



August 31, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Email: [justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

At the regular council meeting of August 24, 2020, Town of Essex Council reviewed the attached correspondence from the County of Essex Council outlining the appeal from the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) for Federal Assistance for People with Disabilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a result of the review the following resolution was passed,

R20-08-301

Moved By Councillor Verbeek

Seconded By Councillor Bjorkman

**That** correspondence from the County of Essex, dated July 29, 2020 supporting the request from the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) to the Federal Government to provide additional funding for certified holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to assist with the added financial burden during the COVID-19 Pandemic, be received and supported; and

**That** a letter of support be sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion and a copy of the letter of be sent to the ECAAC.

**Carried**



The Town of Essex supports those who are living with disabilities and facing additional financial burdens during this time of COVID-19. We respectfully request your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Auger".

Robert W. Auger, L.L.B.  
Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk  
Ext. 1132  
Email: [rauger@essex.ca](mailto:rauger@essex.ca)

Enclosure

RWA/lam

cc. Honourable Carla Qualtrough  
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion  
Email: [carla.qualtrough@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carla.qualtrough@parl.gc.ca)

Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee  
c/o Christine Easterbrook, Chair

County of Essex  
c/o Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk  
Email: [mbirch@countyofessex.ca](mailto:mbirch@countyofessex.ca)



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](mailto: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;

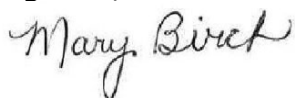
And further, that the resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, local members of parliament, local municipalities and to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. –

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca)
- Chris Lewis, MP Essex - [Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca)
- Irek Kusmierczyk, MP Windsor-Tecumseh - [Irek.Kusmierczyk@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Irek.Kusmierczyk@parl.gc.ca)
- Dave Epp, MP Chatham-Kent-Leamington - [Dave.Epp@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Dave.Epp@parl.gc.ca)
- Brian Masse, MP Windsor West - [brian.masse@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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

519-776-6441  
TTY 1-877-624-4832

360 Fairview Ave. W.  
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

countyofessex.ca

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