

Access to Income Security for Families Raising Children and Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Many families raising children and youth with disabilities live in poverty and struggle to have a good standard of living.
- Canada agreed to follow the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (1991), which says **families should receive the financial support needed** to make sure all children, including children with disabilities, can realize their right to a good standard of living.
- All families should have enough income to meet their needs and fully participate in all aspects of their community, even if they are unable to work.

Key Challenges

- Families raising children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities are **more likely to live in poverty** due to:
 - Inadequate supports, and
 - Higher housing, healthcare, transportation, and daily living costs.
- Without **access to inclusive child care**, including before and after-school care, parents and caregivers may have to give up their jobs.
- Without **access to employment**, some families rely on income assistance programs, but **benefit rates are too low**.

How to Make People's Lives Better

Increase Benefit Amounts

- Guarantee income assistance and Persons with Disability (PWD) **benefit rates that lift families to the poverty line** and are indexed to inflation, with the ultimate goal of securing a livable income.

Reduce Costs and Remove Barriers to Child Care and Employment

- Create a **Provincial Disability Strategy** that includes fully resourced health and disability-related supports for all children and youth with disabilities to eliminate out of pocket costs for families.
- Provide access to a fully resourced, universal, inclusive, culturally safe, and affordable **early learning and child care model** that includes before and after-school care and age-appropriate support for youth aged 12+ so parents can fully participate in the workforce.

Position Statement: Access to Income Security for Families Raising Children and Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

[Technical Version](#)

[Plain Language Version](#)