

1375, boul. St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z7

Tel./Tél. : (613) 237-1590 Fax/Télec. : (613) 237-5508 Toll free/Sans frais : (844) 237-1590

cupemail@cupe.ca/courriel@scfp.ca – cupe.ca/scfp.ca

February 12, 2025

BY E-MAIL

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Re: Urgent Finalization of Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) Regulations

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we are writing to emphasize the urgent need to finalize the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) regulations. This landmark initiative represents a vital opportunity to reduce poverty, advance equity, and uphold the dignity of millions of Canadians with disabilities.

As a union, we stand in solidarity with workers who face systemic barriers to economic security. Many of these individuals are members of the disability community, whose financial struggles are often compounded by inadequate support systems.

The CDB is a critical first step toward addressing these challenges, providing direct financial assistance to 1.6 million Canadians currently living in poverty and laying the foundation for a more inclusive economy.

CUPE has called for enhancements to the regulations and those are still needed as next steps.

However, the current regulations will provide urgent, immediate support. The path forward is clear. Finalizing the CDB regulations will ensure timely implementation of this benefit, beginning on July 1, 2025. Delaying action risks further hardship for individuals who cannot afford to wait for the support they desperately need.

.../2

MARK HANCOCK

National President/Président national

CANDACE RENNICK

National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorière nationale

PATRICK GLOUTNEY, FRED HAHN, SHERRY HILLIER, GINA MCKAY, KAREN RANALLETTA

General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

By guaranteeing the CDB, your government can solidify your commitment to persons living with disabilities, demonstrating leadership that resonates not only with those directly impacted but with all people in Canada who believe in a society that leaves no one behind.

We urge you to act decisively and ensure the CDB regulations are finalized without delay.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this critical matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH' followed by a stylized flourish.

MARK HANCOCK
National President

vt/cope 491

c.c.: Minister of Disability Inclusion Kamal Khera; Minister of Finance Dominic LeBlanc; Treasury Board President
Ginette Petitpas Taylor; Minister of Justice Arif Virani