



community food centres
CANADA good food is just the beginning

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CANADIANS DURING COVID-19

The federal government has announced financial assistance measures for Canadians to help them stay afloat during the coronavirus pandemic. Here's what you need to know.

For more information, visit: www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html

Note that government phone lines are likely to be very busy, and Service Canada offices are shut down. If possible, it will be quicker to apply for benefits online.

SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Increasing the Canada Child Benefit

The Canada Child Benefit will temporarily increase by \$300 per child. This will be delivered as part of the scheduled payments in May.

People who already receive the Canada Child Benefit do not need to re-apply. People with children under the age of 18 who do not receive the Canada Child Benefit can apply through the Canada Revenue Agency online or call 1-800-387-1193 or 1-866-426-1527 in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Special GST credit payment

People living on low and modest incomes will receive a one-time special payment by early May through the GST credit. This will average nearly \$400 for individuals and nearly \$600 for couples.

There is no need to apply for this payment—it will automatically be sent to people who are eligible.

Extra time to file income tax returns

The deadline to file 2019 tax returns has been pushed back to June 1, 2020. For people who owe taxes, they will not have to pay until after August 31, 2020, with no interest or penalties.

Note: *If you expect to receive benefits under the GST tax credit or the Canada Child Benefit, you are encouraged not to delay your 2019 income tax filing.*

Mortgage support

Canadian banks have committed to working with their customers on a case-by-case basis to help them find solutions around mortgage payments. Contact your financial institution for further assistance.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE FACING UNEMPLOYMENT

The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit

The federal government will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for 4 months to:

- Workers who have to stop working because of COVID-19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support.
- Workers who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- Working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures.
- Workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.
- Wage earners and self-employed individuals, including contract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance.

Note: *The Canada Emergency Response Benefit will be accessible on the federal government's website starting in early April. There will also be a toll-free number.*

Employment Insurance

If you were recently laid off or have reduced hours and qualify for Employment Insurance Benefits, you can apply now. To find out if you are eligible and to apply, visit www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html, call 1-800-206-7218.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK, QUARANTINED, OR IN DIRECTED SELF-ISOLATION

The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (see above)

Improved access to Employment Insurance sickness benefits

If you are sick, quarantined or have been directed to self-isolate, the federal government will not require you to provide a medical certificate to access Employment Insurance sickness benefits. To find out if you are eligible and to apply, visit www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei-sickness.html or call 1-800-206-7218.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE TO WORK

The new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (see above)

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

Reduced minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds

The required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) will be reduced by 25% for 2020.

SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

A new Indigenous Community Support Fund

The federal government is providing \$305 million to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities.

Communities identified by Indigenous Services Canada, the National Indigenous Organizations and other Indigenous leaders, based on emergency needs, do not need to apply.

Regional, urban and off-reserve Indigenous organizations need to apply through a call for proposals that will be opened soon. To find out more, visit www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES

A moratorium on Canada Student Loans repayments

Effective March 30, the federal government will allow for a six-month interest-free pause of Canada Student Loans repayments. There is no need to apply for the repayment pause.