# 2019 First Annual Report of the Disability Advisory Committee

The **Disability Advisory Committee** advises the **Canada Revenue Agency** on how the Agency can improve the way it administers and interprets tax measures for Canadians with disabilities.

## WE HEARD FROM...

| +1,200 individuals | 34 organizations | through meetings, submissions and surveys | and came up with 42 recommendations |

## WE FOUND THAT...

| ~770,000 Canadians claimed the disability tax credit (DTC) in 2016-2017, providing $1.3 billion in tax relief | +89% of applications, on average, are approved each year | Applications for mental functions have lower approval rates | +4,500 Canadians had registered disability savings plans (RDSPs) clawed back after losing DTC eligibility |

## WE RECOMMEND...

### Making it easier for more Canadians to qualify for the disability tax credit

- Make eligibility criteria for physical and mental functions clearer and more clinically accurate
- Create a list of health conditions that automatically qualify someone
- Automatically qualify Canadians who need life-sustaining therapy

### Making the disability tax credit application process fairer

- Make the DTC form easier to fill out, and consider having separate forms for adults and children
- Simplify health providers’ role in the application process
- Give denied applicants better information about why they were denied and what they can do about it

### Making it easier to keep RDSPs and get other disability benefits

- Reconsider whether the DTC should be a gateway to other benefits
- Allow Canadians to keep their RDSP grants and bonds for all periods when they qualify for the DTC
- Make sure Canadians remain eligible for other benefits, even if they no longer qualify for the DTC

### Making helping Canadians with disabilities a priority

- Reduce poverty for Canadians with disabilities
- Provide more help to offset the cost of having a disability by making the DTC a refundable credit
- Raise awareness about tax measures for persons with disabilities
- Collect a wider range of DTC data to understand better how the DTC affects Canadians

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Read the full report at [canada.ca/disability-advisory-committee](http://canada.ca/disability-advisory-committee)