

**Covid 19 Government Support for the Individual  
(As of October 1, 2020, and to the best of our knowledge)**

***Canadian Emergency Response benefit (ended)***

You may have been eligible for this program.

- This benefit is \$500 weekly. You will be able to collect for up to 24 weeks and is available from March 15 to Sept 26, 2020. There is no waiting period.
- Application remains online through your CRA My Account or online Service Canada Account. When applying to set up the CRA my account, have your 2018 tax return handy since you will be asked questions about it to verify your identity. Once application is made you will need to wait for mail from CRA with your login code.

**Eligibility:**

- You must be 15
- Stopped work because of COVID 19 – illness, quarantine or shortage of work
- If you are on EI and are eligible for the CERB you will automatically be transferred to the CERB
- If you own a corporation paying tax at the small business rate and take dividends as compensation, you are eligible for CERB
- You must have had at least \$5,000 income in 2019 or the prior 12 months
- You must have had no earnings for 14 consecutive days in the first 4 week period.
- There are 7 - 4 week periods, you may collect for 6 of those periods. The last period begins August 30.
- Part time workers earning less than \$1,000 per month also qualify for the CERB if they are under-employed due to Covid.
- The government has announced that benefits will continue for those in need after September 26, 2020 – some will now go on regular EI, more announcements will be forthcoming.

This benefit is now being replaced by the following:

***Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)***

The CRB provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for workers who have stopped working or had their income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID 19, and who are not eligible for EI. Applications will open on October 12.

## ***Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)***

The CRSB provides \$500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks, for workers who:

- . are unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they contracted COVID-19
- . are self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19
- . have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments or have contracted other sicknesses that, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, person in authority, government or public health authority, would make them more susceptible to COVID-19

Applications will open on October 5

## ***Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)***

The CRSB provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers:

- . are unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or a family member because, schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19
- . because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine or is at high risk of serious health implications because of COVID-19

Applications will open on October 5

**WARNING** – all these government supports are taxable and you will get T slips from CRA – You may owe tax next year when normally you would get a refund depending on your circumstances.

## ***Employment Insurance***

If you are off due to contracting Covid 19 or have others in your family with Covid or have been directed to self-isolate, you may have your waiting period waived. If you are off work because your employer is closed due to Covid 19, you will receive normal benefits after the normal one week waiting period. You may be able to switch from EI to the CERB.

If you have questions, here their link

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/eligibility.html>.

## ***Canada Child Benefit***

An additional \$300 per child was to be delivered as a part of your May payment if you currently were to receive this benefit. This was to be automatic, you did not need to apply.

## ***Goods and Services Tax***

A one-time payment of \$400 for a single individual and close to \$600 for couples was to be issued starting April 9 if you were currently eligible for the HST benefit. This was to be automatic, you did not need to apply.

## ***Mortgage Deferral***

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you may apply for a deferral of your payments for up to six months. You will have the option to make them up all at once or to capitalize them and extend your mortgage. Check with your bank for more details.

## ***Help for Seniors***

With the recent market slump that was experienced in the early period of Covid, the government allowed you to reduce the minimum you must withdraw from your RIF by 25%. This meant that you would not have to cash in as many investments while they were low if you don't need the money. We do recommend reviewing your entire portfolio carefully with your investment advisor while making these decisions.

**TIP:** If you are able, you may also decide to defer your RRIF withdrawal until the end of the 2020 (still meeting the withdrawal requirement however allowing the markets [hopefully] to regain some lost momentum we have witnessed in the early part of 2020).

Seniors receiving the old age security pension were also scheduled to automatically receive up to \$500 in additional payments. Everyone was receive a \$300 one-time payment, and if you receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement you were receive an additional \$200.

If you are low income senior received the Ontario Guaranteed Income System payments, your payment was scheduled to be doubled for six months beginning April 24, 2020.

Check the record of the payments you have received to ensure that you have received these enhanced benefits

## ***Help for Students***

A six-month moratorium had been put in place on charging interest and making loan payments. No interest was to be charged or accrued or payments required. If you are a student, this was to be automatic and you did not need to apply. The Canada Summer Jobs program was been enhanced to assist employers to hire students, and the program period had been extended to February 28, 2021 (this program applies to those aged 15-30). This was intended to make it easier for employers to hire you.

Post-secondary students were expected to be eligible for \$1,250 per month (\$1,750 if you have a disability) for the months of May to August. You may also make up to \$1,000 per month from a part time job. Application was required to be made through your My CRA account.

There will also be a subsidy program for post-secondary students who volunteer of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 depending on the hours you volunteer.

Student grants for eligible students were expected to be doubled, up to \$6,000 for full time and \$3,600 for part time students.

The maximum weekly amounts available through the Canada Student Loans program will increase to \$350 per week for the 2020-2021 year.

If you are a student and were laid off because of Covid and you made \$5,000 in 2019 you are eligible for the CERB.

All student loan borrowers will automatically have their loan repayments and interest suspended until September 30, 2020.

### ***Low wage essential workers***

Low wage essential workers will have their income topped up to \$2,500 per month. These payments will flow to your employer (if eligible) and will be added to your pay. More information is here

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-temporary-pandemic-pay>

### ***Temporary Foreign Workers***

The government will provide up to \$1,500 per temporary foreign worker to help pay for 2 weeks of quarantine costs.

### ***Allowance Extensions***

**Canada Child Benefit (CCB):** Due to the extended tax filing date, it was announced that eligible Canadians, who are presently receiving the Canada child benefit (CCB) payments, will continue to receive these payments until the end of September 2020. Payment amounts will be based on information from 2018 tax return(s) if their 2019 tax return has not been filed or assessed in time to calculate their benefit entitlements for the July to September 2020 payment.

You're still required to file your 2019 income tax return. If the CRA is unable to assess your return by early September 2020, your estimated benefits and/or credits will stop in October 2020 and you'll have to repay the estimated amounts that were issued to you starting in July 2020.

Other allowances: The same rules apply for GIS and GST payments

However, if this is your first year of applying for any of the allowances, please consider filing your income tax return as soon as possible to ensure a timely receipt of your entitled allowance.

## ***Help for those with disabilities***

If you have a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate at July 1, 2020, receive CPP disability, QPP disability or receive disability from Veterans Affairs you will receive a one-time payment of \$600. If you are eligible but never applied for the Disability Tax Credit, or your certificate expired in 2019, you must do so by September 25, 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/covid19-emergency-benefits/one-time-payment-persons-disabilities.html>

CRA is expected to issue the payments beginning this fall. The payment information will be provided at the following link once available.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html>

## ***Fun Fact***

***Stiff penalties are in place if things are done incorrectly.***

3,000 auditors have been assigned to manually review certain claims. They will review based on the size of the claims, or the size of employers. For example, 100% of claims made by large employers are expected to be reviewed. Most will be automatically processed. Reviews are intended to be completed in 72 hours. 2,000 agents will be assigned to answer questions on the program.

***As always, the most up to date and more detailed information on Covid support is available at [www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html)***