# Canada Pension Plan disability benefits (CPP-D) Application

# Disability Alliance BC - Sample Letter for Your Doctor

Date Name

Return address

Dear Doctor, I am writing to ask you to complete a Medical Report for my application for Canada Pension Plan disability benefits. I am enclosing the Medical Report form.

To qualify for CPP disability benefits, I must provide medical evidence to show that:

* Ever since I last worked (date\_\_\_\_), my disabilities have prevented me from regularly maintaining “substantially gainful” employment in any job (not just my previous job); and that
* My condition is not likely to improve for the near future.

If you can complete the Medical Report for me, please include:

* When you began treating my medical condition. If this is after the above date, please mention any medical documents you may have from my previous physicians (Section 3).
* A Section 5 sheet for each of my medical conditions.
* The form only comes with three, however, you can photocopy one of the pages and attach additional pages if I have multiple conditions.
* A list of my impairments and functional limitations that prevent me from working.
* Prognosis does not have to be written in stone. In deciding whether I will get CPP Disability the decision-makers are looking at whether my condition is going to improve, deteriorate, stay the same, or whether this is unknown. The strongest application will be one where the condition(s) meet the definition of severe and will likely deteriorate or stay the same.
  + Many doctors like to say “unknown” and that does result in a weaker application. It does not mean an automatic denial, but it is something the Medical Adjudicators do reference in some of their denials, as evidence that your condition may improve with treatments, and you will probably be able to go back to some type of work when that happens.
  + If they can focus on “likely” instead of “absolutely,” hopefully you and your doctor can create a stronger application that will show a real picture of if you are expected to see dramatic improvements or not.
* Expected duration should be more than 1 year. Any conditions that are temporary may not have an impact on CPP-D.
* Frequency of symptoms if recurrent/episodic, and if they are unpredictable, please make a note of that as well.
* A list of the medications I am taking and have taken. There is not a great deal of space. You can include attachments of things like Pharmacare records or lists.
* Types of treatments we have tried to control my conditions. There is not a great deal of space. If we have attempted more than 3 you can include an attachment that lists them all.
* My employment situation (Section 6)
* If you did not recommend that I stop working but you agree with me that I could not work when I did stop, please include a note giving that context (Question 1)
* If you believe it is unlikely that I will be able to return to work in the future, please consider saying so (Question 2). If you believe that I will most likely be able to return to work in the foreseeable future, we may be having a miscommunication as my understanding is that is unlikely.
* Supporting documentation (Section 8)
* When submitting additional documents please remember that Service Canada is assessing my employability.
* The CPP Disability Medical Report often does not go into a great level of detail. Please attach any report(s) or notes that you think would be relevant to my application.

I would be happy to discuss my application with you. If possible, please show me the form when you have completed it, so that we can go over it together before it is submitted.

Thank you for your help with my application.

Sincerely, [Name & Signature]