

# Respite... YOU deserve it!

*Disability Tax Credit*

3 March 2009

The disability amount, also known as the Disability Tax Credit, is used to reduce the amount of income tax you pay.

The Disability Tax Credit is useful for families who have a dependent with a disability or for a person who has a disability.

By reading this article you will know if you or a family member should consider claiming this credit and how to claim it.

In order to claim this credit you must show that:

- . the condition has existed for at least 12 months;
- . there must be an impact on the Activities of Daily Living such as eating, bathing, dressing, getting around, etc.

This [federal government website](#) has a series of questions to help you decide if you should consider claiming the credit for yourself or your family member.

You must apply for the credit by filling out a form called the T2201 (Disability Tax Credit Certificate). Then you take the completed form to a health care professional who can verify the disability, such as a doctor, occupational therapist, etc. [This website](#) explains which health care professional's signature is required for each type of disability.

You must send the completed T2201 Form to your local tax centre. This can be done at any time of the year. In fact, you can make a claim for past years by asking for an adjustment to your tax return.

If the claim is approved, a credit of up to \$7,021 (2008 taxation year) can be used to reduce taxable income. For example, if you apply for

the 2008 tax year your credit can be up to \$7,021 if your claim is approved.

For more information go to the [Canada Revenue Agency website](#) discussion of Line 316 (Disability Amount).

Next week's topic will be the Child Disability Benefit.

Comments? [Talk to us!](#)

**See you next week!**

**The Nova Scotia Partnership on Respite, Family Health, and Well-Being is made up of:**

Autism Society of Nova Scotia;  
Caregivers Nova Scotia Association;  
Central Region Respite Society;  
Halifax Association for Community Living  
IWK Health Centre – Autism Research Centre;  
IWK Health Centre – Children's Health Program;  
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Northern Region Respite Services;  
Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women;  
Nova Scotia Association for Community Living;  
Nova Scotia Department of Community Services (Services for Persons with Disabilities);  
Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission;  
Progress Centre for Early Intervention;  
Society for the Treatment of Autism;  
Spina Bifida Association; and  
Yarmouth Association for Community Residential Options (YACRO).

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