

July 29, 2020

The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa Ontario
K1A 0A6

Sent by Email justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Support for Federal Assistance for People with Disabilities - COVID-19 Pandemic

At their regular meeting on July 15, 2020 Essex County Council received a letter from the Chair of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee outlining the ECAAC's appeal for Federal Assistance for People with Disabilities - COVID-19 Pandemic. Essex County Council passed the following resolution:

140-2020

Moved By Gord Queen

Seconded By Crystal Meloche

That Essex County Council supports the request of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee to seek additional funding from the Federal government for certified holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to assist with the added financial burden that many people living with disabilities are facing during the COVID-19 Pandemic;

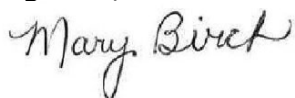
And further, that the resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, local members of parliament, local municipalities and to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. –

Carried

As such, please find enclosed a copy of the ECAAC letter.

Should you require further information, please feel free to contact the undersigned at mbirch@countyofessex.ca.

Regards,



Mary Birch
Director of Council and Community Services / Clerk

CC:

- The Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion - Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca
- Chris Lewis, MP Essex - Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca
- Irek Kusmierczyk, MP Windsor-Tecumseh - Irek.Kusmierczyk@parl.gc.ca
- Dave Epp, MP Chatham-Kent-Leamington - Dave.Epp@parl.gc.ca
- Brian Masse, MP Windsor West - brian.masse@parl.gc.ca
- Municipalities of Amherstburg, Essex, Kingsville, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Leamington and Tecumseh
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities, President Bill Karsten - info@fcm.ca



June 30, 2020

Gary McNamara, Warden and Members of Essex County Council
360 Fairview Ave. W.
Essex, Ontario
N8M 1Y6

Dear Warden and Members of Council,

Re: Federal Assistance for People with Disabilities - COVID-19 Pandemic

Recently, the Federal government announced a 'Special one-time tax-free payment for certified holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)'. They have committed to providing a special one-time tax-free payment to individuals as of June 1, 2020, as follows:

- \$600 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate.
- \$300 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension.
- \$100 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

These payments, while appreciated, are inadequate compared to the added financial burden that many people living with disabilities are facing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is no end in sight to this crisis and people are running out of resources. Many of our most vulnerable people are suffering as a result of inadequate care, reduced availability of care-givers, added expenses, the loss of their ability to be independent and possibility the ability to provide for themselves during the pandemic. The need for additional living supports coupled with their limited means to cover those costs have put a great burden on an already marginalized group of citizens. Many people living with a disability have other underlying health issues, which means that they may be particularly vulnerable to contracting the virus, and thus need added PPE and to rely on goods and services to be delivered to them at their own expense. The cost of these added supports add-up quickly and the financial impact can mean disaster.

It is not enough to provide a one-time payment and we ask that the Federal government reconsider and increase their funding for people with disabilities during this crisis.

We ask that Council offer their support for people living with disabilities and forward this request to the Prime Minister as well as to the Minister of Employment, Workforce

Development and Disability Inclusion, to our local members of parliament, to our local municipalities and to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee wishes to raise awareness regarding this issue and is hopeful that people living with disabilities get the financial assistance that is not only vital, but also for some, could be a matter of life and death. The ECAAC is thankful to Council for continued support and for your attention to this very important matter.

On behalf of the ECAAC,

Christine Easterbrook

Christine Easterbrook
Chair, Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee