

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