

Federal financial supports for individuals in response to COVID-19



Photo: Flickr, Justin Trudeau

Temporary salary top-up for low-income essential workers

- The Government of Canada will work with provinces, such as Alberta, to cost-share salary top-ups for low-income workers earning less than \$2500 per month (full-time employment)
- For low-income workers deemed essential in the fight against COVID-19
- Details to be released shortly. [Click here](#) for the Government of Canada website for updates.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

A taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who meet the following conditions:

- Live in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- Have stopped working due to COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular sickness benefits
- Have not voluntarily quit their job
- Earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the past 12 months prior to the date of their application
- People can earn up to \$1000 per month while collecting CERB
- Seasonal workers who have exhausted their regular EI benefits and are unable to seasonally work because of COVID-19
- Any worker who has recently exhausted their regular EI benefits and are unable to find a job because of COVID-19

For more info or to apply, [click here](#).

Canada Child Benefit (CCB)

- An increase to the maximum annual Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment amounts only for 2019-2020
- Up to an extra \$300 per child
- The benefit will be delivered as part of the scheduled CCB payment

Special Goods and Services Tax Credit Payment

- A one-time payment starting April 9th through the Goods and Services tax credit for low and modest family incomes
- \$400 for single individuals, \$600 for couples
- If you are eligible, you will automatically get the benefit

Mortgage Support

- Canadian banks have committed to work with their customers on a case-by-case basis to find solutions to help them manage hardships caused by COVID-19
- Lenders have been permitted to defer up to six monthly mortgage payments
- Canadians who are impacted by COVID-19 and experiencing financial hardship as a result should contact their financial institution regarding flexibility for a mortgage deferral
- For more information, [click here](#)

Enhancing the Reaching Home Initiative – Homelessness

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the government will be providing \$157.5 million to the Reaching Home Initiative. The funding could be used for a range of needs such as purchasing beds and physical barriers for social distancing and securing accommodation to reduce overcrowding in shelters. [Click here](#) for more information.

Women's Shelters and Sexual Assault Centres

The government is providing up to \$50 million to women's shelters and sexual assault centres to support women and children fleeing abuse. [Click here](#) for more information.

Mental Health Support for Youth

\$7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide young people with the mental health support they require during this challenging time. [Click here](#) for more information.

Canadian Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans

All student loan borrowers will automatically have their loan repayments and interest suspended until September 30th, 2020. This only applies to the federal portion of student loans and borrowers should check with their provincial student loan provider to see if payments are required.

Canadian Revenue Agency Deferring Tax Filing

In order to provide greater flexibility to Canadians who may be experiencing hardships during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Canada Revenue Agency will defer the filing due date for the 2019 tax returns of individuals, including certain trusts.

- For individuals (other than trusts), the return filing due date will be deferred until June 1, 2020. However, the Agency encourages individuals who expect to receive benefits under the GSTC or the Canada Child Benefit not to delay the filing of their return to ensure their entitlements for the 2020-21 benefit year are properly determined.
- For trusts having a taxation year ending on December 31, 2019, the return filing due date will be deferred until May 1, 2020.

The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as installments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

Delivery and Services for Seniors

\$9 million to be contributed through the United Way for local organizations to support practical services to our Canadian seniors. These services include delivery of groceries, medications, outreach, etc. [Click here](#) for more information.

Registered Retirement Income Funds

There will be a reduction from the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020. [Click here](#) for more information.

References: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html>

