

The Province is providing an additional \$5 billion in income supports, tax relief and funding for people, businesses and services in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

B.C.'s plan builds on the federal government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan.

### **Delivering \$1.1 billion in financial support for British Columbians**

- **Support for people facing job loss or reduced hours and people who are sick, quarantined or must stay home to care for children:**
  - A new BC Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a tax-free \$1,000 payment to British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected by COVID-19.
  - The benefit will be a one-time payment for B.C. residents who receive federal Employment Insurance (EI), or the new federal Emergency Care Benefit, or the new federal Emergency Support Benefit.
  - The Province is 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.
- **Support for renters, homeowners and people experiencing homelessness:**
  - In response to the pandemic and resulting financial stress, B.C. has increased funding for housing supports and is working to ensure people can maintain their housing in the event of job or income loss.
  - All evictions at BC Housing-funded buildings due to non-payment of rent have been halted.
  - As part of B.C.'s poverty reduction strategy, the Province provided \$10 million to Vancity to administer funding and ensure the sustainability of the existing rent bank network.
  - Canada's six largest banks have worked together to freeze mortgage payments for six months for those in need.
- **Support for people with student loans:**
  - Starting March 30, 2020, the Province is freezing B.C. student loan payments for six months.
- **Support for people unable to pay monthly bills:**
  - BC Hydro customers have the option to defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty. Customers who are dealing with job loss, illness or loss of wages due to COVID-19 will be able to use BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund grant program for up to \$600: <https://www.bchydro.com/index.html>
  - ICBC customers on a monthly payment plan who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19 may defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.

### **Providing relief for businesses**

- **Tax support for businesses:**
  - Effective immediately, many provincial tax filing and payment deadlines are deferred to Sept. 30, 2020.
  - Businesses with a payroll over \$500,000 can defer their employer health tax payments until Sept. 30, 2020. Businesses with a payroll under this threshold are already exempt.
  - Payments for provincial sales tax (PST), employer health tax, municipal and regional district tax on short-term accommodation, carbon tax, motor fuel tax and tobacco tax are also deferred.
  - The scheduled increase to the carbon tax rate, and application of PST to e-commerce transactions and sweetened and carbonated drinks, will be delayed.
- **Relief for commercial property owners and tenants:**
  - Business and light and major industry property classes will see their school property tax cut in half for the 2020 tax year, providing \$500 million in relief for business that own their property and for tenants on triple-net leases.

### **Investing in a longer-term economic plan**

- \$1.5 billion in provincial funding will support economic stimulus once the pandemic has passed.
- The B.C. government is working in partnership with the business and labour sectors to develop the long-term plan for economic recovery.

### **People in B.C. needing assistance can also benefit from Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**

- Canada's Emergency Care Benefit will offer up to \$900 to people who are not covered by EI.
- Canada's Emergency Support Benefit will provide \$5 billion to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment.
- The federal Canada Child Benefit will increase by \$300 per child for the 2019-20 benefit year for families who need it most.
- Additionally, the one-week waiting period and medical certificate requirements for Employment Insurance have been removed.

### **ICBC**

- Customers on a monthly payment plan who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19 may defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty



## **Overview**

The Alberta government will provide immediate financial relief to Alberta's families and vulnerable populations.

Albertans should be focused on their health and not worry about whether they can pay their bills so we have put a number of options in place for those struggling financially.

### **Emergency isolation support**

- This will be 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.
- A one-time payment of \$1,146 will be distributed to bridge the gap until the federal emergency payments begin in April.
- We expect the program to be available through a simple online application this week and that funds will be deposited in the accounts of eligible recipients beginning at that time.

More information on how to apply will be available soon.

### **Utility payment deferral**

- Residential customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments for the next 90 days to ensure no one will be cut off, regardless of the service provider.
- This program is available to Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19. For example, those who have lost their employment or had to leave work to take care of an ill family member.
- Call your utility provider directly to arrange for a 90-day deferral on all payments.

Learn more about the [90-day utility payment deferral](#)

### **Student loans repayment deferral**

We are implementing a six-month, interest free, moratorium on Alberta student loan payments for all Albertans in the process of repaying these loans.

- Alberta Student Loan repayments will be paused for 6 months, beginning March 30, 2020.
- Interest will not accrue during this period. This mirrors the approach of the Canada Student Loans Program.
- Students do not need to apply for the repayment pause.
- Borrowers may continue making payments during this period if they choose and this will not affect their eligibility to receive the benefit.

### **Banks and credit unions**

ATB financial customers

- Personal banking customers can apply for a deferral on their ATB loans, lines of credit and mortgages for up to 6 months.

Alberta Credit Unions

- Credit union members will have access to a variety of programs and solutions designed to ease difficulties with loan payments and short-term cash flow.
- Contact your credit union to work out a plan for your personal situation

### **Education property tax freeze**

- Residential education property tax rates will be frozen at last year's level – reversing the 3.4% population and inflation increase added in Budget 2020.
- This will save households \$55 million.

## **Job Protected Leave**

Amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* will ensure:

- Employees can access unpaid public health emergency leave;
- Removal of the requirement of 13 consecutive weeks of employment with an employer prior to accessing sick leave; and
- Removal of the provision requiring a doctor's note or certificate

## **Self-Isolation Support Program**

The Self-Isolation Support Program, currently under development, is targeted at Saskatchewan workers forced to self-isolate in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, and who are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports. Administered by the Ministry of Finance, the program will provide \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900. The program is currently under development and a straight-forward application process will be in place later this week.

To be eligible, residents of Saskatchewan must meet these criteria:

- They have contracted COVID-19 or are showing symptoms; or
- They have been in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19; or
- They have recently returned from international travel and have been required to self-isolate;

AND

- They are not eligible for compensation including sick leave, vacation leave from their employer;
- They do not have private insurance covering such disruptions;
- They are not covered by other programs such as federal employment insurance that has been updated

## **Student Loan Repayment Moratorium**

Effective immediately, a six-month student loan repayment moratorium has been put in place, mirroring a similar federal provision. This provides individuals with student loans immediate relief, and comes at a \$4 million cost to the provincial government.

## **Labour Market Services**

Saskatchewan Labour Market Services offer career, employment and training information and services to Saskatchewan residents. These services continue to be available from anywhere in the province, by calling or emailing your nearest Labour Market Services office.



#### Current Situation

*NEW Last updated: March 24, 2020*

Public health officials advise one additional probable case of COVID-19 has been identified, bringing the total number of lab-confirmed positive and probable positive cases in Manitoba to 21 at this time.

In recognition of the current challenges, the province will defer any increases to the Manitoba Pharmacare deductible that were scheduled to take effect April 1. The deductible will remain at 2019/20 levels throughout 2020/21 to assist Manitobans with supply limits imposed on pharmacies in response to the COVID19 pandemic. Manitobans are reminded that pharmacies have been asked to limit individuals to a 30 day supply of medication. All Canadian provinces have taken this step to prevent hoarding and ensure there is a consistent supply of medications. These supply limits will be regularly reviewed throughout the pandemic response.

A new community testing drive-thru site will officially open Wednesday in Winkler at the Winkler Centennial Arena at 600 Park St. Hours are daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. When it opens, it will be Manitoba's 12th community testing site and fourth drive-thru location. The public is reminded that a referral to these sites is needed and they are not walk-in clinics. Information on locations and hours of operation are available at [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/locations.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/locations.html).

**NOTE:** No information has been provided to date on Employment Related Assistance from the Government of Manitoba.



## Direct supports for the health care system, people, families, workers and employers

*Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19* outlines the first steps in the Province's plan to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak. The action plan will provide \$7 billion in additional resources for the health care system and will provide direct support for people, and jobs. This includes \$3.3 billion in additional health care resources, \$3.7 billion to support people and jobs, and measures that will make available up to \$10 billion in support for people and businesses through tax and other deferrals to improve their cash flows, helping protect jobs and household budgets.

### **\$3.3 billion of additional resources for health care, including:**

- \$2.1 billion in new measures to support the COVID-19 response with:
  - A dedicated \$1 billion COVID-19 contingency fund;
  - \$341 million for hospital capacity to increase assessments and treatment;
  - \$243 million for long-term care home emergency capacity and virus containment measures;
  - \$100 million more for public health;
  - \$170 million for community capacity, homecare and Telehealth Ontario;
  - \$62 million for health care workers in assessment centres, hospitals and the community;
  - \$75 million for personal protective equipment and critical medical supplies;
  - Approximately \$80 million for ambulance and paramedic services; and
  - Approximately \$70 million for infection control measures in retirement homes, residential facilities and emergency shelters.
- An additional \$1.2 billion to meet demand for services in the health and long-term care sector.

### **\$3.7 billion to support people and jobs, including:**

- \$75 million in urgent additional support for 194,000 low-income seniors by proposing to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) maximum payment to \$166 per month for individuals and \$332 per month for couples for six months, starting in April 2020;
- Helping families pay for extra costs associated with school and daycare closure during the COVID-19 outbreak by providing a one-time \$200 payment per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including kids enrolled in private schools;
- Providing six months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for student borrowers, in partnership with the federal government;
- Providing new, additional support of \$26 million to Indigenous peoples and communities, including emergency assistance for urban Indigenous people in financial need and costs for health care professionals and critical supplies to reach remote First Nations;
- \$200 million in new funding to provide temporary emergency supports for people in financial need as well as funding to municipalities and other service providers so they can quickly respond to local needs;
- Making electricity bills more affordable for eligible residential, farm and small business consumers through a \$1.5 billion increase in electricity cost relief compared to the *2019 Budget*. In addition, the Province is also setting electricity prices for time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days, to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage as they respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, addressing concerns about time-of-use metering;
- \$9 million in direct support to families for their energy bills by expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and ensuring that their electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers through a proposed temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption;
- Helping to support regions that have been lagging in employment growth with a proposed new Corporate Income Tax credit — the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit; and
- Supporting the timely delivery of critical food and supplies by amending a regulation that restricted delivery trucks from operating during off-peak hours.

### **\$10 billion in support for people and businesses to improve cash flows by:**

- Providing a five-month interest and penalty-free period to make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes, providing \$6 billion in relief to help support Ontario businesses when they need it the most
- Deferring the upcoming quarterly (June 30) remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days. This will provide municipalities with the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals of over \$1.8 billion to local residents and businesses while ensuring school boards receive their funding.
- Providing up to \$1.9 billion in financial relief by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) allowing employers to defer payments for up to six months

## **Responsibly Managing Ontario's Finances**

*Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19* builds on the government's responsible approach to managing Ontario's finances with measures to provide further flexibility to respond to this rapidly changing global outbreak. This includes historic levels of prudence, including a dedicated \$1.0 billion COVID-19 contingency fund as part of the additional health care investments, as well as unprecedented \$2.5 billion reserve and an increased contingency fund of \$1.3 billion to provide continued flexibility to respond to changing global circumstances.

The Province will continue to actively monitor and mitigate risks, coordinating with partners and other levels of government, while continuing to retain flexibility to respond as conditions evolve.

## **Temporary Aid for Workers Program**

### **Outline of the program**

This program offers financial assistance to meet the needs of workers who, because they are in isolation to counter the propagation of the COVID-19 virus, cannot earn all of their work income and are not eligible for another financial assistance program.

### **Important**

Before applying for financial assistance, make sure that you are not eligible for either compensation from your employer or private insurance, and that you are not covered by other government programs, such as employment insurance from the federal government.

The program is offered by the Gouvernement du Québec, in partnership with the Red Cross. You will be able to apply starting March 19, 2020.

On this page:

- Eligibility
- Financial assistance
- Applying

### **Eligibility**

This program is for workers who reside in Québec and are in isolation for one of the following reasons:

- they have contracted the virus or present symptoms
- they have been contact with an infected person
- they have returned from abroad

In addition, workers who are in isolation or likely to be under the above criteria are eligible for the PATT COVID-19 if

- you are not receiving compensation from your employer
- you do not have private insurance
- you are not covered by another government program, such as employment insurance from the federal government

The program only applies to adult workers aged 18 or over.

The order to self-isolate must have been given by the Government of Canada, the Gouvernement du Québec or another responsible authority.

### **Financial assistance**

The lump-sum amount granted to an eligible person is \$573 per week, for a period of 14 days of isolation. If justified by your state of health, the coverage period for an eligible person could be extended to a maximum of 28 days.

End of financial assistance

You are no longer entitled to financial assistance:

- when the financial assistance has been paid in full
- if you have not respected your obligations.

### **Applying**

Start by filling out the registration form. Once your registration is completed, you will be sent an email containing a link to the application form. If there is more than one adult in your family, each adult must submit his or her own application.