



# THE RDSP HOMEOWNERSHIP PLAN: ADVANCING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP FOR CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES



Canadians with developmental disabilities **can** and **do** own their own homes. Many more want to - but lack the same tools to attain homeownership that public policy provides to Canadians without disabilities.

While the Registered Disability Savings Program (RDSP) is intended to support the long-term financial stability of Canadians with disabilities, the current design of the RDSP makes it nearly impossible to use these savings towards homeownership. To fill this gap, My Home My Community has created a homeownership tool designed specifically for people with developmental disabilities to access homeownership using an existing savings program.



The RDSP Homeownership Plan has identified three key changes to the RDSP that would enable many more Canadians with disabilities to achieve housing stability and financial security through homeownership.

Key features of the RDSP Homeownership Plan:

- **A new withdrawal option** that would allow people to use funds from their accounts without penalty towards the purchase of a home. Current rules make it nearly impossible for Canadians with disabilities to use RDSP savings to purchase a home in their lifetime.
- **Increased flexibility in when people can access matching Grants.** Purchasing a home requires capital up front. The RDSP Homeownership Plan would provide opportunity to access more of the lifetime allotment when its needed, rather than being restricted to accessing only a portion of available grants within a given year.
- **Broadening the eligibility for government contributions.** Eligibility for government Grant and Bond contributions to Canadians' RDSP savings is tied to family incomes, meaning that support is phased out at levels that exclude many people with disabilities who face housing affordability challenges.

Taken together, these changes could make homeownership much more accessible for Canadians with developmental disabilities. Financial modelling to test the impact of the RDSP Homeownership Plan shows that these changes would substantially improve the housing options available to Canadians with disabilities, even for people with moderate incomes. Modelling shows that under the RDSP Homeownership Plan, people with disabilities who rely on social assistance and have family support to contribute \$1,500 a year to a RDSP can afford to purchase a home in any market in Canada, except Vancouver and Toronto, by age 49.

### What's Next?

The CACL national federation and its disability partners will be calling for the federal government to implement the RDSP Homeownership Plan, and keeping finance, tax, and legal professionals up to date on the proposed changes. To stay up to date with our work and the federal government's response, sign up for our newsletter at [www.cacl.ca](http://www.cacl.ca)

The RDSP Homeownership Plan and all related materials were produced as part of **My Home My Community**, a national initiative of the Canadian Association of Community Living, the national federation working to advance the full inclusion and human rights of people with an intellectual disability and their families, and People First of Canada, the national organization representing people labelled with an intellectual disability.

My Home My Community is a national partnership initiative that is opening doors to inclusive affordable housing for people with developmental disabilities. My Home My Community is driving innovation in housing development and community supports to ensure all persons with developmental disabilities have a home that offers choice and affordability, recognizes rights, addresses support needs, and fosters social inclusion in the community.  
[www.myhomemycommunity.ca](http://www.myhomemycommunity.ca)

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