

Updated:
03/23/2020

Together Against Poverty Society

INFORMATION ABOUT FEDERAL BENEFITS RELATED TO COVID-19

In the midst of this public health emergency, many questions are coming up related to workplaces impacted by COVID-19. Here are basic answers regarding federal benefits for workers whose workplaces are impacted by COVID-19. We will try to regularly update this factsheet as things change. Please contact Service Canada for the most up to date information or if you have any questions regarding these benefits.

LAI D OFF DUE TO WORK CLOSURES?

- Apply for regular EI benefits
- You will need 420-700 work hours in last 52 weeks, depending on where you live.
- You will need a ROE saying you've been laid off from your employer to get benefits
- There is a 1-week wait period (so you will not be paid for 1 week)
- Apply online:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>
- Call 1-800-206-7218 for more info

UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO ILLNESS OR QUARANTINE?

- Apply for EI Sickness benefits
- You will need 600 work hours in last year
- You do not need a sick note to qualify.
- You will need an ROE from your employer
- The 1-week wait period is waived.
- Apply online:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>
- Call 1-833-381-2725 for more info

LAI D OFF AND INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

- Apply for the Emergency Support Benefit.
- Amounts and eligibility has not yet been announced.
- Applications will be available in April via CRA MyAccount, My Service Canada Account, and a yet to be released toll-free number

SICK/QUARANTINED & INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

- Apply for the Emergency Care Benefit for workers not eligible for EI (including self-employed) who are sick with COVID-19, quarantined, or taking care of a family member with COVID-19.
- Up to 15 weeks of benefits, up to \$900 bi-weekly.
- Applications will be available in April via CRA MyAccount, My Service Canada Account, and a yet to be released toll-free number

UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES?

- Parents with children who require care due to school/daycare closures can apply for the Emergency Care Benefit.
- 15 weeks of benefits, up to \$900 bi-weekly.
- Applications will be available in April via CRA MyAccount, My Service Canada Account, and a yet to be released toll-free number

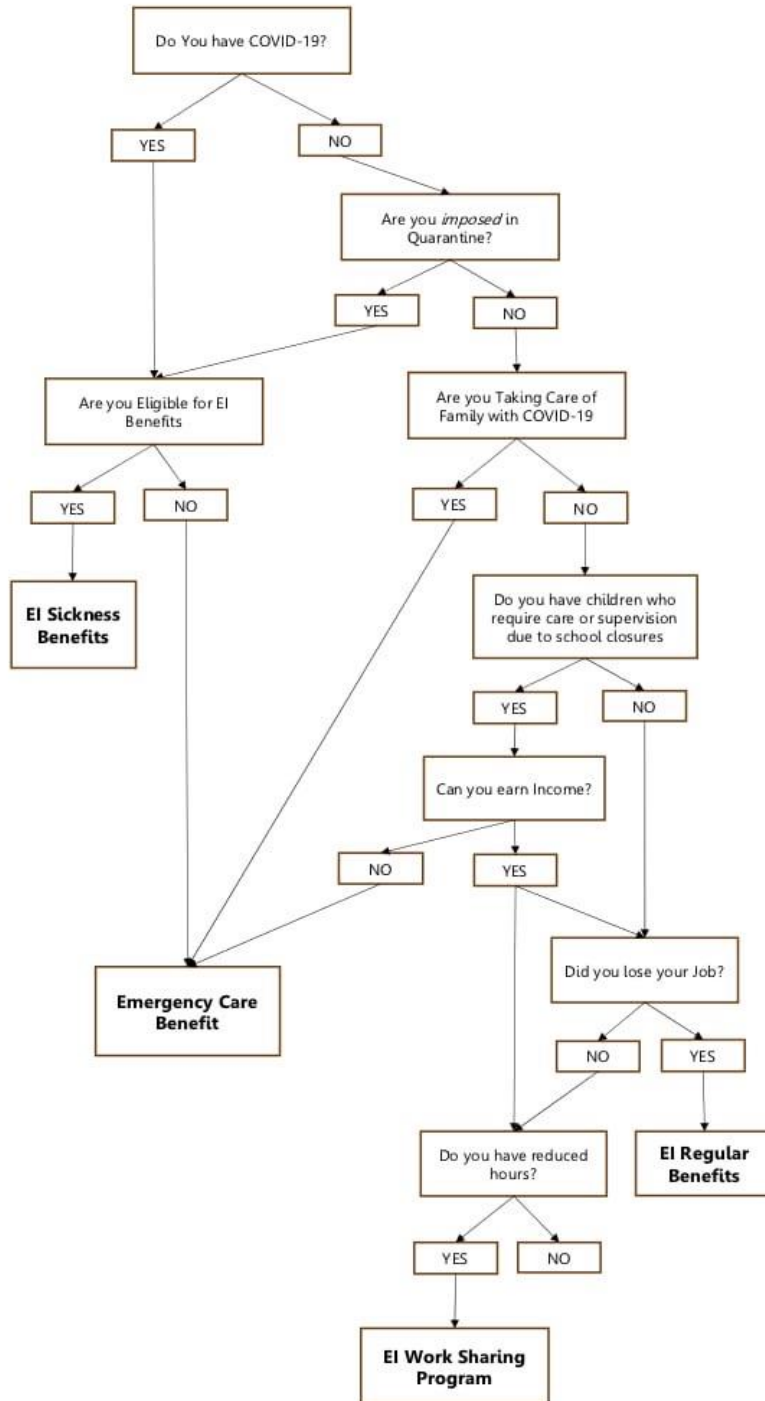
WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION:

- Updates about federal benefits and services:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>
- The federal government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR WORKERS AND SELF EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

Prepared for AudioJoy by I&A Chartered Accountants

www.audiojoy.com



Municipal

City of Swift Current Updates:

<http://www.swiftcurrent.ca/what-s-new/important-update-regarding-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

Provincial

Government of Saskatchewan Updates:

<https://saskatchewan.ca/~link.aspx?id=6C6BF971659346E0B8E9DE4AE3B2AFF9&z=z>

Government of Saskatchewan – Help for workers:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-workers>

Government of Saskatchewan – Childcare subsidy:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/child-care/paying-for-child-care>

Government of Saskatchewan – Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP):

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/family-and-social-support/financial-help/financial-help-for-unemployed-or-lower-income-people-and-families>

SaskPower :

<https://www.saskpower.com/about-us/Our-Company/Blog/Information-from-Sheldon-Smith-on-How-Were-Continuing-to-Serve-Customers-During-COVID-19>

211 Saskatchewan:

<https://sk.211.ca/homepage>

- A service that connects individuals to human services in the province. Over 5,000 listings of social, community, non-clinical health, and government services. Call or text 2-1-1 or go online to chat with trained professionals to help find and navigate services you need. Free, confidential, 24/7.

Sasktel:

https://support.sasktel.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/25281

Federal

Government of Canada updates <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Government of Canada Response Plan

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

Government of Canada – Child Tax Benefit - The Government is proposing to increase the maximum annual Canada Child Benefit (CCB) payment amounts, only for the 2019-20 benefit year, by up to \$300 per child as part of their May payment.

The Government of Canada Emergency Care Benefit - providing up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. This flat-payment Benefit would be administered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provide income support to:

- Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school or daycare closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.

Application for the Benefit will be available in April 2020, and require Canadians to attest that they meet the eligibility requirements. They will need to re-attest every two weeks to reconfirm their eligibility. Canadians will select one of three channels to apply for the Benefit:

1. by accessing it on their CRA MyAccount secure portal;
2. by accessing it from their secure My Service Canada Account; or
3. by calling a toll free number equipped with an automated application process.

Government of Canada Income Tax –

- 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.

Government of Canada GST Tax Credit –

Government is proposing to provide a one-time special payment by early May 2020 through the Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC). This will double the maximum annual GSTC payment amounts for the 2019-20 benefit year. The average boost to income for those benefitting from this measure will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples.

Information on EI Benefits during COVID-19 <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

Service Canada dedicated phone line for inquiries regarding COVID-19-related E-I claims 1-833-381-2725

Support for Entrepreneurs impacted by COVID-19 <https://www.bdc.ca/en/pages/special-support.aspx?special-initiative=covid19> (Federal)
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-for-businesses-and-workers/support-for-businesses>
(provincial)

Other

Student Loans

Canada Student Loans – All repayments and interest are on hold from March 30- Sept 30 2020. No application necessary.

Saskatchewan Student Loans - 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.

Bank Loans and Mortgage deferrals

Canada's six largest banks — RBC, TD, BMO, Scotiabank, CIBC and National Bank — will allow mortgage payment deferrals for up to six months for those affected by the economic consequences of COVID-19, effective immediately. They will also provide relief for other credit products. Contact your bank for more information.

Meals for those in need (Swift Current)

- **The Center** in Swift Current will be offering **free meals** for youth & families Monday to Friday, starting March 23rd. To sign up contact 773-3344 kenton@sccyi.ca or message us on [social media](#)
- **Railway Soup Kitchen** is donating meals to those in need 306- 971-1113 , [Facebook Page](#) They can deliver anywhere in the city- volunteers needed.
- **Cook House at Willow Creek Manor** is offering for a limited time to any seniors in our community **5 meals for \$30** delivery \$5. Please call 306-773-7979 ext 3
- **Salvation Army Food Bank** To receive food, Appointments required: call 306-778-0886