

Durham Family Resources

FAMILY focus

SO THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE
WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

A Call to Action

Canada Disability Benefit - What You Need to Know Right



After two years of consultation with various stakeholders, including Inclusion Canada the federal government's Canada Disability Benefit received royal assent in July of 2023. The stated objectives of the Canada Disability Benefit are to provide a guaranteed adequate income for working-age persons (usually ages 18-64) with disabilities, who are more likely to live in poverty and face employment barriers. To demonstrate Canada's commitment to the economic and social inclusion of persons with disabilities and establish Canada as a world leader in eradicating poverty.

Lastly, the establishment of a benefit that complements other provincial/territory disability income support programs as these programs do not address income security adequately. It has always been clear from the beginning, that for the Canada Disability Benefit to have its intended impact of lifting people out of poverty, at the very least the provinces and territories would need to give the CDB an unearned income exemption, meaning there would be no reductions or clawbacks from disability income supports. Noteworthy, the Ontario government has not yet consented to the CDB exemption.

On June 28, the federal government released the Draft Regulations for the CDB. The regulations establish the features of the CDB, they are the rules that will be implemented regarding who can qualify for the benefit, what the application process looks like, how much the benefit will be and other important eligibility requirements. The regulations are the instruments of legislative power and have the force of law.



Stakeholders including Inclusion Canada disagree with many of the proposed regulations that do not reflect the Recommendations submitted to the federal government during consultations over the last two years. The public now has until September 23, 2024, to provide their feedback.

RIGHT NOW, there is A CALL TO ACTION.

The most helpful thing you can do either for yourself, a family member, a neighbour or someone you don't know who is living in your community is to contact the Ontario government and tell them not to reduce or claw back the benefit from existing provincial government disability supports. If your government takes no action, recipients of the Canada Disability Benefit who also receive social



Cont. assistance will experience a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their social assistance benefits. At know cost to your provincial government, simply by adding on line to the social assistance regulations exempting the CDB unearned income can improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Avoiding a claw-back is only the first step. We hope the government will also commit to adequately supporting people with disabilities by investing in much-needed income support and services to raise all people with disabilities out of poverty. A template letter to the government, names and email addresses have been linked to make acting quick and straightforward.

Inclusion Canada is working with Maytree and has developed several advocacy resources including an overview of the CDB that will provide a good foundation of information about the CDB and concerns.

Act Quickly and be on the lookout for other
CALLS OF ACTION – SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, is the cut-off date for all feedback.



An Emerging Communications Role

We are pleased to announce that Erin O'Reilly has taken on the role as our new Data, Media and Communications Team lead! Many of you will know Erin already from her involvement with Imagining Home and housing support for families. She has been with Durham Family Resources for close to six years now.

While Erin will be getting up to speed on all things data, media and communications, she will continue to oversee Imagining Home and housing support until the foreseeable future. Families directly connected with Erin will continue to have her support as we'll be taking our time with this transition. We're excited to welcome you to your new role, Erin!

Recognizing Capacity Family Reflections have Provincial Platform next month

This September we have been invited to present at the Community Living Ontario's Inspiring Possibilities Conference. Together with some families connected to the Recognizing Capacity project, we will be sharing 3 of the videos that were created to capture and showcase families' reflections. Just like at our film premiere in February, there will be lots of time for audience members to discuss and contemplate what they hear.

We are excited to have this opportunity to share family perspectives and continue to expand the reach and influence of their experience. Enabling others to understand in tangible ways, how supports for decision-making begins with the capacity of those closest to the person, to expect, notice and listen deeply to a loved one's will, preferences and all of the different ways we communicate what is important to us.

Recognizing Capacity

There's nothing more natural than seeking support in decision-making.

Check out our Recognizing Capacity learning site - see a series of videos which highlight our learning along with helpful takeaways and discussion prompts.

Individual family reflections further the learning around thinking deeply about how their loved ones' voices are heard.

Visit the website here!

We've Launched a NEW Resource Online!

Imagining Home Taking a Break in August, Resuming with Vigor in September

We're taking a break for the month of August! There will be no Imagining Home meeting this month but look forward to resuming again in September. In the meantime, take good care and have fun soaking in the rest of these summer days (and don't forget your sunscreen!!)

Come join the conversation!

Long time and new families alike, everyone has something to gain and something to offer. Each month at Imagining Home, we engage with anything "housing, home and community" and enjoy critical discussion, sharing stories, learning and often having a good laugh among respectful and supportive people! Families bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and are ready to share and support others along their journey.

All are welcome to attend and participate in Imagining Home when we meet on the second Wednesday of each month. But if you are new to the group and would like to attend Imagining Home for the first time (or returning after some time away) we'd ask that you first contact Erin at (905) 436-2500 ext. 2511 or eoreilly@dafrs.com to arrange an introductory call.



IMAGINING HOME MEETING • WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 • 6:30PM

IN PERSON AT THE GATHERING PLACE!

CONTACT ERIN FOR DETAILS ([EOREILLY@DAFRS.COM](mailto:eoreilly@dafrs.com))

BioMedical Approaches Study Group We're back in the Gathering Place on Friday at 10am

This month we'll be focused on a few things...

As we've come to learn and appreciate, small changes over time can make a big difference in our health and wellness. One of the ways many people are doing this, is by finding good swaps - changing out a regularly utilized item/habit, with a better-for-you and the environment version. Whether it's food, clothing, household cleaning products etc., we look forward to hearing what swaps people are trying.

With September around the corner and many wrapping up summer getaways, we also have some planning to do for the upcoming meetings. On the agenda for the near future is a session with Rosemary Oxenham (Sensory Specialist) and some time with an Artist who focuses on Expressive Art. Come and help us shape what the next few months of meetings will hold.

Should you want to join remotely, please be in touch directly. The group meets monthly and is open and welcoming to new and past participants! We usually meet on the second Friday of each month at 10am for about an hour to an hour and a half.

RSVP to Janet  if you'd like to attend!



**STUDY GROUP
INFO
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024
10 AM**

Making the Most Family Learning Series



This series runs for six sessions and participants are asked to commit to all six sessions.

For more information
click here

Bi-weekly evenings from 6:30 to 9:00pm

All sessions will be held in person at the Gathering Place



Have You Attended Making the Most Family Series?

The Making the Most Study Group is a fantastic opportunity for those who have completed the series to continue their learning and take some next steps in developing valued roles and relationships with a loved one.

Each month graduates of past Making the Most learning series are invited to come together and think more deeply about crafting and sharing a vision, designing and planning days full of contributions and possibilities, focusing on roles rather than activities, seeking and developing good support, making positive introductions, and finding strength, comfort, and energy through building personal networks, and connecting with other families.

Contact Laura lpowell@dafrs.com for more information.

We look forward to seeing people on August 26 at 6:30 to 7:30 pm for an in person gathering - more details to come!

respiteservices.com



Wanted: Family Input for New Recruitment Website!

DFR is working towards the creation of a new, local, robust recruitment and matching website. **We are looking for families to help us design and develop this new site because, of course, we are better together with families!** If you are interested in being part of a focus group that will collaborate on the design and testing of this site, contact Sandy at (905)436-3404 or sciarlariello@dafrs.com.

Respiteservices.com continues to match families looking for support, with those looking provide support. New supporters are continuing to be added. Contact Sandy for more information!

Important Dates At-A-Glance!

Making the Most Family Learning Series
6:30 to 9:30pm
Mon Sept 30, Tues Oct 15, Mon Oct 28, Mon Nov 11, Mon Nov 25, and Mon Dec 9

Making the Most Study Group
August 26 at 6:30 to 7:30 pm
in person at Gathering Place

Imaging Home Meeting
September 11 at 6:30 pm
in person at the Gathering Place

BioMedical
Sept 13 at 10 am
in person at the Gathering Place

CDB Call to Action public feedback ends
September 23, 2024

For more information, please visit our website at
www.dafrs.com

For more information, please visit our website, www.dafrs.com, and see the "Upcoming Events" tab.

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