

Public Opinion on Issues Associated with the Canadian Disability Benefit
An Angus Reid Institute Study in Partnership with PLAN Canada
FINAL Questionnaire (May 7)

Study will involve a total survey sample of 2000, including a representative national sample of the general population, as well as an augment of Canadians living with disability to take that key sub-group to a total of n= 800+.

Questionnaire Outline:
A. Context/Life & Work Satisfaction
B. Personal Association with Disability
C. Perceptions of Life with Disability
D. Disability Benefits -- Status Quo
E. Canadian Disability Benefit
F. Considerations and Specifics
G. Bottomline
H. Socio-demo's and other profile info

[Intro text]

In this survey, we're asking you about life in Canada and in your province today.

There are no right or wrong answers. We just want to understand people's personal experiences and views. All your responses are completely confidential and only reported in aggregate.

The survey should take about 10 to 12 minutes to complete.

A. Context/Life & Work Satisfaction

A1. [TARI 2018 POVERTY]

Base=All

Single choice grid

Let's start with a few questions about you and your life today.

Please indicate your own personal level of satisfaction with the following:

[This order]

Your own personal happiness and contentment with your life

[new] The overall outlook for your future

[Responses]

Very Satisfied
 Moderately Satisfied
 Moderately Dissatisfied
 Very Dissatisfied

A2.

Base=All

Single choice

When it comes to your own current personal financial situation, would you say you are:

Well-off – have plenty of money
 Comfortable – can afford what you want
 Okay – can afford the basics
 Struggling to get by

A3. [T ARI 2018 POVERTY]

Base=All Respondents

Single choice

How often, if ever, do you yourself:
 Feel very stressed out about money

Never
 Rarely
 Sometimes
 Often
 All the time

A4.

Base=All

Single choice

What is your current employment status?

Employed / self-employed full-time (30 or more hours per week)
 Employed / self-employed part-time (fewer than 30 hours per week)
 Full-time student
 Homemaker
 Retired
 Currently looking for work
 Not working – temporary medical/health leave

Not working – permanent medical/health leave
 On parental leave
 Other

A5. [TARI 2016 CAREERS]

Base=employed FT/PT (1-2) in A4

Single choice grid

How satisfied are you with your current employment when it comes to each of the following:

[Randomize rows]

Opportunities for advancing in your career

Your pay and benefits

Lets you use your training and skills

[new] How welcome and respected you feel at your work

[new] Your employer's accommodation and flexibility regarding employees' personal circumstances (e.g., family, disability)

[Responses]

Very Satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Very Dissatisfied

B. Personal Association with Disability

B1a.

Base=All

Multi-choice, select all

We want to focus now on people's experience with health conditions and/or disability.

Are you currently living with any of the following? (Please note, we are referring to current long-term conditions that have lasted or are expected to last six months or longer.)

(Select all that may apply)

[This order]

Chronic pain

Visual [e.g., blindness, glaucoma, macular degeneration]

Hearing [e.g., deaf, deafened, hard of hearing]

Physical disability [e.g., paraplegia, quadriplegia, cerebral palsy]

Mobility issues [e.g., difficulty walking, getting around]

Neurological issue / acquired brain injury [e.g., epilepsy, stroke, dementia]

Mental health issue [e.g., schizophrenia, mood disorder]

Developmental/learning disability [e.g., autism, down syndrome]

Auto-immune [e.g., Crohn's Disease, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, post viral syndrome]

Another chronic health condition [e.g., diabetes, heart disease, COPD]

Environmental sensitivities/ allergies (foods, chemicals, pesticides)

Other (specify):

Prefer not to say [exclusive]

No, None of the above [exclusive]

B1b.

Base=Exclude prefer not to say/none of the above in B1a

Single choice

And still thinking about your own overall health and the condition(s) and/or disability you may be living with, how much difficulty, if any, do you have completing daily activities?

No difficulty at all

A bit of difficulty

Moderate difficulty

A lot of difficulty

Cannot do

B1c.

Base=Exclude prefer not to say/none of the above in B1a

Single choice

How often are your daily activities limited by your own overall health and the condition(s) and/or disability you may be living with?

Never limits daily activities

Rarely

Occasionally

Often

Always limits daily activities

[For the purposes of the survey routing, PWD = at least one condition in B1a AND at least moderate difficulty (3-5) at QB1b OR at least occasionally (3 to 5) at QB1c.]

Note: This is broadly aligned with StatsCan definition and allows for refining in data analysis.

B2a.**Base=All not qualifying as PWD after QB1a/b/c****Multi choice, select all**

Do any of the other people in your life live with one or more health conditions and/or disabilities that pose significant challenges for day-to-day activities? (Select all that may apply.)

Yes, family member

Close friend

Co-worker or school mate

Acquaintance or neighbour

You have work experience in this area

No, no one/not close to anyone with significant health condition/disability **[Exclusive]****[Display screen for those with “family member” at QB2a]**

You have mentioned you have a family member living with a significant health condition and/or disability that poses challenges for their day-to-day activities and regular tasks.

For the following questions, if you happen to have more than one such family member, please think of the one closest to you.

B2b.**Base=Yes, family member in QB2a****Single choice**

Is this family member:

18 or older

17 or younger

B2c.**Base=Yes, family member in QB2a****Single choice**

Is this person:

Your child

Spouse

Sibling

Aunt or uncle

Cousin

Parent

Grandparent

Some other relation

[Display screen for those with “Close friend” but NOT family member at QB2a]

You have mentioned you have a close friend living with a significant health condition and/or disability that poses challenges for their day-to-day activities and regular tasks.

For the following questions, if you happen to have more than one such close friend, please think of the one closest to you.

B2d.

Base=Family member/Close friend at QB2a

Single choice

Would you be comfortable answering some questions about that [Pipe-in: family member’s/close friend’s] current situation and the challenges their health condition and/or disability may pose for them? (Keeping in mind your survey responses are ALWAYS completely confidential.)

Yes, comfortable answering some questions about this person

No, not comfortable

For purposes of the survey, Family Member/Close friend = Yes, comfortable at B2c.

So, 3 streams here:

PWD

Family member/close friend

Less/No personal experience/contact/with disability

(Each of which can be further spliced.)

B3a.

Base=Family Member/Close friend

Multi choice, select all

Please indicate which of the following conditions this [Pipe-in: family member/close friend] has:
(Select all that may apply.)

[This order]

Chronic pain

Visual [e.g., blindness, glaucoma, macular degeneration]

Hearing [e.g., deaf, deafened, hard of hearing]

Physical disability [e.g., paraplegia, quadriplegia, cerebral palsy]

Mobility issues [e.g., difficulty walking, getting around]

Neurological issue / acquired brain injury [e.g., epilepsy, stroke, dementia]

Mental health issue [e.g., schizophrenia, mood disorder]

Developmental/learning disability [e.g., autism, down syndrome]

Auto-immune [e.g., Crohn’s Disease, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, post viral syndrome]

Another chronic health condition [e.g., diabetes, heart disease, COPD]

Environmental sensitivities/ allergies (foods, chemicals, pesticides)

Other (specify):

Prefer not to say [exclusive]

B3b.

Base=Family member/Close friend

Single choice

Thinking about this [Pipe-in: family member/close friend] living with some disability, how would you describe their current personal financial situation:

Well-off – they have plenty of money

Comfortable – can afford what they want

Okay – can afford the basics

Struggling to get by

C. Perceptions of Life with Disability

[Display screen for all]

We now have some questions about living with significant health challenges and/or disability. Even if you don't have personal experience with this, we are interested in everyone's perspectives.

For this survey, when we refer to disability we are talking about:

Any impairment or limitation – including pain-related, flexibility, mobility, mental health related, seeing, hearing, dexterity, learning, memory, developmental – whether permanent or not, or visible or not, that can hinder a person's full participation in society.

C1.

Base=All

Single choice

Based on that definition, what would be your estimate of how many Canadians are living with disability today? Would you estimate the proportion to be:

1 in 3 Canadians (33%) live with disability

1 in 5 (20%)

1 in 10 (10%)

1 in 20 (5%)

1 in 100 Canadians (1%) live with disability

[Display screen]

In fact, official estimates are that 22% of Canadians – just over 1 in 5 – are living with one or more disabilities. This number includes visible and invisible disabilities and works out to about 6.2 million Canadians in total. Nearly half are living with a disability that significantly limits their ability to perform daily activities.

C2a.

Base=All

Single choice grid

How often, if at all, do you think Canadians living with disability encounter the following situations:

[rows – randomize. Except “education” always follows “job market”]

Unfair discrimination in the job market (that is, not being considered for a job they could perform well)

Unfair barriers to education

Other people under-estimating their ability

Exclusion from everyday events and activities they would enjoy

[Responses]

Never/Not an issue

Rarely

Occasionally

Frequently

Always

C2b.

Base=PWD

Single choice grid

And what about yourself? How often, if at all, do you encounter each of the following situations because of your own personal health condition(s) and/or disability:

[rows -- same order]

Unfair discrimination in the job market (that is, not being considered for a job you could perform well)

Unfair barriers to education

Other people under-estimating your ability

Exclusion from everyday events and activities you would enjoy

[Responses]

Never/Not an issue

Rarely

Occasionally

Frequently

Always

C2c.

Base=Family Member/Close friend

Single choice grid

And what about your [Pipe-in: family member/close friend] living with disability? How often, if at all, do you think they encounter each of the following situations because of their personal health condition(s) and/or disability:

[rows -- same order]

Unfair discrimination in the job market (that is not being considered for a job they could perform well)

Unfair barriers to education

Other people under-estimating their ability

Exclusion from everyday events and activities they would enjoy

[Responses]

Never/Not an issue

Rarely

Occasionally

Frequently

Always

C3.

Base=All

Single choice

Let's turn to finances now. Overall, what percent of Canadians living with disability would you estimate to be poor – that is, don't have enough money to live at the standard generally considered comfortable or typical in our Canadian society? Would you estimate:

1 in 3 (33%) Canadians with disability are poor

1 in 4 (25%)

1 in 10 (10%)

1 in 20 (5%)

1 in 100 (1%)

[Display screen]

The official estimate is that 23% of Canadians living with a disability are considered low income, earning significantly less than the median income in Canada. This percentage rises to 30% among people living with a more severe disability. In comparison, this poverty figure among Canadians without a disability is 9%.

C4.**Base=All****Single choice**

What about the cost of living? Based on your own experience and observations or on your general impressions, would you estimate that Canadians living with significant disability face a higher or lower overall cost of living than other Canadians?

Much higher cost of living

Higher

About the same

Lower

Much lower cost of living

No idea/Can't say

C5.**Base=PWD****Multi choice**

Do you yourself have higher expenses in any of the following areas as a result of your own condition(s) and/or disability? (Select all that may apply.)

Transportation costs higher

Medical costs/equipment

Personal care/support

Food – prep/delivery

Other (specify):

All of the above **[Exclusive]**No, do not have higher expenses **[Exclusive]****D. Disability Benefits -- Status Quo****[Display screen]**

We now want to ask people about the financial support currently available to Canadians living with a significant disability.

Currently, such financial support is mainly provided by the provinces in the form of income assistance payments and health-related benefits. The federal government also provides some disability benefits (as part of EI or CPP or Veterans' benefits).

D1.

Base=All

Single choice

Overall, how familiar are you with the financial support currently available to Canadians living with disability? Would you say you are:

Very familiar/Know a lot about it

Somewhat familiar

Not very

Don't know anything about it

D2.

Base=All

Single choice

Overall, based on your own experience or on anything you might have seen or heard, how would you describe the financial support provided by the current benefits available for Canadians living with disability?

Overly generous

Appropriate

Inadequate

Far too little

No idea/Really can't say

D3a.

Base=PWD

Single choice grid

To what extent, if at all, do you rely on the following sources of income to support yourself?
(If you don't receive or rely on any or you would rather not say, just indicate that.)

[rows, this order]

[PWD employed f-t/p-t at A4:] Your own employment income

Provincial benefit programs

Federal disability benefits (such as EI, CPP, or veterans disability benefits)

Long-term disability leave

Pension/savings

Your spouse

Other family support

[responses]

Rely a great deal/Main income source

Rely a fair amount

It helps

Don't receive/rely on at all

Rather not say

D3b.

Base=Family Member/Close friend

Single choice grid

To what extent, if at all, does your [Pipe-in: family member/close friend] living with disability rely on the following sources of income to support themselves? (If any they don't receive or rely on any or you would rather not say, just indicate that.)

[rows, this order]

Their own employment income

Provincial benefit programs like we've talked about

Federal disability benefits (EI, CPP, or veterans disability benefits)

Long-term disability leave

Pension/savings

Their spouse

Other family support

[responses]

Rely a great deal/Main income source

Rely a fair amount

It helps

Don't receive/rely on at all

Rather not say

D4.

Base=All

Single choice grid

Thinking broadly about support and benefits for Canadians living with disability, how much confidence do you have in each of the following to manage this area well?

[Rows. Rotate.]

Your provincial government

The Canadian federal government

[Responses]

A great deal of confidence

A fair amount

Not much

No confidence at all

E. Canadian Disability Benefit**[Display screen]**

The 2021 Budget included an announcement of \$12 million in funding over three years to consult and work towards creating a new national Canadian Disability Benefit (CDB).

The specific details of the CDB have not been designed yet but it is expected to be in addition to existing provincial support and modelled on the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for seniors with eligible Canadians with disabilities receiving a regular benefit based on household income.

E1.

Base=All.

Single choice

Have you heard, read, or seen anything about this proposed Canadian Disability Benefit?

No, have heard nothing about it (until now)

Just a little bit

Heard some info about it

Yes, quite familiar with this

E2.

Base=All

Single choice

Based on what you've seen read or heard – including in this survey questionnaire – what is your own reaction to the plan to create a new CDB? Would you say you are:

Pleased about this

No feelings either way

Against this

E3.

Base=PWD and Family member/Close friend

Single choice

As mentioned, the federal budget provides for 3 years of consultation as to what a new Canadian Disability Benefit would look like. Does that strike you as:

Moving too slow
About right
Moving too fast

E4.

Base=All

Single choice

How confident are you in the federal government to follow through on this commitment and establish a new CDB in the next few years or so? Are you:

Confident this will happen
Pretty sure it will
Doubt it will
Sure it won't happen
Can't say/Don't know

F. Considerations and specifics

F1.

Base=All

Multi-choice, max 4.

Establishing a new CDB within the next few years raises a number of considerations. Please review our list below and select the 3 or 4 that you personally consider most important. (If you have another important consideration not on our list, please type it in.)

[Randomize]

The **right thing to do**. Too many people with disabilities live in poverty.

Should be a **national program** consistent across the country

Cut **red tape** and hurdles to access benefits

Disability means **extra expenses** to cover

People with disabilities need more support to **participate and thrive in society**

Risk of **people abusing and faking eligibility**

Cost of such a major new program

Other priorities should take precedence

Other consideration: **[Fixed]**

F2.

Base= All

Single choice

There's also been some discussion about what a new national Canadian Disability Benefit (CDB) should mean for current provincial support programs. Some people with disabilities have expressed concern that these provincial benefits will still be needed, while others say this could be an opportunity to cut provincial costs.

What is your overall view on this? If a new national CDB does come into being, do you think provinces should maintain or cut existing benefits?

Definitely maintain

Probably maintain

Probably cut

Definitely cut

Don't know

G. Bottomline

G1.

Base=All

Single choice

As mentioned, the new Canadian Disability Benefit would work like the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors and similarly provide payments to eligible disabled Canadians to ensure they reach a minimum income level.

Broadly speaking, where do you think the Canadian Disability Benefit should set that minimum income level?

Below the poverty level

Equal to the poverty level

Above the poverty level

Nothing – don't have a disability benefit at all

G2.

Base=All

Single choice

Overall, do you support or oppose this proposed Canadian Disability Benefit?

Strongly Support
Moderately Support
Moderately Oppose
Strongly Oppose

G3.**Base=All****Single choice**

Finally, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

A Canada Disability Benefit is an essential commitment for the government to make. It's time the country came together to end disability poverty.

Strongly Agree
Moderately Agree
Moderately Disagree
Strongly Disagree

H. Socio-demo's and other profile info

NOTE: The following is pre-profiled, if we want to know anything else about the respondent, we have to ask:

Gender
YOB
Education
Income
Ethnicity
Viz Min
Number of ppl in HH
Number of minors in HH
Marital status
Postal code
2019 Vote
LGBTQ