



Income tax season is just around the corner and it is important for all parents of children living with diabetes to be familiar with the **Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** and subsequently, the **Child Disability Benefit (CDB)**.

The **Disability Tax Credit** is a non-refundable tax credit that reduces the amount of income tax that may be owed by people living with disabilities or the people who support them. Parents can often claim the **DTC** on behalf of a dependent child who is living with diabetes.

Children living with diabetes may qualify for the **Disability Tax Credit** as they require a form of life sustaining therapy which may require a parent to dedicate their own time (at least 3 times a week for an average of at least 14 hours per week) to assist in the child's diabetes management. This dedicated time is separate from the other normal, everyday activities associated with caring for a child.

In order for your child to qualify for the **Disability Tax Credit**, you must apply for it by submitting a completed **Disability Tax Credit Certificate (T2201)** to the Canada Revenue Agency. Please note that a qualified practitioner (your child's family physician or pediatrician) has to complete a portion of the **T2201** form. The good news is that you can submit this completed document to your appropriate tax centre at any time of the year, preventing delays in processing your next income tax return during tax season. You can also back-file your application if you have not claimed the **DTC** in previous years when your child may have been eligible.

Because the **Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** is designed to reduce a person's taxing owing, if you are not owing any taxes, you may not see any tax refunds being issued. **It is important to note, however, that even though you may not see a tax benefit associated with submitting the T2201 form, the submission of this form is required in order for your child to be assessed for eligibility for the Child Disability Benefit (CDB).**

The **Child Disability Benefit (CDB)** is a tax-free benefit made available under the Canada Child Tax Benefit for families who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions.

The amount received is calculated based on income. More information can be found by visiting: www.cra.gc.ca/benefits, choosing Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) under Programs and Benefits, and then selecting **Child Disability Benefit (CDB)**. Please note that it is always advisable to consult with an accountant or income tax preparation specialist with any specific questions you may have pertaining to your individual tax situation.

The Alberta Healthy Living program (formerly known as Building Healthy Lifestyles) is a resource for you and your family regarding diabetes. 403-388-6675.