THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA | LE COLLÈGE DES MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE DU CANADA

The Honourable Wayne Long, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you as members of the Focus on Family Medicine Task Force to support the calls to action proposed by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) to implement urgent changes to the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) form.

Paperwork takes up time that could be spent on direct patient care. In 2024, **family doctors spent the equivalent of over one million patient visits** completing the 330,000 DTC forms processed that year. With the implementation of the new Canada Disability Benefit program, that time is projected to **increase by over 50%**. At a time when six million Canadians do not have a regular family doctor, this is unacceptable.

The Disability Tax Credit is a critical societal support and the process around it must be simplified and focused on the needs of the patient, rather than using family doctors as gate keepers to access critical aid.

We therefore call on the federal government to implement the recommendations listed below for long- and short-term solutions to the administrative burden caused by the DTC:

Long-term

- **Amend Section 118.3 of the *Income Tax Act*** to eliminate the requirement for family doctors to certify the DTC. Instead, enable patients to complete and submit a simplified self-attested DTC form, and implement an audit process during which a certificate from a family doctor (or another provider) can be requested.

Short-term

- **Simplify the DTC form** using input from family doctors. Its current 16-page length is unacceptable.
- **Enable automatic eligibility for the DTC** if a patient is already approved for other disability supports, such as the CPP Disability Benefit or provincial disability benefits.
- **Expand the range of health professionals allowed to certify the DTC form** beyond family doctors**.** This would allow for task delegation and alleviate the current burden.

These recommendations are echoed by patient advocacy groups such as Disability Without Poverty.

These recommendations will result in more approachable system for patients and free up family doctor time for direct patient care, reduce family physician burnout, and increase the appeal of family medicine to medical graduates. This is an essential measure to working towards a more streamlined way to process the DTC applications as well as ensure every Canadian has access to a family doctor.

Sincerely,



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