

STATEMENT

Canada Disability Benefit fails to include voices of those with FASD

June 15, 2022

The Canada Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research Network (CanFASD) welcomes the new Canada Disability Benefit announced on June 2, designed to reduce poverty and support the financial security of persons with disabilities. As we await further details, we urge Minister Qualtrough and the Disability Advisory Committee to consider the unique needs of individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). FASD is a complex and lifelong disability that affects at least 4% of Canadians, which is more than autism, cerebral palsy, and Tourette's ***combined***.

Despite the high prevalence and the complexity of FASD, the Disability Advisory Committee which advises the Canada Revenue Agency on Disability Tax Credit (DTC) eligibility [does not currently have a single member with FASD lived experience on the committee](#). Unfortunately, this puts the FASD community at a disadvantage.

People with FASD who apply for the DTC are being rejected 50% of the time in terms of eligibility. Most are having to renew every 3-5 years and then enter the cycle of rejection and reapplication again. CanFASD would welcome the opportunity to work with the Minister and the Disability Advisory Committee to share research, evidence and the critical voice of over 1.5 million Canadians with FASD.