

Information on the Canada Child Disability Benefit

FYI - Please find below a link to website information regarding the Canada Child Disability Benefit. This benefit has been available since July 2003. I thought I would send this along to you as a lot of First Nation parents with disabled children are not aware that they can apply for this benefit. Doctors sometimes charge a fee for filling out the form - could be \$50-100 per application. If the child/family's application is approved, CCRA will give them retroactive benefits up to three years automatically if the disability was identified by the doctor during that timeframe. Any further retroactive payments back to July 2003 (when the benefit was made available), for example, would have to be applied in writing by the parent. The entire process can take several months but it can enhance the existing child tax benefit amount for eligible families. I personally know of children that have been diagnosed with diabetes, ADD/ADHD and celiac disease that have been approved for this benefit, however, each applicant's circumstances are unique and it will depend on how their doctor completes the form.

For more info go to: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/fq_cdb-eng.html#q3

1. What is the Child Disability Benefit?

The Child Disability Benefit (CDB) is a tax-free benefit of up to \$2,455 per year (\$204.58 per month) for families who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions.

2. When is the Child Disability Benefit payment issued?

The CDB is paid monthly to individuals who are eligible for the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) and also as a supplement to the Children's Special Allowances (CSA).

3. Who can receive the Child Disability Benefit?

Families who are eligible for the CCTB for a child will receive the CDB only if the child is also eligible for the disability amount, also known as the Disability Tax Credit.

4. My child has a disability. Is my child eligible?

Not all children with disabilities are eligible for the disability amount. To be eligible a child must have a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. An impairment is prolonged if it has lasted, or is expected to last, for a continuous period of at least 12 months. A qualified practitioner must certify on Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate, that the child's impairment meets certain conditions. Once we receive a completed Form T2201, we will advise you if the child is eligible for the disability amount and the CDB supplement.

For more information about the disability amount, and other amounts you may be able to claim, see Guide RC4064, Medical and Disability-Related Information - Includes Form T2201.

5. How do I apply for the Child Disability Benefit?

If you are eligible for the CCTB but you have not filed Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate, for a child who may be eligible for the CDB supplement, you must complete Part A and have Part B completed and signed by a qualified practitioner. Send the completed signed form to your tax centre. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will determine whether or not you are eligible to receive the disability amount and the CDB supplement.

You can send the form to us at any time during the year. By sending us your form before you file your tax return, you may prevent a delay in your assessment.

If you have already applied for the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) for a child who is eligible for the disability amount, the CDB will be calculated automatically for the current and the two previous CCTB benefit years. Beyond these benefit years, a written request to the appropriate tax centre or tax services office will have to be submitted.

If you have not applied for the CCTB for your child, but have already filed Form T2201, complete and mail Form RC66, Canada Child Benefits Application, to your tax centre. The CRA will determine whether or not you are eligible for the CCTB and the CDB supplement.

Fees

Any fees that a qualified practitioner may charge to complete and certify Form T2201 or to provide the CRA with additional information are your responsibility. These fees are not covered by the CRA or by provincial medicare plans, but you may be able to claim them as an eligible medical expense. See your tax package for details.

6. How is the Child Disability Benefit calculated?

For the period of July 2009 to June 2010, the CDB provides up to \$2,455 per year (\$204.58 per month) for each child who is eligible for the disability amount.

The CDB amount is calculated using a base amount, which is associated with the number of children for whom you receive the CCTB. You will receive the full CDB amount if your adjusted family net income is less than the base amount for your family size, as indicated in the chart below.

Number of children for whom you receive the CCTB Base amount

1	\$40,726
2	\$40,723
3	\$40,707
4	\$45,953
5	\$51,199
6	\$56,445
7	\$61,692
8	\$66,938
9 or more	

Contact the CRA

If your adjusted family net income is more than the base amount, your CDB will be reduced as follows:

*If you have one child who is eligible for the CDB, the amount of CDB is reduced by 2% of your adjusted family net income that is more than the base amount for one child (see the above chart).

*If you have two or more children who are eligible for the CDB, the amount of CDB is reduced by 4% of your adjusted family net income that is more than the base amount for the number of children for which you receive the CDB (see the above chart).