

# COVID-19 Financial Supports

Last Updated March 19, 2020

## Changes to Existing Benefits

Provider	Benefit and Description	Intended Recipients	More Info:	Application Link
Service Canada, Government of Canada	<p>Employment Insurance (EI) Sickness Benefit: Recipients can receive 55% of their earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week</p> <p>The one-week waiting period for those in quarantine is waived</p> <p>The requirement to provide a medical certificate is waived</p>	Those employed who cannot work due to illness, injury or quarantine	<p>Info: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness.html</a></p> <p>Contact: 1-833-381-2725 (A dedicated phone line regarding EI claims for COVID- 19 quarantine and illness)</p>	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html</a>
Service Canada, Government of Canada	<p>Employment Insurance: For most, the basic rate for calculating EI benefits is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings, up to a maximum amount. As of January 1, 2020, the maximum yearly insurable earnings amount is \$54,200 resulting in a maximum amount of \$573 per week.</p>	Individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own	<p>Info: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/ei/ei-list/reports/regular-checklist.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/ei/ei-list/reports/regular-checklist.html</a></p> <p>Contact: 1-800-206-7218, online, mail options</p>	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html</a>
Global Affairs Canada, Government of Canada	<p>COVID-19 Emergency Loan Program for Canadians Abroad: Repayable loan of up to \$5000 to help secure a timely return to Canada and to temporarily cover life-sustaining needs while working towards the return.</p>	Canadians who have no available source of funds to return home	<p>Info: <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-to-provide-financial-assistance-to-canadians-abroad.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-to-provide-financial-assistance-to-canadians-abroad.html</a></p> <p>Contact: <a href="mailto:CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca">CAN.finances.CV19@international.gc.ca</a></p>	N/A

Edmonton Transit Services (ETS), City of Edmonton	Holders of March low-income Ride Transit Program passes will be able to use their passes throughout April	Those receiving the low income transit pass	Info: <a href="https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/subsidized-transit.aspx">https://www.edmonton.ca/ets/subsidized-transit.aspx</a>  Contact: 311	<a href="https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/PDF/LeisureAccessProgramApplication.pdf">https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/PDF/LeisureAccessProgramApplication.pdf</a>
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## Upcoming Benefits

Provider/ Benefit Name	Description	Intended Recipients	Anticipated Availability	Links
Government of Canada / <b>Emergency Care Benefit</b>	Money every two weeks to workers who have to stay home because they are sick, in quarantine, isolation or caring for someone who is sick. The program will provide 14 weeks of benefits up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks	Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.  Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.  Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.	Early April	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html</a>
Government of Canada / <b>Emergency Support Benefit</b>	TBD	Canadians who lose their job and are not eligible for employment insurance, including people who are self-employed.	Early April	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html</a>

Government of Canada / <b>Goods and Services Tax Credit (GSTC)</b>	<p>One-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC). This will double the maximum annual GSTC payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year</p> <p>Average boost will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples</p>	Low and modest income families	Early May	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/departments-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/departments-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html</a>
Government of Canada / <b>Canada Child Benefit (CCB)</b>	Increase the maximum annual payment amounts only for the 2019-20 benefit year, by \$300 per child. The overall increase for families receiving CCB will be approximately \$550 on average; these families will receive an extra \$300 per child		May CCB Payment	<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/departments-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Income_Support_for">https://www.canada.ca/en/departments-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Income_Support_for</a>
Government of Alberta / <b>Emergency Isolation Support</b>	One-time payment of \$1,146 will be distributed to bridge the gap until the federal emergency payments begin in April	A temporary program for working adult Albertans who must self-isolate because they meet the Government of Alberta's published criteria for self-isolation, including persons who are the sole care-giver for a dependent who must self-isolate because they meet the public health criteria, and who will not have another source of pay or compensation while they are self-isolated.	Week of March 23rd via online application through Alberta.ca	<a href="https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx</a>