

COVID-19: Economic Relief and How to Apply

CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER 18, 2020

Measures for Individuals



CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

A taxable benefit of \$2,000 per four-week period for up to 28 weeks applies to those who lost their job, are experiencing work disruptions due to COVID-19, are sick, quarantined or caring for someone who is sick with COVID-19.

Program ended October 3, 2020, retroactive applications can be made until December 2, 2020.

[To learn how to apply click here.](#)



EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI)

Effective September 27, 2020, temporary changes will enhance access to EI regular and special benefits. Additionally, EI premium rates will be frozen for two years.



NEW RECOVERY BENEFITS

For those not eligible for EI, but need income support once CERB payments are exhausted, three new benefit programs were introduced on September 27, 2020, available for one year.

- **The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** provides a taxable \$500 per week benefit for up to 26 weeks for those who need help while looking for work or while under-employed. CRB is received as a two-week benefit, must meet the criteria for entire two-week period in order to apply. Application for each applicable two-week period must be made separately and only after the applicable two-week period has ended. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CSRB)** provides a taxable \$500 per week benefit, up to 2 weeks, for workers who are sick with COVID-19, have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of COVID-19, or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Application is for a specific one-week period, must apply for each period separately, application available after the one-week period has ended. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **The Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit (CRCB)** provides a taxable \$500 per week benefit, up to 26 weeks, per household, for those who are unable to work due to caring for a child, disabled family member, or dependent due to COVID-19. Application is for a specific one-week period, must apply for each period separately, application available after the one-week period has ended. Click [here](#) for more information.



SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

25% reduction in minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIF) in 2020.

Similar rules apply to individuals receiving variable benefit payments under a defined contribution registered pension plan. **Speak to your IG Consultant if you do not require the full current RRIF minimum.**

A one-time tax-free payment of \$300 was provided for those eligible for Old Age Security (OAS) pension.

An additional \$200 was paid for those seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). **No need to apply – eligible individuals received it automatically during the week of July 6.**



HOME OFFICE EXPENSES DEDUCTION

For 2020 only, deduction available for employees who have worked from home 50% of the time for a period of at least four consecutive weeks.

Up to \$400 available under the flat rate option for those employees who don't wish to retain receipts and/or for those without a T2200/T2200S issued from their employer. Detailed method available for those with greater than \$400 of expenses, does require a T2200/T2200S and the retention of supporting documents.

[Click here for more information.](#)



DISABILITY TAX CREDIT (DTC)

For certificate holders of the DTC, the Government provided a one-time tax-free payment of \$600.

Amount will be reduced if also eligible for the one-time GIS and/or OAS special payment. The one-time payment extended to include persons who, as of July 1, 2020, are beneficiaries of CPP Disability benefits, QPP Disability benefits, or one of the disability supports provided by Veterans Affairs Canada.

No need to apply – eligible individuals received it automatically starting October 30, 2020.



CANADA CHILD BENEFIT (CCB) INCREASE

For already qualifying families, four additional payments will be received.

\$300 per child, under the age of six, to families with net income equal to or less than \$120,000. This benefit reduces to \$150 per child, under the age of six, when family net income is above \$120,000.

[New applications click here.](#)



TEMPORARY WAGE TOP-UP FOR LOW-INCOME ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Up to \$3 billion will be made available.

Each province and territory will determine eligibility, and how much support workers will receive.



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Students and recent graduates will receive a six-month interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans. No need to apply.

Intention announced November 30, 2020, to eliminate the interest owing on the repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for 2021-2022.

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provided eligible students with a taxable payment of \$1,250 per four-week period from May 10 to August 29, 2020.

This amount increased \$2,000 per four-week period for eligible students who are disabled or have dependents.

[Click here for information](#)



MORTGAGE SUPPORT

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is providing increased flexibility for homeowners facing financial difficulties by permitting lenders to allow payment deferral beginning immediately.

Through Canada's large banks, a deferral of up to six months for mortgage payments and possible relief on other credit products may be available. **Contact your financial institution for more information.**



IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT MORTGAGE AND SOLUTIONS BANKING CLIENTS

For clients facing financial difficulty, we will work with you on a plan that is best suited to your needs.

[For more information and to contact us, please click here.](#)

Measures Supporting Businesses



CANADA EMERGENCY WAGE SUBSIDY (CEWS)

For businesses that experienced a decrease in revenues due to COVID-19.

This program covers 75% of wages up to a weekly maximum subsidy of \$847 per employee for the period of March 15 to July 4, 2020. Program expanded as of July 17. For July 5 onward, all businesses with a revenue decline may be eligible for the subsidy. Subsidy amount for periods after July 4, 2020, will depend on revenue decline experienced over certain timeframes. On November 20, 2020, the program was extended until June 2021, details up to March 13, 2021, have been released thus far. Not based on the number of people employed and is also available to charities and non-profits. Funds began being available to employers in early May. Also includes a 100% refund for certain employer-paid contributions for employees on paid leave.

[For more information click here.](#)



TEMPORARY SMALL BUSINESS WAGE SUBSIDY (TSBWS)

Provided eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period of up to three months.

Equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. To benefit, employers could reduce their remittance of income tax withheld on their employees' remuneration – starting in the first remittance period for remuneration paid between March 18 - June 19, 2020. **Note:** Benefits claimed under the TSBWS reduce benefits claimed under the CEWS.

[Click here for further information.](#)



CANADA EMERGENCY COMMERCIAL RENT ASSISTANCE (CECRA)

CECRA was available to provide relief for small businesses with respect to commercial rent payments.

The program offers forgivable loans to eligible commercial property owners who offered a minimum of a 75% rent reduction to small business tenants for the months of April, May, and June 2020. The program was extended to voluntarily include the months of July, August and September. The online application process began on May 25, 2020.

[For more information on this program, click here](#)



CANADA EMERGENCY RENT SUBSIDY (CERS)

CERS is a new program to provide rent and mortgage support to businesses, charities, and non-profit organizations who have experienced a decline in revenues due to COVID-19.

Subsidy consists of a base subsidy and a top-up subsidy called lockdown support. The top-up of 25% will be available to organizations who are forced to shut down or cease certain activities temporarily due to a public health order. The top-up applies on a pro-rated basis of eligible days within the qualifying period. Both subsidies apply to a maximum of \$75,000 in eligible expenses per location (subject to overall limitation of \$300,000 for the base rate). The first qualifying period began on September 27, 2020. The program is anticipated to be available until June 2021.

[For more information on this program and to apply, click here.](#)



INCREASING CREDIT

The Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) will provide more than \$65 billion in support targeting small and medium-sized businesses and non-profits.

Businesses seeking support should contact their financial institution as an initial step. **The BCAP includes the following programs:**

- Canada Emergency Business Account
- Export Development Canada (EDC) Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- EDC Mid-Market Guarantee and Financing Program
- BDC Mid-Market Financing Program

[More information and updates on the program can be found by clicking here.](#)



SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

The near-term credit available to farmers and the agri-food sector will be increased through Farm Credit Canada.



EXTENDING THE WORK-SHARING PROGRAM

The Work-Sharing program provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers.

Temporary changes to this program extend the eligibility of such agreements to 76 weeks, ease eligibility requirements, and streamline the application process.

[For more information on eligibility and to apply, click here.](#)



WHAT APPLIES TO ME?

The government has created an online questionnaire to help guide Canadians as to what benefit programs they may be entitled to. To access, click [here](#).