Access Canada
Community Living Victoria
Confédération des organismes de personnes handicapées
du Québec (COPHAN)
Country Lane Co-operative Homes
Cowichan Independent Living Resource Centre
Creekside Support Services
DefPhys sans limite
DéPhy Montréal (le regroupement des organismes en
déficience physique de l'île-de-Montréal)
Disability Without Poverty
Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton
Easter seals NB
Edmonton Epilepsy Association
enVision Community Living
Epilepsy Association of Calgary
Extend-A-Family Waterloo Region
Fondation Maison de l'aphasie
Fragile X Research Foundation of Canada
Futuristic Industries
Groupement des associations de personnes handicapées
de la Rive-Sud de Montréal (GAPHRSM)
Inclusion Canada
Inclusion Lethbridge Association

Inclusion Saskatchewan
Inclusive Design Lab
Income Security Advocacy Centre
Independent Living Resource Centre Thunder Bay
Invisible Advocate
Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre
Kids Brain Health Network
Leadership Waterloo Region
Learning Disabilities Association of Windsor-Essex County
Les Maisons d'à côté Lanaudière
Lifetime Networks
Little Bits Therapeutic Riding Association for Persons with Disabilities
Manitoba Deaf Association
March of Dimes Canada
Mary Centre
ME/FM Association of Peterborough & District
National Network for Mental Health
Neil Squire Society
No Excuses No Limits Movement
ParaSport Ontario
People First of Canada
Public Interest Alberta Society
Québec accessible
Queens County Residential Services Inc.
RAAMM
REALIZE
RISE: Resource Centre for Independent Living
Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
The Brain Injury Association of Sault Ste. Marie & District
The Canadian Foundation for Animal-Assisted Support Services
Thunder Bay & District Injured Workers Support Group
TopShape Inc.
Trans Sask
Victoria Disability Resource Centre
Voice of Albertans with disabilities
Welcome Centre Shelter for Women and Families
wheelchairtraveling.com

CC: The Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance

The Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, Conservative Party of Canada

Yves-François Blanchet, Chef du Bloc Québécois

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

Brenda Shanahan, Caucus Chair, Liberal Party of Canada

Scott Reid, Caucus Chair, Conservative Party of Canada

Marie-Hélène Gaudreau, Présidente du caucus, Bloc Québécois

Jenny Kwan, Caucus Chair, New Democratic Party of Canada

Tracy Grey, Critic for Disability Inclusion, Conservative Party of Canada, and vice-chair, HUMA

Louise Chabot, Députée, personnes handicapées, Bloc Québécois et vice-présidente, HUMA

Bonita Zarrillo, Critic, Disability Inclusion, New Democratic Party of Canada

Mike Morrice, MP

Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities:

Robert J. Morrissey, MP

Scott Aitchison, MP

Chad Collins, MP

Michael Coteau, MP

Rosemarie Falk, MP

Michelle Ferreri, MP

Wayne Long, MP

Soraya Martinez Ferrada, MP

Tony Van Bynen, MP