

Provincial Supports for Individuals / Residents

Program/Initiative	Description	Who is eligible?	Where do I apply?
<p>Temporary Rent Supplement</p>	<p>Eligible tenants can be paid up to \$500 per household. The benefit is paid directly to your landlord.</p> <p>The program is currently slated to last for 3 months, beginning in April.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2019 household income of less than: \$74,150 for singles and couples without dependents and \$113,040 for households with dependents • Be receiving or be eligible for Employment Insurance; or be receiving or eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit offered by the federal government; or have experienced, and be able to provide evidence of, a drop of 25% or more in monthly household employment income • be paying more than 30% of current household income towards rent 	<p>https://www.bchousing.org/BCTRS</p>
<p>BC Emergency Benefit</p>	<p>The B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers will provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to people who lost income because of COVID-19.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been a resident of British Columbia on March 15, 2020 • Meet the eligibility requirements for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) • Have been approved for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, even if you haven't received a federal benefit payment yet 	<p>You can apply online starting May 1, 2020.</p> <p>Apply here.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be at least 15 years old on the date you apply • Have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return • Not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance 	
Eviction prevention	Temporary moratorium on evictions, except in certain special circumstances.	<p>Tenants who have a residential tenancy agreement under the Residential Tenancy Act.</p> <p>Tenants in BC Housing funded buildings are also protected from eviction for non-payment of rent during this time.</p> <p>Special circumstances for eviction include tenants jeopardizing the health and safety of other occupants of the building, tenants causing extraordinary damage, and putting landlord property at risk. More information here.</p>	N/A: this measure relates to the Residential Tenancy Act and does not require an application.
Freezing annual rent increases	Landlords cannot apply the annual CPI residential rent increase to residential tenancies.	<p>Tenants who have a tenancy agreement under the Residential Tenancy Act.</p> <p>It does not apply to households in rent geared-to-income units.</p>	N/A: this measure relates to the Residential Tenancy Act and does not require an application
Prevent landlords from accessing rental units	Tenants must consent to a landlord entering the rental unit. A landlord may not enter the unit even if they give the tenant the standard 24 hours notice.	Tenants who have a tenancy agreement under the Residential Tenancy Act.	N/A: this measure relates to the Residential Tenancy Act and does not require an application.

Landlord restrictions on use of common areas	Landlords are now entitled to restrict common areas in a building, such as gyms, pools, and courtyards.	Landlords who own buildings with common areas.	N/A: this measure relates to the Residential Tenancy Act and does not require an application.
Moratorium on BC student loan payments	Effective March 30, 2020, all British Columbia student loan borrowers will temporarily have their repayments suspended until September 30, 2020. During this time, no payment will be required, and interest that currently applies to the federal portion of student loans will not accrue.	British Columbia student loan borrowers.	N/A: this is an automatic moratorium and no application is necessary.
Increases to Income Assistance and Disability Assistance	Recipients of provincial income or disability assistance will receive a bonus supplement of \$300 over the next three months. If recipients access federal programs, like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, income from these programs will not be subject to provincial claw backs for the next 3 months.	All recipients of provincial income or disability assistance	If you already receive income or disability assistance, the top up will go directly on your next cheque. If you need to apply, see here .
Bus pass and Compass Card funds	Because BC Transit and Translink have suspended fares, those on disability assistance who currently receive a bus pass or Compass Card, will have the \$52 dollars added directly to the next cheque.	All recipients of provincial disability assistance who have a bus pass or Compass Card.	No need to apply, it will go directly onto your next cheque.
Climate Action Tax Credit	A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families:	For low to moderate income families. Details here .	Canada Revenue Agency will calculate the benefit when you file your taxes.

	An adult will receive up to \$218.00 (increased from \$43.50) A child will receive \$64.00 (increased from \$12.75)		
ICBC payment deferral	Customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan, who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.	Customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan.	Details here.
BC Hydro bill deferral	BC Hydro customers affected by COVID-19 can call to arrange an option to defer bill payments or arrange for flexible payment plans with no penalty.	BC Hydro customers.	Call 1-800-224-9376
BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund	Customers facing temporary financial hardship and possible disconnection of their service due to job loss, illness, or loss of a family member may also be eligible for BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund, which provides access to grants of up to \$600 to pay their bills.	Customers facing financial hardship.	Call 1-800-224-9376
BC Hydro Relief Fund	Customers who have lost employment or income because of COVID-19 may be eligible for 3-months bill credit based on average consumptions.	You need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a residential account holder and have had your account prior to March 15, 2020 • meet the eligibility criteria of the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers • have lost your job or have become unable to work due to COVID-19 	Here.

		<p>(including self-employment) since March 15, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must be able to upload verification of eligibility, such as a copy of your application or approval for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Emergency Benefit for Workers, federal Employment Insurance or Record of Employment 	
FortisBC Customer Recovery Fund	Customers who are unable to work or have lost their livelihood, and small businesses that have experienced income loss or been forced to close as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, can receive assistance from FortisBC.	<p>If you're a residential customer in the program, you will have your bills automatically deferred, from April 1 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>FortisBC will work with the customer to create an interest free repayment schedule, spread out over 12 months.</p>	Here.
FortisBC additional supports	FortisBC will waive late payment fees and suspend disconnections throughout the duration of the pandemic.	All customers	N/A
BC Transit and Translink fare waiver	Fares will not be collected on BC transit and Translink routes	All customers.	N/A

Federal Supports for Individuals / Residents

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Canada Emergency Response Benefit	<p>A taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months</p> <p>The CERB also includes a new cost-shared temporary top up to the salaries of low-income essential workers that BC deems essential for the fight against COVID-19. Provinces and territories will be able to provide their low-income essential workers (those who earn less than \$2,500 per month), with a top up.</p>	<p>To be eligible, you must reside in Canada, be 15 years of age or older at the time of the application, have had to stop working due to COVID-19 related reasons, have not quit your job voluntarily, and earned a minimum of \$5,000 within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Full details on eligibility here.</p>	<p>Applications will open on April 6th, 2020.</p> <p>Apply here: https://tinyurl.com/rjeisjw</p>
Canada Emergency Student Benefit	<p>Support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020.</p>	<p>Post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to COVID-19.</p> <p>This benefit is for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).</p> <p>Full eligibility criteria here.</p>	<p>Apply here.</p>
Canada Student Service Grant	<p>Helps students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant</p>	<p>For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new CSSG will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.</p>	<p>More details will be made available on the "I Want to Help" platform soon.</p>

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Child Benefit Increases	An extra \$300 per child through the Canada Child Benefit	Parents giving primary care to at least one child, and who are legally residing in Canada. Full details on eligibility here .	Details here.
Special GST credit	One-time special payment by early May through the Goods and Services Tax credit for low- and modest-income families. The average additional benefit: ~\$400 for single individuals, ~\$600 for couples.	Income thresholds depends on marital status and how many dependent children in the household. Income thresholds range between \$46,649 for a single person to \$61,629 for a couple with four children. Full details on income thresholds here .	Details here.
Support for seniors	One-time tax-free payment of \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, with an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).	Available for individuals who are eligible to receive both the OAS and the GIS.	N/A – it is automatically applied to recipients of these programs.
Mortgage Support	Mortgage payment relief through deferred mortgage payments, provided by banks on a case-by-case basis. Note: while payments are deferred, interest continues to accrue.	All customers holding mortgages with one of the big 6 banks (TD, CIBC, BMO, Scotia, NBC, RBC) who are currently in good standing and have been impacted by COVID-19 can apply for mortgage deferment. More details here .	Provided on a case by case basis. Individuals must contact their bank.
Moratorium on Student Loan repayment	From March 30 th to September 30 th , interest-free moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all student loan borrowers.	All Canada student loan borrowers. Students do not need to apply for the deferment. More details here .	The deferral will automatically apply for all borrowers.

	No payment will be required and interest will not accrue during this time.		
Income tax deadlines extended	The filing date for the 2019 tax year has been extended to June 1 st , 2020.	All tax filers	N/A
Changes to Employment Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits will be waived for new claimants who are quarantined so they can be paid for the first week of their claim • Establishment of a new dedicated toll-free phone number to support enquiries related to waiving the EI sickness benefits waiting period • People claiming EI sickness benefits due to quarantine will not have to provide a medical certificate • People who cannot complete their claim for EI sickness benefits due to quarantine may apply later and have their EI claim backdated to cover the period of delay 	Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits provide up to 15 weeks of income replacement and is available to eligible claimants who are 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.	Details here.
Reduced minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds	The required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income	Individuals with RRIFs	Details here.

	Funds (RRIFs) are reduced by 25% for 2020.		
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