

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS- COVID-19

Disclaimer: The author(s) in no way guarantee the veracity and accuracy of this document or the government plans. This is merely a document aggregating content that is available online through government bulletins, news, Provincial and Federal government websites. The goal is to create a STARTING POINT for those that are facing financial hardship to get familiar with the support available to them. Please refer to the official websites for more information.

PROGRAM	DATE	AMOUNT	ELIGIBILITY	APPLICATION
CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT	Applications open week of April 6, payments received within 10 days of application. The CERB would be paid every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.	\$2000/MONTH for 4 months, paid every 4 weeks	The CERB would cover Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures. The CERB would apply to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI). Applies to workers who must stop working due to COVID-19 and don't have access to paid leave, and 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.	Opening Soon
EI Regular	N/A	55% of your earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week.	Eligible for those that lost job through no fault of their own, need 700 hours in past 52 weeks (varies with region, Vancouver's is 700 hours). Other eligibility requirements on https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/eligibility.html	https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/apply.html
EI Sickness	One-week waiting period WAIVED	55% of your earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week.	unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine, to allow them time to restore their health and return to work. Canadians quarantined can apply for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits. NO MEDICAL CERTIFICATE REQUIRED.	https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply.html
BC Housing Rental Assistance Program	Assistance is paid by direct deposit on the last business day of each month.	SEE https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance/RAP	families must have a gross household income of \$35,000 or less (maximum income increases to \$40,000 effective September 2018), have at least one dependent child, and have been employed at some point over the last year. (See https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance/RAP for more details)	https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance/RAP
Vancouver Rent Bank	respond to online pre-assessments within 2 business days and try to process completed applications in 10 business days.	Maximum amount for individuals is \$1300, for families it is \$1800.	Currently a resident or will be a resident of the City of Vancouver Are low-income (see chart below) Are nineteen years of age or older Have a bank account or are on income assistance Have (will have) a concrete, consistent source of income Have two pieces of ID Can provide proof of tenancy Not be in the process of bankruptcy Have no un-discharged bankruptcies Have a sincere reason for any delinquency in payments Are not able to access any other form of government financial assistance Have/ will have long term, safe housing Have rental costs that do not exceed an ongoing ability to pay rent Be experiencing temporary financial crisis Owe no more than two months rental arrears	https://www.vancouverrentbank.org/#/
RENT SUPPORT SUPPLEMENT Rent increase freeze Suspension of evictions		Up to \$500	The supplement will be available to renters who are facing financial hardship, but do not qualify for existing rental assistance programs.	To Be Updated
BC Emergency Benefit	Payment in May.	\$1000/ one time	eligible for those that lost income	application opening in coming weeks.
BC Hydro Customer Crisis Fund	N/A	Upto \$600	You need to be the residential account holder. Only your primary residence is eligible. Your account must have overdue payments and be facing disconnection. Your current bill isn't eligible for a CCF grant if it is not overdue or if there are credits on the account. You must have experienced a life event, within the last 12 months, that caused a temporary financial crisis. To apply for a grant, you need to have an outstanding balance of \$1,000 or less, and should have demonstrated some attempt to make payments towards your bill. You may receive one CCF grant per account-holder annually (one per year). If a grant application is denied and your circumstances change, you can apply again in the same year	https://app.bchydro.com/ccf-application
Student Loan Repayment Suspension	March 30 2020-September 30,2020	6 month interest moratorium, repayment paused for 6 months	all Canada student loan borrowers automatically, do not need to apply for it.	AUTOMATIC
B.C. climate action tax credit (BCCATC)	July	\$154.50 each for you and your spouse or common-law partner (or the first child in a single parent family), \$45.50 each for all other children. The COVID-19 Action Plan takes further steps to boost income supports by increasing and expanding the B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit in July 2020. Eligible families of four will receive up to \$564 and eligible individuals will receive up to \$218 in an enhanced payment. This boosts the regular climate action tax credit payment of up to \$112.50 per family of four and up to \$43.50 per adult.	Resident of BC (on both the first day of that quarter and the first day of the previous quarter.) AND 19 years or older, OR have a spouse/common law partner OR are a parent residing with their child. ONE PERSON PR FAMILY CAN RECEIVE IT.	Automatic. See https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/income-taxes/personal/credits/climate-action for more information.
Goods and Services Tax Credit One Time Payment	Early May	close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples	low- and modest-income families	No need to apply, if you are eligible you will get it automatically.
BC early childhood tax benefit (BCECTB)	N/A	\$55/month	Child under age of 6	Benefits from this program are combined with the federal Canada Child Benefit (CCB) into a single monthly payment. You don't need to apply separately for the BCECTB. If your child is not registered for the CCB, you need to apply for the CCB to determine eligibility for the BCECTB.
Canada Child Benefit	within 8 weeks of receiving your application online, Eligible recipients will receive \$300 more per child with their regular May CCB payment.	Increased by \$300/child See https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-welcome-your-ccb.html#wb-cont-nav for payment calculation.	See canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-before-you-apply.html#who for details on eligibility	https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-apply.html
DEFERRALS	DETAILS			
<i>Please note- if you are able to make payments, it may be best to NOT defer- discuss with the relevant financial or other institutions the long-term impact this may have. Do not assume that bills will be automatically deferred.</i>				
BC Hydro Customer Assistance Program	Deferral or arrange flexible payment plans with no penalty.			
ICBC Deferral	defer payment for up to 90 days with no penalty. See https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/contact-us/Pages/covid-19.aspx			
Student Loans	See above			
Mortgage Payment Deferral	https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/mortgage-loan-insurance/the-resource/covid19-understanding-mortgage-payment-deferral Canada's mortgage insurers are committed to providing homeowners with solutions to mitigate temporary financial hardship related to COVID-19. This includes permitting lenders to defer up to six monthly mortgage payments (interest and principal) for impacted borrowers. Deferred payments are added to the outstanding principal balance and subsequently repaid throughout the life of the mortgage. Contact your FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.			

Income tax	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
Taxpayer relief requests	Taxpayers who are unable to file a return or make a payment by the tax-filing and payment deadlines because of COVID-19 can request the cancellation of penalty and interest charged to their account. Penalties and interest will not be charged if the new deadlines that the government has announced to tax-filing and payments are met.
RBC Financial Relief Program	See https://www.rbc.com/covid-19/index.html for the various relief programs for RBC clients.
Scotiabank Financial Relief Program	Scotiabank is here to help our customers navigate this uncertain time. For individual Canadians who are facing hardships as a result of COVID-19, we have a financial relief program in place that includes assistance with mortgages, personal loans, lines of credit and credit cards. If you've been affected, we want to hear about your situation and work together to find a solution. See https://www.scotiabank.com/ca/en/personal/scotia-support/latest-updates/coronavirus-covid-19.html for more information.
TD Bank Financial Relief	TD has announced a commitment to work with personal and small business banking customers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexible solutions to help them manage through challenges such as pay disruption due to COVID-19; childcare disruption due to school closures; or those facing illness from COVID-19. This support will include up to a six-month payment deferral for mortgages, and the opportunity for relief on other credit products. If you are directly impacted by COVID-19 and as a result are facing financial challenges, let us know by reaching out to us at 1-888-720-0075 .
Suspending collections on new debt	Collections activities on new debts will be suspended until further notice, and flexible payment arrangements will be available. Payment arrangements are also available on a case-by-case basis if you can't pay your taxes, child and family benefit overpayments, Canada Student Loans, or other government program overpayments in full. Call 1-800-675-6184 for inquiries.
FOR BUSINESSES	DETAILS
Deferred Tax Payments for Businesses	We are allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.
Delayed PST Budget 2020 Tax Changes	
GST/HST Remittance Deferral	The GST/HST applies to sales of most goods and services in Canada and at each stage of the supply chain. Vendors must collect the GST/HST and remit it (net of input tax credits) with their GST/HST return for each reporting period. To support Canadian businesses in the current extraordinary circumstances, the Minister of National Revenue will extend until June 30, 2020 the time that: Monthly filers have to remit amounts collected for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods; Quarterly filers have to remit amounts collected for the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period; and Annual filers, whose GST/HST return or instalment are due in March, April or May 2020, have to remit amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and instalments of GST/HST in respect of the filer's current fiscal year.
Delayed Carbon Tax Increase	
Reduced School Tax for Businesses	
Canada Emergency Business Account	program will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced, due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus. Small businesses and not-for-profits should contact their financial institution to apply for these loans. To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019. Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25 percent (up to \$10,000).
Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)	help Canadian businesses obtain financing during the current period of significant uncertainty. Contact your FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. See https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html for more information.
Temporary Wage Subsidy	3 month period. The subsidy will be equal to 75% of remuneration paid during that period. Maximum amounts will be updated. More info on https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html
Work Sharing Program	Work-Sharing (WS) is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. The program provides EI benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. See https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing/apply.html for more information.
RBC Financial Relief Program	Relief support may include: Business loan payment deferrals, Increases to operating line of credit limits, Waiving of credit card minimum payments, Waived fees for new enrolments to cash management solutions. call our Advice Centre at 1-800-ROYAL-20
Small and Medium-sized Business Loan and Guarantee program	Provide additional credit and liquidity options, backed by BDC and EDC, that Canadian businesses need immediately to meet their operational cash flow requirements. In order to be eligible, your business must have been impacted directly or indirectly by recent events and have been financially viable prior to the impact from COVID-19. Administered by private-sector financial institutions. Details will be made available in the days to come. Until then, businesses should contact their primary financial institution for more information. See https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx
Farm Credit Canada	producers, agribusinesses and food processors see https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/covid-19/program-details.html
HOMELESSNESS	DETAILS
Homeless Outreach Program	See https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services/homeless-outreach-program
Social Resilience Task Force	See https://vancouver.ca/news-calendar/social-resilience-task-force-delivering-essential-needs-for-vancouver-residents.aspx
Emergency Food Services	PRINTABLE: https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/emergency-meal-program-map.pdf and UPDATED MAP: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=11gyzTVyoZqSsUL7_-k6FbbEiF3slegRv&ll=49.281124951536114%2C-123.09527594621647&z=16
Reaching Home initiative.	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.
SENIORS	DETAILS
Registered Retirement Income Funds	Reducing the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020.
INDIGENOUS	DETAILS
Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program	See https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services/aboriginal-homeless-outreach-program
Indigenous Community Support Fund	See https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585189335380/1585189357198