

COVID-19 Government Financial Support

(Last Updated: April 2, 2020)

Bellow is a summary of government financial support programs during the COVID-19 crisis. It is not an exhaustive list and information is changing daily. For up-to-date information, please refer to the following websites (**short links provided for easier typing**):

- Federal Government COVID-19 Financial Support:
<https://bit.ly/3bKOce9>
- BC Government COVID-19 Financial Support:
<https://bit.ly/2R6xA8N>

Income (Unemployment) Support	
Support	Description
Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)	<p>Provides a payment of \$2,000 for a 4 week period (equivalent to \$500 a week) for up to 16 weeks.</p> <p>You should apply for CERB, whether or not are eligible for EI.</p> <p><u>Eligibility:</u> Workers (Canadians aged 15+ and who made at least \$5,000 from employment in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to application) who stopped working because of COVID-19 as a result of following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have lost your job or your hours have been reduced to zero• You are in quarantine or sick• You are away from work to take care of others because they are in quarantine or sick• You are away from work to take care of children or other dependents whose care facility is closed• You are a contractor or self-employed who do not qualify for EI. <p>You must be without income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period.</p> <p>Applications open on April 6, 2020. The Benefit is available for the period from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html</p>

Employment Insurance (EI)	<p>Existing EI benefit continues to be available.</p> <p>Those who qualify for the CERB should apply for the CERB instead.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit.html</p>
Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefit	<p>Provides 55% of your earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week for up to 15 weeks of financial assistance.</p> <p>The following changes were made in response to COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-week waiting period has been waived. • People claiming EI sickness benefits due to quarantine will not have to provide a medical certificate. • People who cannot complete their claim for EI sickness benefits due to quarantine may apply later and have their EI claim backdated. <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html</p>
B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers	<p>One-time additional tax-free payment of \$1000 to those on EI or CERB.</p> <p>Information about this benefit will be available soon at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/covid-19-financial-supports/emergency-benefit-workers</p>

Income Supplements	
Support	Description
Canada Child Benefit (CCB)	<p>An extra \$300 per child through CCB for 2019-2020</p> <p>It will be part of scheduled CCB payment in May.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increasing_canada_child_benefit</p>
Special GST Credit Payment	<p>One-time special payment for low- and modest-income families in May. Additional benefit will be up to \$400 for single individuals and up to \$600 for couples.</p> <p>If you are eligible, you will get it automatically.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#increased_goods_services_tax_credit</p>

Climate Action Tax Credit	<p>A one-time enhancement payment for moderate to low-income families in July 2020. Up to \$564 for eligible families of 4 and \$218 for eligible individuals.</p> <p>Benefit is paid out according to your income tax return.</p> <p>More information at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/income-taxes/personal/credits/climate-action/enhanced-july-2020-payment</p>
BC Senior's Supplement	<p>Additional \$300/month boost for three months for low-income seniors who receive the B.C. Senior's Supplement.</p> <p>No application needed, support boosts will be applied to payments automatically.</p> <p>More information at: https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0012-000620</p>
Income Assistance & Disability Assistance	<p>COVID-19 crisis supplement of additional \$300/month for three months for those who do not qualify for federal emergency supports like CERB.</p> <p>The following changes were made in response to COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income from CERB or EI will not result in reduction in monthly assistance for three months. • Those on BC Bus Pass Program will receive their \$52 transportation supplement back in cash. <p>More information at: https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020SDPR0012-000620</p>

Other Financial Supports/Deferrals	
Support	Description
ICBC Payments	<p>Customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.icbc.com/insurance/buy-renew-cancel/Insurance-payment-plan/Pages/Default.aspx</p>

Canada and BC Student Loans	<p>No payment will be required and interest will not accrue on student loans for six months, starting on March 30, 2020.</p> <p>Repayment will be paused automatically and no application is necessary.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#canada_student_loans </p>
BC Transit & TransLink	<p>Free boarding on all buses. Enter through rear of the bus, unless accessible loading is required.</p> <p>More information at: https://buzzer.translink.ca/category/covid-19-coronavirus/ </p>
Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs)	<p>Minimum withdrawals from RRIFs has been reduced by 25% for 2020.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#eased_rules_registered_retirement_income_funds </p>
Income Tax Returns	<p>Filing due date is deferred to June 1.</p> <p>Payments owed are deferred until after August 31.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#extra_time_income_taxes </p>

Housing Support	
Support	Description
BC Hydro	<p>BC Hydro is halting all service disconnections for non-payment of bills and reducing electricity rates by 1%. BC Hydro also is making more support available through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Relief Fund applies a 3-month credit to your BC Hydro account for eligible customers (avg credit will be \$477). • COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program offers bill deferral and payment plans for customers struggling due to impacts of COVID-19. • Customer Crisis Fund is an existing program that grants of up to \$600 off your energy bill. <p>More information at: https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2020/covid-19-updates.html </p>

<p>Freezing Rent Increases and Halting Evictions</p>	<p>No rent increases are allowed in BC effective April 1, 2020.</p> <p>A landlord may not issue a new notice to end tenancy for any reason.</p> <p>Contact Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) for more information: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/residential-tenancies/covid-19</p>
<p>BC Temporary Rental Supplement (BC-TRS)</p>	<p>A temporary rent supplement will provide up to \$500 per month paid directly to landlords. Assistance will be available to low and moderate-income renters who are facing financial hardship because of COVID-19.</p> <p>Applications for the supplement will open soon on the BC Housing website: https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19</p>
<p>Mortgage Support</p>	<p>Mortgage payment deferrals available for CMHC-insured loans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defer up to six monthly mortgage payments (interest and principal). • Deferred payments are added to the outstanding principal balance and subsequently must be repaid. <p>Contact your financial institution for further mortgage assistance.</p> <p>More information at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#mortgage_support</p>