



#CCBJUSTICE

BACKGROUND

1. What is the Canada Child Benefit (CCB)?

- The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a tax-free monthly payment that the Canadian government provides to eligible low-income/middle-income families with children who are under 18 years old.
- One of the main purposes of CCB is to reduce child poverty in Canada.

2. How much does CCB pay if you are eligible?

- The CCB pays a maximum of \$6765 a year to families with children who are less than 6 years old.
- The CCB pays a maximum of \$5708 a year to families with children who are between 6 years old and 17 years old.
- During the pandemic in 2020, the government paid an additional \$300 to all eligible families.
- In 2021, the government has made four payments that added to a maximum of \$1200 for all eligible families with children under 6 years old.
- The CCB payment amount reduces when the family makes more money (net income).

3. What is Subsection 122.6(e) of the Income Tax Act?

- Subsection 122.6(e) is a law in Canada that makes CCB payments only available for families where at least one parent/live-in partner has the immigration status of:
 - Citizens,
 - Permanent residents
 - Protected persons
 - Temporary residents who have lived in Canada for at least 18 months, OR
 - “Indians” who are registered under the Indian Act

4. How is subsection 122.6(e) of the Income Tax Act affecting the Canada Child Benefit?

- Subsection 122.6(e) is a law that only allows CCB for children with a parent (or the parent has a live-in partner) who has an immigration status mentioned above.
- Children who are not eligible for CCB because of this law include:
 - Children who cannot leave Canada for reasons they cannot control (for example, children whose parents cannot leave Canada because the Canadian law does not let them).
 - Children born in Canada but they do not live with parents who have immigration status.
 - Children whose parents are refugee claimants.

5. What are the harmful effects of subsection 122.6(e) of the Income Tax Act?

- Many children (even if they are born in Canada) do not get CCB, even though Canada is their home.
 - Even if their parents are considered “residents” for tax purposes and pay income tax.
- This also affects children and their families in many harmful ways, including:
 - Increasing the risk of poverty, and affecting children’s education, health, and well-being
 - Forcing women to stay with abusive partners who have status in Canada so her children can keep getting CCB. The children are also forced to stay in the abusive household which affects their emotional well-being and development.
 - Sending the message that some children are not worth protecting from poverty.

6. What changes are we recommending?

- Eliminate subsection 122.6(e) of the *Income Tax Act* and allow all parents who follow the law and file taxes with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) the ability to receive CCB for their children.