

## Access to Income Security for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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- British Columbia has one of the **highest poverty rates** in Canada.
- Canada agreed to follow the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (2010), which says people with disabilities have the **right to a good standard of living**, including access to support with disability-related expenses and financial assistance.
- **Everyone deserves enough income** to live a good life, participate fully in their communities, and enjoy their right to a good standard of living.

### Key Challenges

- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities face **barriers to income security** including:
  - Complicated and inadequate support systems,
  - Limited education and job opportunities, and
  - Higher costs for housing, health care, transportation, and daily needs.
- The **Persons with Disabilities (PWD) program** provides some assistance with income and health care, but it is not enough. For example, the monthly PWD benefit rate of \$1,483.50 a month for a single adult is approximately 35% below the poverty line and does not keep up with rising living costs in BC.
- The **Canada Disability Benefit** provides only \$200 a month, which is not enough to lift people out of poverty, and it can be difficult to access.

### How to Make People's Lives Better

#### Improve Access to Supports and Services

- Create a **Provincial Disability Strategy** to improve access to health care, housing, and other disability-related supports and services that impact the well-being and income security of adults.

#### Increase benefit amounts

- Guarantee a livable income with benefit rates starting at \$2,400 a month and be adjusted for inflation over time.

#### Make Benefits Easier to Access

- Work with the federal government to make it easier to access the Canada Disability Benefit and the Disability Tax Credit by setting up an application process that automatically approves people who are already receiving provincial benefits.

### Position Statement: Access to Income Security for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

[Technical Version](#)

[Plain Language Version](#)