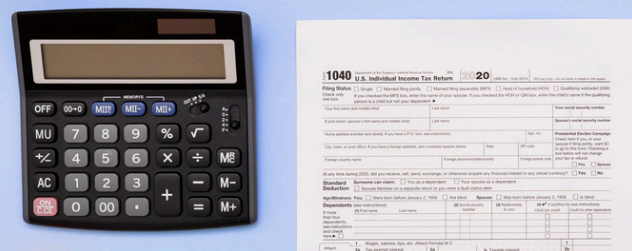


Tax credits and benefits for caregivers

by Emily Gallant



Caregiving often comes with extra costs. Medications not fully covered by insurance, higher gas budget to travel to all the appointments, grocery bill rising every year, money to make the home safer – the list goes on.

Thankfully, there are a few tax credits and benefits that can support caregivers and alleviate some financial pressure.

Specifically for caregivers

Caregiver Benefit – a provincial program that provides \$400 per month to eligible caregivers supporting low-income adults with a high level of disability or impairment (assessed through Continuing Care). Both you and your care recipient must qualify to receive the benefit.

Canada Caregiver Credit (CCC) – a non-refundable tax credit available for caregivers of a spouse, common-law partner or a dependant with a physical or mental impairment. The amount you can claim depends on your relationship to the person, their net income and other credits claimed for that care recipient.

Medical costs and home supports

Medical Expense Tax Credit (METC) – there are a few medical expenses you can claim on your tax return. You can find a full, searchable list on the CRA's website.

Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit (MHRTC) – a refundable tax credit that helps families cover the cost of building a separate, self-contained living space on their land for an adult who is either 65+ or eligible for the Disability Tax Credit.

Home Accessibility Tax Credit (HATC) – a tax credit that helps seniors or people with disabilities pay for renovations making their home safer and more accessible. The claim must be for the home the qualifying person lives.

Seniors Care Grant – provincial grant that helps low-income seniors with the cost of household services, healthcare services and home heating. Grants are \$750 for each household. You can apply until 31 March.

Disability Tax Credit and related supports

Disability Tax Credit (DTC) – a non-refundable tax credit that helps reduce income tax for people with disabilities. If your care recipient qualifies, they may be able to transfer part (or all) of their credit to you as their caregiver. A medical practitioner must complete Form T2201 for CRA approval. Once approved, DTC can help you access other programs, such as the Canada Disability Benefit, the Child Disability Benefit and the Registered Disability Savings Plan.

Canada Disability Benefit – get up to \$200 a month if you're 18-64 and approved for the Disability Tax Credit.

Child Disability Benefit (CDB) – a tax-free monthly benefit for families with a child under 18 with a serious, long-term physical or mental disability. Parents must qualify for Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and the child must be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) – a long-term savings plan for people under 60 who qualify for the Disability Tax Credit. Anyone can contribute: family, friends, the plan holder and even the government through matching grants and bonds, depending on family income. It's primarily a retirement plan, but some money can be withdrawn before the plan holder turns 60. In that case, you may need to repay government contributions.

Canada Workers Benefit (CWB) – a refundable tax credit that can boost refunds or reduce taxes owed for low-income workers and families. Eligibility and the amount depend on your income and family situation. If you have the Disability Tax Credit, you may also qualify for the CWB Disability Supplement.

Remember: even if you earned little or no income, you should file taxes. You could get a refund for the taxes withheld or receive refundable credits even if you don't owe any tax.