



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

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November 30, 2017

The Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of National Revenue
Connaught Building, 7th Floor
555 Mackenzie Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0L5

Re: Disability Tax Credit for type 1 diabetics

Dear Minister LeBouthillier,

I write to you today on behalf of many of my constituents who are very concerned and will be deeply affected by the recent changes to qualification for the Disability Tax Credit for Type 1 Diabetes.

As you may be aware, Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) is an incurable chronic medical condition affecting nearly 250,000 Canadians, which requires injections or infusions of insulin throughout the day in order to sustain life. The costs to manage this medical condition are very significant, and they affect whether a person can afford the choice of using an insulin pump or having to use the traditional method of injections.

Unfortunately, the Disability Tax Credit has been inconsistently granted by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), and for some, almost impossible to qualify for. An average out of pocket cost for a T1D person to maintain this illness can be in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year. Receiving a tax credit, to reduce the financial burden from the cost of these life-saving treatments, goes a long way to in helping them maintain a better quality of life.

It has been noted in many studies that those who can manage their disease more rigorously have fewer complication which can result in less use of the overall health care system. It takes applicants, along with their doctor, a significant amount of time and effort to complete the necessary application for the Disability Tax Benefit. This illness is a very real threat to many Canadians that will never go away. The financial costs are very real, and it is very unfortunate that the Canada Revenue Agency is not working to make sure this small tax benefit is available to those who need it.

On behalf of my constituents that suffer from this incurable chronic medical condition, I urge you to immediately review the process of qualification for the Disability Tax Credit and provide some assurance that they will continue to receive it to cover their medical costs.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alistair MacGregor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

AM/lf