

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.M., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C.,
M.P Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Sirs:

May 19th, 2020

During this unprecedented time, we thank the government of Canada for providing critical supports to its citizens. The government of Canada has provided income support for those who are employed and supports to businesses and students, as well as seniors, in a timely manner. We recognize how hard prioritizing supports can be, however, the 22% of Canadians who have a disability and the families who provide critical supports have not been provided with adequate federal support.

The 75% of Canadians who have a disability are chronically unemployed or underemployed rendering them ineligible for CERB, and 70% of this population live in poverty. Those who have an intellectual disability and have a job, earn less than half of Canadians who do not have a disability. This lack of equity increases the barriers to accessing basic needs.

Your government has correctly provided income support to seniors, presumably because you identified them as economically and socially vulnerable, especially during the pandemic. This same rationale should apply to our vulnerable citizens who experience disability.

We the families, and people with disabilities are being squeezed by higher or additional costs for:

- Personal Support Workers;
- Respite Supports;
- Food prices;
- Technology to get/stay connected;
- Mental health supports;
- Transportation (not safe on public transit so must resort to costlier options);
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- Gym Fitness Equipment for home use.

We urge you to correct this oversight as soon as possible. **Canadians who have disabilities are citizens as are their families.** Additional barriers at this point could devastate the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable citizens. We are asking that you provide urgently needed income support that recognizes the extra financial pressures people who have disabilities and their families are experiencing.

Sincerely,

Alison Ouellette and Susann Palmiere, Co-Chairs
SSAHPC-Special Services at Home Passport Provincial Coalition

Cc: Minister Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion