

**BRIEFING NOTE**  
*Provincial & Federal Employee Support Services*

**Purpose**

The following will summarize Government of Canada and Government of Alberta employee supports developed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Contact information and eligibility criteria have been linked.

**Government of Alberta Employee Supports**

Information on *all employee and employer supports* issued by the Government of Alberta can be found [here](#). Specific employee supports are summarized below.

Summary: Government of Alberta Employee Programs & Support Services – COVID-19	Eligibility Criteria and Additional Information	Contact Information
<b>1) Emergency Isolation Support Program:</b> Eligible working Albertans can receive a one-time emergency isolation support payment of \$1,146.00 if they are required to self-isolate or are the sole caregiver of someone in self-isolation and they have no other source of pay or compensation.	For additional information, eligibility criteria and to apply click <a href="#">here</a> .	Contact the Department of Labour & Immigration: 780-427-3731.
<b>2) Bank &amp; Credit Union Payment Plans:</b> Individuals may be subject to special financing arrangements with their financial institution's during the COVID-19 crisis. A special arrangement has been made with Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB) whereby small business customers can: apply for a payment deferral on loans and lines of credit for up to six months and access additional working capital for ATB customers.	Subject to banking institution; special conditions for ATB customers. For additional information click <a href="#">here</a> and contact bank.	For additional information contact your banking or credit union institution.
<b>3) Job Protected Leave:</b> Changes to the <a href="#">Employment Standards Code</a> allow full and part-time employees to take 14 days of job-protected leave if they are: required to self-isolate or caring for a child or dependent adult who is required to self-isolate. To be eligible, employees are not required to have a medical note and do not need to have worked for an employer for 90 days. This does not apply to self-employed individuals or contractors.	N/A	Contact the Department of Labour & Immigration: 780-427-3731.
<b>4) Utility Payment Deferral:</b> Residential, farm and commercial customers can defer electricity and natural gas bill payments for the next 90 days. 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. Individuals are encouraged to call their utility provider to arrange a deferral program.	For additional information and eligibility criteria click <a href="#">here</a> .	For additional information contact your utility provider.
<b>5) Vacation pay, leave or banked overtime:</b> Employees can request to use their vacation pay or banked overtime, but employers are not required to grant the request. Provincial employment rules only require employers to provide vacation pay, vacation leave or pay banked overtime within a year of it being earned.	N/A	Contact the Department of Labour & Immigration: 780-427-3731.
<b>6) Student Loans Repayment Deferral:</b> There is a six-month, interest free moratorium on Alberta student loan payments for all Albertans repaying loans. Interest does not accrue during this period.	N/A	N/A

## Government of Canada Employee Supports

Information on *all employee and employer supports* issued by the Government of Canada can be found [here](#). Federal employee supports are summarized below.

Summary: Government of Canada Employee Programs & Support Services – COVID-19	Eligibility Criteria and Additional Information	Contact Information
1) <b>Increasing the Canada Child Benefit:</b> The Government of Canada is providing an extra \$300 per child through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20. This will mean approximately \$550 more for the average family. Those who already receive the CCB do not need to re-apply.	For additional information, eligibility criteria and to apply, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
2) <b>Special Goods &amp; Services Tax Credit Payment:</b> A one-time special payment will be provided by early May through the Goods and Services Tax Credit for low- and modest-income families. The average additional benefit will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples. There is no need to apply for this payment, if you are eligible you get it automatically through income tax.	For additional information, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
3) <b>Extra time to file income tax returns:</b> Income tax payments are deferred until June 1, 2020. New income tax balances and instalments to be deferred until after August 31, 2020 without incurring interest or penalties.	For additional information, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
4) <b>Mortgage support:</b> The federal government has consulted with chartered banks and credit unions on mortgage deferral options.	For additional information, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
5) <b>Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB):</b> Will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months. This benefit replaces the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit. The CERB will be accessible through a web portal starting in <i>early April</i> . The portal will be posted <a href="#">here</a> , please monitor for posting.	For additional information, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
6) <b>Employment Insurance (EI):</b> 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 or who have lost their job due to COVID-19 can apply for EI.	For additional information, eligibility criteria and to apply, click <a href="#">here</a> .	Contact Service Canada's EI support line: 1-833-381-2725
7) <b>Indigenous Community Support Fund:</b> \$305 million will be provided to support the needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Nation communities.	For additional information, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
8) <b>Extension of the work sharing program:</b> The duration of the program has been extended from 38 to 76 weeks; it is designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. The measure provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.	For additional information, eligibility criteria and to apply, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A
9) <b>Business Wage Subsidies:</b> Government will cover up to 75 per cent of employee salaries on the first \$58,700 earned if the business under consideration has seen a 30 per cent decrease in revenue. This program is backdated to March 15, 2020. Employee count does not impact eligibility – a company could employ 2 or 100 people to be eligible.	For additional information, eligibility criteria and to apply, click <a href="#">here</a> .	N/A