



Ms. Margaret Parlor  
President  
National ME/FM Action Network

By email: [president@mefmaction.com](mailto:president@mefmaction.com)

Dear Ms. Parlor:

I am responding to your letter of October 26, 2023, congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities. I appreciate your kind words of encouragement and support. You also wrote to request that your organization, National ME/FM Action Network, be involved in shaping regulations for the Canada Disability Benefit.

First, I would like to express my appreciation for the work that your organization does for Canadians with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Fibromyalgia. Rest assured that the Government is taking action to address the financial hardships that persons with disabilities are facing, including those with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Fibromyalgia.

As you know, framework legislation for the Canada Disability Benefit, the *Canada Disability Benefit Act*, received Royal Assent on June 22, 2023, after being passed by the House of Commons unanimously and by the Senate. The goal of the Benefit is to reduce poverty and support the financial security of working-age persons with disabilities. As you mentioned, within six months of the Act coming into force, the Government will report on how it engaged and collaborated with the disability community, including representative organizations such as yours, in the development of regulations. More information on the Act, including translation into American Sign Language of the version of the Bill from first reading in the House of Commons, is available at [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits.html).

The Government is very aware of the fact that many Canadians with disabilities need the additional financial support that this benefit will provide. The intent, therefore, is to move forward as fast as we can with the regulatory development process. To that end, the 2023 federal budget committed \$21.5 million in 2023–2024 to continue work on the future delivery of the Benefit. Engagement is taking place with the disability community and the provinces and territories regarding the regulatory process, which play a central

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role in providing supports and services for persons with disabilities. This work will build on engagement activities that took place in 2021 and 2022, including roundtables and an online public survey, as well as community-led consultations, which continue into 2023. More information on the future regulatory engagement process and how to get involved will be available online in the coming months at [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disabilities-benefits.html).

The Canada Disability Benefit is a key component of Canada's first-ever Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The Action Plan is a blueprint for change to make Canada more inclusive of persons with disabilities based on the principles of equality, anti-discrimination, participation and inclusion in the development of our programs and policies. The Action Plan will evolve over time to respond to ongoing engagement with persons with disabilities. It will continue to reflect the realities of persons with disabilities in an ever-changing world. In addition to the Benefit, it also includes a robust employment strategy for Canadians with disabilities, and ongoing work to develop a better process to determine eligibility for federal disability programs and benefits. Additional information on the Action Plan is available at [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disability-inclusion-action-plan-2.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disability-inclusion-action-plan-2.html).

I understand that you and other organizations from the Disability Tax Fairness Alliance recently met with departmental officials from the Office for Disability Issues. I encourage you to stay engaged throughout the engagement process for the development of the regulations for the Canada Disability Benefit.

Thank you for taking the time to write. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Khera', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Kamal Khera, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities