

## Equitable access to tax fairness for Canada's autism community

February 1, 2018 - OTTAWA, ON – Autism Canada is calling on the federal government to take action on the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), including the creation of a clear, transparent and informed application, review and appeal process.

“Understanding autism and its life-long impacts on individuals and their families, we hope our [submission](#) will underscore the urgent and compelling need for immediate action by the federal government to ensure that the financial security of this vulnerable segment of our society is protected,” said Dermot Cleary, Chair of Autism Canada.

Cleary presented five action items to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology and officials in the office of the National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouthillier today in Ottawa.

Autism Canada's [recommendations](#) include:

- the creation of a clear, transparent and informed application, review and appeals process;
- clear, consistent and universally accepted classification criteria for disability;
- uncoupling the Registered Disability Saving Plan (RDSP) from the Disability Tax Credit;
- federal monitoring and evaluation of population-based disability data; and,
- inclusion of the neurodevelopmental community on the Disability Advisory Committee.

“The Disability Tax Credit application process is onerous at best,” said Cleary. “Eligibility criteria are not suited to a neurodevelopmental diagnosis like autism. Doctors, clinicians and other healthcare practitioners are frustrated with the recent increase of application rejections or requests for additional information by Canada Revenue Agency.”

In November 2017, Autism Canada added its voice to concerns raised by other disability advocacy organizations regarding inconsistencies in the evaluation of applications for, or renewals of, the DTC.

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### **About Autism Canada**

Autism Canada is the only autism advocacy organization with a national perspective on the issues currently facing those with ASD, their families and other stakeholders. Together with our counterparts across the country, Autism Canada collaboratively works to share expertise, build consensus and help inform public policy. In addition to encouraging the sharing of best practices across provincial boundaries, Autism Canada actively promotes national dialogue on the most effective strategies for building equitable access to funding and services. To learn more, please visit <https://autismcanada.org/>.