

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE ABILITIES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CRISIS

### **Persons with Disabilities Assistance Update - April 6, 2020**

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction has created the temporary \$300 COVID-19 Crisis Supplement.

The supplement will automatically be added to Disability Assistance cheques in April, May and June 2020 for persons who are **not receiving** federal Employment Insurance or the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). **No action is required on your part.**

If you are receiving federal EI **or** the CERB **AND** Disability Assistance, you will receive the full amount of your Disability Assistance cheque but not the \$300 supplement.

### **Bus Pass Program**

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Province has made BC Transit and Translink buses free.

If you have a bus pass through the BC Bus Pass Program, you will automatically get a \$52 transportation supplement added to your disability assistance cheques starting in April 2020. This supplement will continue as long as bus services are free.

You can still use your bus pass on Sky Train and Sea Bus services. Make sure to check the schedule before leaving your home, as many routes have reduced services.

**You do not have to apply to get the supplement.** You will also not have to re-apply for your bus pass when this emergency is over.

### **The Federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**

The Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is a federal program to support employed and self-employed Canadians who have been directly affected by COVID-19.

The CERB provides a payment of \$2,000 every 4 weeks (equivalent to \$500 a week) for up to 16 weeks. You may be eligible for the CERB if you have earned \$5,000 or more in 2019, or \$5,000 in the 12 months before March 2020.

**If you want to receive the CERB, you will have to apply (see next page).**

## How do I apply for the CERB?

Applications for the CERB are open. **If you find applying for the CERB difficult, please ask someone you trust to help you.**

To apply for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit:

- You will need to have your Social Insurance Number (SIN).
- You will need a Record of Employment (ROE) from your employer that says you were laid off.
- You will need your address and postal code.

Please follow the federal government's instructions about which day of the week to apply. The day you can apply is based on your birth month.

If you were born in the month of	Apply on
January, February, or March	Mondays
April, May, or June	Tuesdays
July, August, or September	Wednesdays
October, November, or December	Thursdays
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

When you have the information you need gathered and know the day you can apply based on your birth month, go to this website: [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html#how](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html#how)

You can apply online on the website **OR** call the toll-free number on the website to apply using an automated phone service.

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**For more information about COVID-19 infection in Canada:**

Click on this link online: [Government of Canada coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information](#)

Or call 1-833-784-4397