



Disability Benefits (Disability Tax Credit & CPP Disability Benefit)

Show Notes

Guests: Disability Alliance BC

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Episode Summary:

This episode discusses two significant financial benefits available to Canadians with disabilities: **the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** and the **Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD)**. The DTC is a non-refundable tax credit aimed at individuals with severe, prolonged disabilities, helping reduce taxes and access other programs like the Canada Workers Benefit (CWB), Child Disability Benefit (CDB), and the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). The CPPD provides financial assistance to individuals unable to work due to a disability, provided they have made sufficient contributions to the CPP and have a severe and prolonged disability. The speakers emphasize the importance of filing appeals if applications are denied and provide tips for the application process.

Websites:

- Disability Alliance BC: dabc.ca
- CRA Disability Tax Credit Info: canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit
- CPP Disability Info: canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp/cpp-disability-benefit.html

Key Terms and Definitions:

- **DTC (Disability Tax Credit):** A non-refundable tax credit for those with severe, prolonged disabilities to reduce tax liabilities and access additional benefits.
- **CPPD (Canada Pension Plan Disability):** A monthly benefit for individuals with disabilities who are unable to work, provided they have contributed to the CPP.
- **RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan):** A savings plan offering up to \$90,000 in government contributions for individuals with disabilities.
- **CWB (Canada Workers Benefit):** A refundable tax credit to assist low-income workers, including a disability supplement.
- **CDB (Child Disability Benefit):** A tax-free monthly benefit for families caring for a child with a disability.
- **CPP Credit Split:** Happens when a couple separates or divorces in Canada. It divides the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions made while they were together, so both partners get an equal share of the pension benefits.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you or someone you know applied for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)? What was the process like for you?
- How has being eligible (or ineligible) for the DTC affected your access to other benefits or support?
- What challenges did you face when applying for disability benefits, and how did you overcome them?
- Can you share a time when you found out about a benefit you were eligible for after many years? How did it change things for you?
- Have you ever had to appeal a denied application for a disability benefit? What was that experience like?
- What strategies have helped you navigate the paperwork and requirements for disability-related benefits?
- How has access to benefits like the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) changed your long-term financial planning?
- What tips would you share with someone who is just starting the process of applying for disability benefits?

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