



FAIR Association of victims for Accident Insurance Reform
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Federal Budget 2024 – FAIRNESS for EVERY GENERATION leaves Canadians with disabilities behind

[Mississauga ON, April 19] - FAIR (Fair Association of Victims for Accident Insurance Reform) is a grassroots not-for-profit organization of MVA (Motor Vehicle Accident) survivors who have been injured in motor vehicle collisions and who have struggled with the current auto insurance system in Ontario.

Our members' lives have been turned upside down by many factors such as brain injury, loss of limbs, a need for surgery and ongoing therapies due to life-altering injuries and there is a loss of time from work, a loss of jobs and sometimes the loss of independence. Many of our members rely on Ontario's inadequate social supports, the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) and the Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPP-D) and are struggling to recover from injuries while living in deep poverty.

While the 2024 Budget pledges FAIRNESS for EVERY GENERATION that promise is not lived up to when the most vulnerable of Canadians are left behind in poverty and without adequate resources.

FAIR submitted material to the Senate during their consultation on C-22 in 2023 and we were hopeful that our Canadian government would do the right thing and step up to support disabled people when provinces, like Ontario, were failing to do so. When persons with disabilities are able to fully participate in our society, everyone will win. By failing to take immediate action the Federal government has ignored the needs of vulnerable Canadians and the hard work of Canada's Senators (SOCI) on this file.

"Despite Canadians clear support for the Canadian Disability Benefit (CDB) program the Federal government has turned a blind eye to the suffering we see every day. The timing of the CDB roll-out in July 2025 and the manner of qualifying for the new support program through the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) means that millions of Canadians, including Ontario's unpaid and struggling injured car crash survivors, will continue to be unfairly punished for their disabilities," says Rhona DesRoches, FAIR's Chair.

The inadequate support of less than \$7.00 a day or \$200 every month ensures Canadians with disabilities will continue to struggle in deep poverty and this undermines Canadian pride and our sense of self respect. The government has also failed to secure a promise from provinces and insurers that these funds will not be clawed back and this could undermine the funds ever reaching individuals who need assistance.

“In the past month Ontario’s disabled population has been kicked to the curb by both the Provincial government’s March 26 budget, which allowed no increases to social supports, and now at the Federal level where help isn’t on the way until July 2025. That’s a long time to wait for assistance needed now,” stated Tammy Kirkwood, FAIR’s Vice Chair.

Canada ranks 35th out of 39 countries when it comes to spending and support of persons with a disability. We cannot stay on this track. The CDB, as outlined in this budget, will fail to lift 6 million disabled Canadians out of extreme poverty and assist them into the main-stream of Canadian life as equal citizens. The government must rethink and retool the CDB or risk leaving Canadians with a shame they must face every day going forward.

Comments from FAIR members about their struggles and hopes for the CDB found at:
<http://www.fairassociation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FAIR-submission-to-SOCI-on-Bill-C-22-April-11-2023.pdf>

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