



Autism
Alliance of Canada

Alliance canadienne de
l'autisme

Responding to Budget 2025: Member of Parliament Engagement Toolkit

Autism Alliance of Canada
November 2025

Part 1 : Engage with your MP about Budget 2025 and Changing the Disability Tax Credit

As a member of Autism Alliance of Canada, you can make a powerful difference in ensuring that newly elected Members of Parliament (MPs) prioritize meaningful change for Autistic people in Canada. You don't need to be a policy expert, advocacy is simply about sharing your story and asking your MP to take action.

This toolkit includes practical tips to help you engage candidates and share your real life perspective about the Reforming the Disability Tax Credit.

Steps to take:

1. **Identify your MP** using your postal code at www.ourcommons.ca/members. Your MP is your direct link to federal decision-making, knowing who they are is the first step to engaging them.
2. **Customize** the template letter ([click here to download the editable letter](#)) with your MP's name and riding, your personal connection to autism (if you're comfortable sharing), and any relevant details from your community. See the information in **Part 2** on the Disability Tax Credit if you wish to speak to it by adding in any of the Possible Talking Points examples below that you may identify with most.
3. **What to say to your MP:** Use these [key messages and talking points](#) to strengthen your letter and clearly outline what action is needed.
4. **Send your letter** via email or postal mail to your MP's office. Feel free to CC us at membership@autismalliance.ca.

Need help? If you'd like any **support personalizing your letter**, have questions, or want help connecting with your MP's office, please **contact us** at membership@autismalliance.ca - we're here to help.

Part 2 : Spotlight on DTC Reform

1. Addressing the Lifelong Reality of Disability (Ending Reassessments)

The Problem: Currently, families are forced into stressful, time-consuming reassessment processes just to maintain their status. This annual paperwork burden costs provincial healthcare systems millions—over \$62.5 million annually just for physicians filling out initial forms.

Possible Talking Points:

- **Focus on Fairness and Stability:** "If a condition is lifelong, families should not have to repeatedly prove that their disability exists. We are ending the frustrating cycle of repetitive paperwork"

- **A ‘Status for Life’ Approach:** “For individuals diagnosed, especially those diagnosed before age 16, we are asking to have Disability Tax Status for life. This eliminates unnecessary reassessments and ensures stability for families.”
- **Mirroring Existing Precedents:** “This change mirrors the system already in place for other serious, lifelong conditions, such as Type 1 Diabetes, ensuring equitable treatment across the board.”
- **Saving Time and Taxpayer Dollars:** “By reducing the number of reassessments—which numbered over 138,000 in 2023 alone—we save taxpayer money and free up valuable physician time, allowing doctors to focus on care, not complex 15-page government forms.”

2. Speeding Up Access to Support (Expanding Professional Signatories)

The Problem: Significant delays occur because a very narrow list of professionals are allowed to complete the bulk of the DTC application (Part Two), placing immense pressure on the 48,000 family physicians.

Possible Talking Points:

- **Focus on Accessibility:** “We recognize that wait times for approval are a major pain point for countless families. To cut through the backlog and ensure quicker access to benefits, we are expanding who is authorized to complete the necessary assessment forms.”
- **Bringing in Trusted Experts:** “We are immediately adding qualified professionals like Occupational Therapists (adding 20,000 professionals) and Social Workers (adding 52,000 professionals) to the list of those who can sign off on the application, within their professional scope of practice.”
- **The Bottom Line:** “By involving more trusted experts, we can significantly accelerate the application process, helping families get the support they need faster.”

3. Improving Service Delivery (Moving Administration)

The Problem: Having the assessment process administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) creates a complex bureaucratic interface that often doesn't align with the public's need for accessible disability services.

Possible Talking Points:

- **Focus on Client Service:** “We are strategically moving the administration of the assessment from the CRA to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). Why? Because this allows the service to be delivered through Service Canada.”

- **Alignment and Streamlining:** “Service Canada has a vast network of offices and a mandate centered around customer service. This shift ensures that the disability assessment process is better aligned with other government disability programs and provides a streamlined interface for the public, especially important as 55% of recipients are low-income and need streamlined access to benefits.”

Let's keep the momentum going!

Part 3 : Additional Resources

- [Budget 2025 Statement](#)
- [One Year In: Canada's Autism Strategy](#)
- [Policy Pulse - Modernizing Canada's Disability Supports](#)
- Learn more about [Autism Alliance Canada](#)
- [Autism Alliance Canada's Strategic Plan](#)

Part 4 : Share and Stay Connected

After you contact your MP :

- Let us know—email membership@autismalliance.ca with a copy of your letter or any response you receive
- Share your action on social media and tag us to inspire others to get involved
 - [@autismalliance.bsky.social](#) on Bluesky
 - Autism Alliance of Canada on [Linkedin](#) and [Facebook](#)