

Jurisdictional Scan of COVID-19 Provincial and Territorial Income Transfer Programs in Canada

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INTRODUCTION

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have left many without a job, or with reduced hours of work and income. Many of those who had lost their jobs were already working lower-paying jobs, which translated into lower-income communities being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.¹ The pandemic has exacerbated existing socio-economic inequality and this will translate into health disparities. With this greater risk for lower-income communities, interventions to provide financial support are an essential part of responding to the global pandemic.^{2,3}

To address the economic impacts of COVID-19, Canada's federal and provincial governments have introduced measures to alleviate the stressors and barriers associated with the pandemic. These measures include newly created programs, as well as COVID-related amendments to existing programs.⁴

The biggest spending has been by the Federal Government. In April 2020, it launched the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), a taxable benefit of \$2,000/month for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ After two extensions, CERB is set to end October 3, 2020 and transition into an expanded Employment Insurance (EI) program. This transition will require consideration of the timelines and eligibility of provincial and territorial income supports to understand how programs fit together to best assist Canadians.

Provinces have an important part to play in income security, poverty prevention, and equity, though less attention has been given to their role. Because of this, Wellesley Institute conducted a jurisdictional scan of income transfer programs made available during the COVID-19 pandemic at the provincial and territorial level. These included programs supporting social assistance recipients, students, families, seniors, and workers who had their employment impacted by the pandemic.

The aim of this scan was to document recent income transfer program changes in order to help compare the performance of Canadian provinces and territories during the pandemic and to inform upcoming program decisions. This study includes changes made to support vulnerable groups during the initial months of the pandemic through income transfer programs, and reviews the program features, financial commitments, and populations targeted through these initiatives. Understanding the diversity of approaches that have been taken to support vulnerable populations during COVID-19 may help policymakers identify subsequent steps needed to ensure a strengthened social safety net for future needs, such as managing the expected second wave of COVID-19 infections in the fall of 2020.

METHODS

Government websites for all 13 provinces and territories were scanned to identify news releases on income transfer programs published from March through July 2020. A list of programs that: (a) were created or amended in response to COVID-19; and (b) involved income transfers to individuals and families was generated. Government programs that involved income transfers delivered through a third party (e.g. employer, post-secondary institution) or provided a direct credit for basic expenses (e.g. electricity bills) were also included.

For each included program, a targeted search of government webpages was conducted using the program name to collect descriptive information. Where more information was needed, a Google search of the program name and jurisdiction was used to identify additional sources (i.e. major Canadian media outlets and non-profit organizations). Information recorded about each program included:

- name and description;
- period of eligibility;
- program type (i.e. created on a new/emergency basis due to COVID-19 or an amendment of an existing program);
- program category (i.e. social assistance, housing and utilities, student support, child and family, senior support, worker/employment);
- new financial investment committed by the provincial/territorial government for the program, and;
- program eligibility criteria.

This information, along with their sources, are included in Appendix A.

Descriptive analysis was carried out on income transfer program details to produce summary information on program types, categories, and eligibility criteria. An estimated per capita spending on the included income transfer programs was calculated for each province and territory by adding the new financial commitments reported by the jurisdiction and dividing by the total population reported by Statistics Canada in 2020.⁶ Jurisdictions with incomplete investment information were not included in this analysis.

RESULTS

A full table of income transfer programs organized by provinces and territories can be found in Appendix A.

Summary of Interventions

A summary of income transfer programs found across provinces and territories, organized by program type can be found on Table 1. Most interventions were targeted for individuals who had their employment impacted by the pandemic, including job loss, reductions in hours, and top-

ups for essential workers. British Columbia had the most number of programs out of all provinces and territories (n=10), making up a fifth of Canada’s total of response programs. Nunavut did not have any COVID-19 income transfer programs.

Table 1. Summary of income transfer programs (N=51)

Provinces/ Territories	Program Type							TOTAL
	Social assistance	Housing and utilities	Student support	Child and family	Senior support	Worker/employment	Other	
Alberta	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
British Columbia	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	10
Manitoba	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	4
New Brunswick	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Nova Scotia	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Ontario	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	7
Prince Edward Island	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	7
Quebec	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Saskatchewan	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4
Northwest Territories	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yukon	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
TOTAL	6	8	3	6	3	21	4	51

Program Characteristics

Details of the reviewed income transfer programs regarding program creation, eligibility conditions based on federal income support, and payment schedules are summarized in Table 2.

Most of the income transfer programs reviewed (n=36, 71 per cent) were newly created as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, Prince Edward Island had the highest number in this category, with 6 newly created programs.

The federal government’s implementation of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) was an influencing factor in the income support responses made by province and territories. For instance, some provinces, including Quebec and New Brunswick, had implemented bridging programs for those who could not work due to COVID-19 until the first CERB payments were made. Many of the income transfer programs (n=35, 69 per cent) did not involve federal support

through CERB and Employment Insurance (EI) in their eligibility criteria. However, some programs did have eligibility criteria explicitly stating whether it was required to have applied to or being receiving federal income assistance (n=8, 16 per cent) or if this excluded eligibility (n=8, 16 per cent).

In terms of payment schedule, most of the income transfer programs (n=26, 51 per cent) were one-time payments, while 45 per cent of programs (n=22) involved multiple payments on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis.

Table 2. Income transfer program details

Provinces/ Territories	Program Details							
	Program Creation		Federal Income Support Conditions			Payment Schedule		
	New Program	Amended Program	CERB/EI as Inclusion	CERB/EI as Exclusion	N/A	One Payment	Multiple Payments	Unknown
Alberta	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
British Columbia	5	5	3	2	5	6	4	0
Manitoba	4	0	1	1	2	3	1	0
New Brunswick	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Nova Scotia	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	1
Ontario	3	4	1	0	6	4	3	0
Prince Edward Island	6	1	2	2	3	3	3	1
Quebec	3	0	0	0	3	1	2	0
Saskatchewan	3	1	0	1	3	1	3	0
Northwest Territories	1	2	0	0	3	1	2	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yukon	3	1	0	1	3	1	3	0
TOTAL	36	15	8	8	35	26	22	3

New Financial Commitments

The totals of new financial commitments organized by province and territory for the included income transfer programs are found in Table 3.

When reviewing the available information on investments made for income transfer programs, British Columbia spent the most with \$410.14 per capita, followed by Northwest Territories with \$177.85 per capita. New Brunswick and Alberta were found to have spent the least with \$5.76

and \$14.09 spent per capita, respectively. Four jurisdictions (Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Yukon) did not have complete investment information.

Table 3. Estimated per capita spend on COVID-19 income transfer programs

Provinces/Territories	Investment Total (estimate)	Population (2020)	Per Capita Spending
Alberta	\$62.4 million	4,428,247	\$14.09 per capita
British Columbia	\$2.1 billion	5,120,184	\$410.14 per capita
Manitoba	\$169.6 million	1,379,121	\$122.98 per capita
New Brunswick	\$4.5 million	780,890	\$5.76 per capita
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$13.8 million	520,437	\$26.52 per capita
Nova Scotia	\$35.6 million	978,274	\$36.39 per capita
Ontario	<i>Incomplete investment information</i>		
Prince Edward Island	<i>Incomplete investment information</i>		
Quebec	<i>Incomplete investment information</i>		
Saskatchewan	\$68.6 million	1,181,987	\$58.04 per capita
Northwest Territories	\$8 million	44,982	\$177.85 per capita
Nunavut	<i>No income transfer programs</i>		
Yukon	<i>Incomplete investment information</i>		

DISCUSSION

In response to COVID-19, provinces and territories across Canada introduced or amended 51 income transfer programs for individuals and families. This scale of activity affirms that income support measures are a key component of a strong public health and pandemic response.

Programs largely focused on income supports for essential workers and people whose employment had been impacted by the pandemic. This focus on employment corresponds to the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Canada, which saw 5.5 million workers affected by economic shutdown from February to April.⁷

The number and financial commitments of income transfer programs varied between provinces and territories. For example, British Columbia had a notable 10 programs, with a total new investment of \$2.1 billion. British Columbia has also been known for its early success in flattening the COVID-19 curve and maintaining low case numbers relative to its population.⁸ More transparent information on program spending for all provinces would help to analyze connections between income support investment and COVID-19 impacts.

Several income transfer programs had eligibility criteria regarding receipt of federal income assistance (e.g. CERB, EI). As the federal government moves from CERB to EI as its income

support response to COVID-19, this scan can be used to consider how provincial/territorial and federal programs fit together and who will be included/excluded from income assistance to identify individuals lacking sufficient financial support.

While priority populations like low-income groups, essential workers, and seniors were targeted in the included income transfer programs, others were notably absent. This work identified no programs targeted to racialized or LGBTQ+ populations or people experiencing housing vulnerability and homelessness, and only one provincial program targeting Indigenous populations^a, exclusively for post-secondary students. However, we know that many of these groups are at higher risk for COVID-19.⁹⁻¹² As provinces and territories prepare for a second wave of COVID-19, income supports directed at these priority populations will be essential to a strong economic response.

This scan focused on program development and was not able to capture or assess indicators of success or any challenges of implementation. The design of interventions to support vulnerable populations should always consider potential inequities in access (e.g. language barriers, technology barriers).

As Canada's first wave of COVID-19 ends, many provincial and territorial income transfer programs are set to end in the coming weeks. But even as these programs subside, the need for income support has not disappeared. There is an opportunity for provinces and territories to consider the approaches used across jurisdictions in wave one of the pandemic to strengthen their response in the expected wave two. The next steps in Canada's social safety net, both provincially and federally, can set a precedent for designing equitable income support programs.

CONCLUSION

Provinces and territories across Canada responded to COVID-19 with over 50 new or amended income transfer programs, which are a critical component of a successful pandemic response. As jurisdictions prepare for a second wave of COVID-19, there is an opportunity to address gaps of wave one's income support programs. Future interventions can consider priority populations not targeted in the first round of programs (e.g. racialized, LGBTQ+, and Indigenous populations), how provincial/territorial programs fit with changing federal supports, and longer-term approaches to addressing the economic impacts of COVID-19.

^a The Government of Canada has created the Indigenous Community Support Fund to help Indigenous organizations and communities providing services to Indigenous peoples in urban centres or off reserve prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1585928331845/1585928356443>

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APPENDIX A. COVID-19 Income Transfer Support Programs by Province/Territory

PROV/TERR	PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	DATES	PROGRAM DETAILS	NEW \$ COMMITTED	PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
British Columbia	B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers ^{1,2,3,4}	A one-time, tax-free \$1,000 payment for B.C. residents whose ability to work has been affected due to COVID-19.	<p>Announced 23-Mar-20</p> <p>Applicable 01-Mar-20</p> <p>Effective Until 02-Dec-20</p>	<p>Category Worker/employment</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	\$1B	<p>Lost employment or self-employment income on or after March 15, 2020, eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), and not repaid nor are required to repay all of the CERB benefit; or lost employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days that began between March 1, 2020 and March 14, 2020, and during those 14 consecutive days, did not earn: more than \$1,000 in combined employment or self-employment income or allowances, money or other benefits under a provincial plan because of pregnancy or for the care of new-born or newly adopted child and have earned employment or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to March 15, 2020.</p> <p>In addition to either of the above criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resident of B.C. on March 15, 2020 ▪ Filed or agree to file a 2019 B.C. income tax return before January 1, 2021 ▪ Not received provincial Income Assistance or provincial Disability Assistance ▪ Not been incarcerated in a provincial or federal correctional facility for a period of 90 days or longer that includes March 15, 2020 ▪ Have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN), Individual Tax Number (ITN) or Temporary Tax Number (TTN) ▪ Not quit job voluntarily ▪ At least 15 years old on date of application
	Enhanced Climate Action Tax Credit ^{1,2,3,4}	A one-time enhanced B.C. climate action tax credit payment. Eligible individuals will receive up to \$218 (an increase of up to \$174.50 from the regular amount) and up to \$64 per child (an increase of up to \$51.25 from the regular amount). The one-time enhanced payment also has increased income threshold amount before the tax credit is reduced to zero.	<p>Announced 23-Mar-20</p> <p>Applicable 03-July-20</p> <p>Effective Until TBD</p>	<p>Category Other</p> <p>Type Change to existing</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	\$500M	Resident of B.C. who is 19 years of age or older, or has a spouse or common-law partner, or is a parent who resides with child.

Temporary Rental Supplement ^{1,2,3,4}	A monthly rent supplement paid directly to landlords. Eligible households with no dependents will receive \$300 per month and eligible households with dependents will receive \$500 per month.	Announced 25-Mar-20 Applicable Apr-20 Effective Until Aug-20	Category Housing and utilities Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$150M	Households that: are receiving or eligible for Employment Insurance, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, or experiencing a 25% reduction in monthly employment income as a result of COVID-19; have a 2019 gross household income of less than \$74,150 for single and couples without dependents or \$113,040 for households with dependents; pay more than 30% of current gross household income towards rent; and are not receiving any other rent subsidy from any level of government, including subsidized housing or rent supplements.
B.C. Hydro COVID-19 Relief Fund ^{1,2,3}	A non-repayable one-time power bill credit for residential customers who have lost their jobs or are unable to work due COVID-19. The credit amount will be three times the customer's average monthly bill over the past year.	Announced 01-Apr-20 Applicable Apr-20 Effective Until Jun-20	Category Housing and utilities Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$0* <i>*Costs of relief fund to be absorbed in B.C. Hydro's regulatory accounts</i>	Residential account holder (or partner) who is eligible for Employment Insurance, Canada Emergency Response Benefit, or B.C.'s Emergency Response Benefit for Workers and since at least March 31, 2020 has lost employment or income due to COVID-19 because of: a job layoff; being quarantined or sick with COVID-19; taking care of a family member that is sick with COVID-19; providing care for children due to school and daycare closures; or being unable to earn self-employment income.
Income and Disability Assistance Crisis Supplement ^{1,2,3,4}	A \$300-monthly supplement for recipients of income or disability assistance who are not eligible for emergency federal support programs, and recipients of income or disability assistance who reside in special care facilities. A \$52 transportation supplement added for duration of public transit fare suspension.	Announced 02-Apr-20 Applicable 22-Apr-20 Effective Until 26-Aug-20	Category Social assistance Type Change to existing Payment Multiple	\$350M	Not receiving federal Employment Insurance (EI) or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and on: Income Assistance, Disability Assistance or Comforts Allowance.
Senior's Supplement Crisis Supplement ^{1,2,3,4}	A \$300-monthly supplement for recipients of the B.C. senior's supplement.	Announced 02-Apr-20 Applicable 22-Apr-20 Effective Until 26-Aug-20	Category Senior support Type Change to existing Payment Multiple		Not receiving federal Employment Insurance (EI) or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and on the B.C. Senior's Supplement.
Student Emergency Financial Assistance ^{1,2}	An additional one-time investment of \$3.5 million in non-repayable emergency assistance funding for students attending a B.C. public post-secondary institution. Post-secondary institutions will determine each student's amount based on individual needs.	Announced 02-Apr-20 Applicable TBD Effective Until TBD	Category Student support Type Change to existing Payment One-time	\$3.5M	Domestic B.C. students attending a B.C. public post-secondary institution who are experiencing an unexpected financial emergency that may affect their ability to finish their studies.

	Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund ^{1,2}	An additional \$1.5 million supplement for non-repayable emergency assistance funding for Indigenous students attending a B.C. public post-secondary institution. Post-secondary institutions will determine each student's amount based on individual needs.	Announced 03-Apr-20 Applicable TBD Effective Until TBD	Category Student support Type Change to existing Payment One-time	\$1.5M	Indigenous students attending a B.C. public post-secondary institution or Native Education College who are experiencing an unexpected financial emergency that may affect their ability to finish their studies.
	Emergency Relief Support Fund for Children and Youth with Special Needs ^{1,2,3}	A monthly payment of \$225 provided directly to families with children with special needs, to purchase supports that help alleviate stress.	Announced 08-Apr-20 Applicable Apr-20 Effective Until Sep-20	Category Child and family Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$900K	Families who were deemed eligible to receive Ministry of Children and Family Development Children and Youth with Special Needs Family Support Services prior to June 15, 2020, including children/youth who are eligible for the Autism Funding Program and the At Home Program medical benefits. Families experiencing vulnerabilities due to COVID-19 will be prioritized.
	B.C. COVID-19 Temporary Pandemic Pay ^{1,2,3}	A lump-sum payment of about \$4/hour for a 16-week period starting on March 15, 2020 for health, social service, and corrections workers delivering in-person, frontline care.	Announced 19-May-20 Applicable 15-Mar-20 Effective Until 4-Jul-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$106M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working straight-time hours at any point during 16-week eligibility period (March 15, 2020 to July 4, 2020) ▪ Work in eligible sector, workplace, and role delivering in-person, frontline care in health, social services, corrections ▪ Provide additional support and relief to frontline workers by working directly to service vulnerable populations <p>Management staff, fee-for-service providers (and their direct employees) or employees on leave are not eligible.</p>
Alberta	Emergency Isolation Support Program ^{1,2}	A one-time payment of \$1,146 for Albertans who are experiencing a total or significant loss of income due to having to self-isolate or care for a dependent in self-isolation.	Announced 25-Mar-20 Applicable 25-Mar-20 Effective Until 06-Apr-20	Category Other Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$50M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resident of Alberta ▪ Experienced total or significant loss of income as a result of having to self-isolate or care for dependent who is self-isolating ▪ Been diagnosed with COVID-19; are caring for a dependent who is self-isolating; or have otherwise been directed by health authorities to self-isolate ▪ Not receiving compensation from any other source ▪ Working immediately before advised to self-isolate and cannot work from home
	Health Care Aide Wage Top-up ^{1,2,3,4}	A wage top-up of \$2/hour for health care aides.	Announced 20-Apr-20 Applicable 20-Apr-20 Effective Until TBD	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Unknown	\$12.4M* <i>*Investment to date for April and May 2020 top-up. Planned future investments of \$7.3M on a monthly basis.</i>	Information not available.

Saskatchewan	Self-Isolation Support Program ^{1,2}	A payment of \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900, for Saskatchewan residents forced to self-isolate starting from March 11, 2020.	Announced 20-Mar-20	Category Worker/employment	\$10M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult worker aged 18 or over Contracted COVID-19 or are showing symptoms; contact with an individual infected with COVID-19; or recently returned from international travel and required to self-isolate Not eligible for compensation including sick leave or vacation leave from their employer No private insurance to cover such disruptions Not covered by other programs (e.g. Employment Insurance, Canada Emergency Response Benefit)
	Emergency Financial Aid for Post-Secondary Students ¹	A one-time investment of \$1.5 million in emergency financial aid for post-secondary students with limited financial resources whose studies and employment have been disrupted by COVID-19. Post-secondary institutions will determine student's amount based on individual needs.	Announced 09-Apr-20	Category Student support	\$1.5M	Domestic and international students attending publicly funded post-secondary institutions. Specific eligibility requirements may be put in place by the post-secondary institution.
	Temporary Wage Supplement for Lower Income Workers at Essential Care Facilities ^{1,2,3,4,5}	A \$400 supplement per four-week period for up to 16 weeks (backdated to March 15) for workers helping vulnerable citizens in senior care facilities, group homes, childcare facilities, and emergency and transition shelters.	Announced 30-Apr-20	Category Worker/employment	\$56M	Workers at licensed public or private long-term care facilities or essential care facilities (assisted living facilities, senior care facilities, licenced childcare facilities, group homes, emergency and transition shelters, integrated healthcare facilities, home care) of any income level. Full-time, part-time, and casual workers are eligible, but third-party contract service providers are not.
	Additional Family Respite Funding ¹	A \$100-monthly supplement for respite or respite activities for caregivers of people with intellectual disabilities.	Announced 28-May-20	Category Child and family	\$1.125M	Families caring for adult Community Living Service Delivery clients in their homes; families receiving the Family Respite Benefit for children under the age of 18 with an intellectual disability; and Approved Private Service Home proprietors including Mental Health Approved Home proprietors.
Manitoba	Senior Economic Recovery Credit ^{1,2}	A \$200 one-time, refundable tax credit to Manitoba seniors facing additional costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as grocery deliveries and technology purchases to stay connected to loved ones.	Announced 05-May-20	Category Senior support	\$45M	Seniors aged 65+ who live in Manitoba and file an income tax return as a Manitoba resident.
			Applicable 11-Mar-20	Type New/emergency		
			Effective Until TBD	Payment Multiple		
			Applicable 19-Apr-20	Type New/emergency		
			Effective Until 30-Sep-20	Payment One-time		
			Applicable 15-Mar-20	Type New/emergency		
			Effective Until 04-Jul-20	Payment Multiple		
			Applicable Jun-20	Type Change to existing		
			Effective Until Sep-20	Payment Multiple		
			Applicable 01-May-20	Type New/emergency		
			Effective Until 30-Jun-20	Payment One-time		

	Disability Economic Support Program ^{1,2}	A one-time \$200 benefit to lower-income Manitobans with disabilities receiving Employment and Income Assistance benefits.	Announced 26-May-20 Applicable 26-May-20 Effective Until TBD	Category Social assistance Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$4.6M	Individuals who are receiving Employment and Income Assistance and qualify as a person with a disability
	Manitoba Risk Recognition Program ^{1,2}	A one-time payment to low-income, essential and pharmacies, front-line workers, who have taken extraordinary risks to keep Manitobans safe during the period of March 20, 2020 to May 29, 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Announced 02-Jun-20 Applicable 20-Mar-20 Effective Until 29-May-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$120M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worked in an eligible position and organization in healthcare, social services, justice, essential retail and pharmacies, food and beverage, Business Improvement Zones (BIZ), hotel/motel, and transportation ▪ Worked a minimum of 200 cumulative hours during the period of March 20, 2020 (the date of the first COVID-19 public health order) to May 29, 2020 on a part-time or full-time basis, or would have worked a minimum of 200 cumulative hours during the eligibility period, but had to self-isolate under public health orders ▪ Earned a total pre-tax employment income of less than \$12,500 from eligible positions during the period of March 20, 2020 to May 29, 2020 (average of \$5,000 per month x 2.5 months) ▪ Not enrolled in the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program
	Manitoba Job Restart Program ^{1,2}	A taxable financial benefit to a maximum of \$2,000 to Manitobans who safely return to work for one or more eligible employers and voluntarily stop collecting financial support programs delivered by the federal government. Individuals who return to work for a cumulative 30 hours per week during the period of June 26, 2020 to July 31, 2020 will receive \$500 upon enrollment in the MJRP and then receive three additional bi-weekly payments of \$500 upon completion of the required bi-weekly reporting.	Announced 23-Jun-20 Applicable 26-Jun-20 Effective Until 31-Jul-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$0* <i>*Funding for this program will be absorbed from the unspent balances in the \$240-million Manitoba Gap Protection Plan and Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Jobs Program. Further funding will be made available if there is significant uptake</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receiving benefits from the CERB or CESB at the time of the application ▪ Have been offered employment by an eligible employer with an anticipated start-date no more than 7 days into the future ▪ Anticipate working a minimum of 30 hours per week ▪ Be legally entitled to work in Canada ▪ Be a Manitoba resident since April 1, 2020 ▪ Have a valid Canadian bank account ▪ Agree to complete a bi-weekly (every two weeks) reporting survey to remain in the program and receive subsequent benefits ▪ Stop receiving CERB, CESB or other COVID-19 related financial benefits by the federal government at the time of submitting the application ▪ Attest to will follow Manitoba's COVID-19 public health guidelines for the workplace

Ontario	COVID-19 Emergency Assistance ^{1,2,3}	Expanded access to Ontario's Emergency Assistance program that suspends the rule that limits emergency assistance provision to only once in a six-month period for individuals and families affected by COVID-19; and allows people to receive emergency assistance for longer (48 days) without submitting a full Ontario Works application. Benefit amount is determined on a case-by-case basis but is approximately \$733 for a month for single person and need help paying for food and shelter.	Announced 23-Mar-20	Category Other	Unknown	Living in Ontario (not a visitor or tourist), in a crisis or emergency situation, and do not have enough money for things like food and housing. A crisis or emergency includes situations where an individual: has been affected by COVID-19; is being evicted from their home; is in or is leaving an abusive relationship; or is worried about their safety. Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program recipients are not eligible.
			Applicable 09-Apr-20	Type Change to existing		
			Effective Until TBD	Payment Multiple		
	Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) ^{1,2}	Additional funding for ODSP recipients of up to \$100 for single individuals and up to \$200 for families to help pay for COVID-19 expenses like cleaning supplies, transportation, and clothing.	Announced 23-Mar-20	Category Social assistance	Unknown	Current ODSP recipients
			Applicable 10-Apr-20	Type Change to existing		
			Effective Until 31-Jul-20	Payment One-time		
	Ontario Works (OW) ¹	Additional funding for OW recipients of up to \$100 for single individuals and up to \$200 for families to help pay for COVID-19 expenses like cleaning supplies, transportation, and clothing.	Announced 23-Mar-20	Category Social assistance	Unknown	Current OW recipients
			Applicable 10-Apr-20	Type Change to existing		
			Effective Until 31-Jul-20	Payment One-time		
	COVID-19 Childcare Support ^{1,2}	A one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools, to help families pay for the extra costs associated with school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 outbreak.	Announced 25-Mar-20	Category Child and family	Unknown	All parents with a child aged 0 to 12 or aged 0 to 21 with special needs.
			Applicable 06-Apr-20	Type New/emergency		
			Effective Until TBD	Payment One-time		

	Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) Payments ^{1,2,3}	A doubled payment for seniors receiving monthly Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payments, up to \$166 per month for individuals and up to \$332 per month for couples.	Announced 25-Mar-20 Applicable 10-Apr-20 Effective Until Sep-20	Category Senior support Type Change to existing Payment Multiple	\$75M	Current GAINS recipients
	Temporary Pandemic Pay ^{1,2,3}	A temporary wage top-up of \$4/hour for frontline workers for April 24, 2020 until August 13, 2020. Additional monthly lump sum payments of \$250 per month for four months to frontline workers who work over 100 hours per month.	Announced 25-Apr-20 Applicable 24-Apr-20 Effective Until Aug-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$671.8M	Eligible workplaces in health care and long-term care, social services, and corrections can apply for employees in eligible roles within their organization. Pandemic pay does not apply to management employees, including individuals in managerial positions who were redeployed to work in eligible front-line positions.
	COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program ^{1,2}	A one-time, on-bill credit to support residential customers struggling to pay their energy bills as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Electricity customers may qualify for a credit for half of overdue charges up to \$115, or if the home is mainly heated by electricity or uses intensive medical devices, up to \$230. Natural gas customers may qualify for up to half of overdue charges up to \$80, or if in Northern Ontario, \$160.	Announced 01-Jun-20 Applicable 13-Jul-20 Effective Until TBD	Category Housing and utilities Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$9M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has account with an electricity distributor, a USMP or a natural gas distributor ▪ In good standing on March 17, 2020, and not enrolled in an arrears payment agreement for amounts owing prior to March 17, 2020. (Enrolled in an arrears payment agreement for amounts that became owing after March 17, 2020, are eligible) ▪ Failed to make complete payment for the electricity and/or gas charges (as applicable) on at least two bills issued since March 17, 2020, and has an overdue balance on the date of their application ▪ Customer or the customer's spouse or common-law partner that resides in the same residence is unemployed on the date of their application and has received Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) since March 17, 2020
Quebec	Temporary Aid for Workers Program (PATT COVID-19) ^{1,2,3}	A benefit of \$573 per week for a period of 14 days of isolation, to meet the needs of workers who could not earn their usual income because they were in isolation to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.	Announced 16-Mar-20 Applicable 16-Mar-20 Effective Until 10-Apr-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	~ \$14.5M	Workers in isolation from contracting the virus or showing symptoms, contact with an infected person, or returning from abroad; who are not compensated by their employer, do not have private insurance, and are not covered by government programs, such as federal employment insurance.

	<p>Incentive Program to Retain Essential Workers (IPREW) 1.2.3</p>	<p>A \$100 weekly wage top-up for individuals working essential jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, to make up the difference between the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and an eligible individual's wages. The program provides \$100 for each week of qualifying work beginning March 15, 2020 and extending for a maximum of 16 weeks (\$1600).</p>	<p>Announced 03-Apr-20</p> <p>Applicable 19-May-20</p> <p>Effective Until 15-Nov-20</p>	<p>Category Worker/employment</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment Multiple</p>	<p>\$890M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working part-time or full-time in one of the essential service sectors during the program period ▪ Receiving gross wages of \$550 or less per week ▪ Annual employment income of at least \$5,000 for 2020 ▪ A total annual income of no more than \$28,600 for 2020 ▪ At least 15 years old when you apply for assistance under the IPREW ▪ Resident in Québec on December 31, 2019, and plan to reside in Québec throughout 2020
	<p>Financial Support for Households Awaiting their Residence 1.2</p>	<p>A benefit to support households whose plans to move into their main residence have been delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Households can receive up to \$2,000 per month for a maximum of two months to cover the costs of temporary accommodation, and up to \$1,000 for the expenses related to the moving, transportation, and storage of their movable property.</p>	<p>Announced 25-Apr-20</p> <p>Applicable 24-Apr-20</p> <p>Effective Until 30-Jun-21</p>	<p>Category Housing and utilities</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment Multiple</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Households without a home due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A delay caused by COVID-19 in the delivery of: new future housing; new future residential property; or residential property or housing that underwent major renovation work, thus requiring relocation. The property or housing must serve as the main residence and must have been under construction before March 25, 2020, and scheduled for delivery between April 1, 2020, and August 31, 2020, inclusively. ▪ The delayed move into future residential property or housing due to restrictions on travelling between regions; or ▪ The unavailability of future residential property or housing because of circumstances related to COVID-19. <p>Households that are without a home due to reasons other than the COVID-19 pandemic are not eligible to this measure related to temporary accommodation, nor are households that have already received compensation because their housing or residential property is unavailable.</p>
<p>New Brunswick</p>	<p>New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit 1.2</p>	<p>A one-time payment of \$900 for workers and self-employed individuals who have lost their job due to COVID-19. The benefit will bridge the gap between when a person lost their job or closed their business after March 15, 2020 to when the national benefit takes effect.</p>	<p>Announced 26-Mar-20</p> <p>Applicable 15-Mar-20</p> <p>Effective Until 30-Apr-20</p>	<p>Category Worker/employment</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	<p>\$4.5M</p>	<p>Individuals who have lost their job, been laid off or lost all revenues through self-employment on or after March 15, 2020.</p>

	Wage Top-Up for Workers in Essential Services ^{1,2,3}	A wage top-up for frontline workers in essential services who earn approximately \$18/hour or less. Private sector home care and family support workers will receive monthly payments over 16 weeks of up to \$500 for hours at or above 30 hours a per week; \$250 for hours of at least 20 but less than 30 per week; and \$100 for hours of at least 10 but less than 20 per week. Payment will cover the period worked between March 19, 2020 to July 9, 2020. Early learning and childcare childhood enhanced support workers will receive monthly payments of \$500 over 16 weeks, retroactive to May 19.	<p>Announced 26-Mar-20</p> <p>Applicable 15-Mar-20</p> <p>Effective Until 30-Apr-20</p>	<p>Category Worker/employment</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	<p>\$0*</p> <p><i>*Funded through Federal Wage Support Program</i></p>	<p>Frontline workers in the following essential services who earn approximately \$18 an hour or less:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early childhood educators in early learning and childcare facilities ▪ Home support workers providing direct in-person care to seniors, adults and children ▪ Direct in-person care in group homes, community residences, special care homes, homeless shelters and transition houses ▪ Domestic violence intervention workers ▪ Food bank workers ▪ Enhanced support workers in early learning and childcare facilities ▪ Private care home and family support workers who provide direct personal care to social development clients living at home
Newfoundland and Labrador	One-Time Customer Bill Credit ^{1,2,3}	A one-time credit on electric bills applied automatically to the July 2020 bill. Credit amounts will be based on recent average usage, with average electricity costs around \$85 for customers who do not rely on electricity as primary heat source and \$145 for customers who do.	<p>Announced 14-May-20</p> <p>Applicable Jul-20</p> <p>Effective Until Jul-20</p>	<p>Category Housing and utilities</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	<p>\$0*</p> <p><i>*Funded through surplus NL Hydro funds due to low oil prices.</i></p>	All active customers who have an electricity account on July 1, 2020.
	Essential Worker Support Program ^{1,2}	A temporary wage top-up for essential workers employed during alert level 4 and 5 of the COVID-19 pandemic with a maximum gross monthly income of \$3,000. Lump sum payment amount ranges from \$600-1500 based on hours worked over the 16-week eligibility period.	<p>Announced 15-Jun-20</p> <p>Applicable 15-Mar-20</p> <p>Effective Until 4-Jul-20</p>	<p>Category Worker/employment</p> <p>Type New/emergency</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	\$13.8M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resident of Newfoundland and Labrador and legally authorized to work in Canada ▪ Employed or self-employed in any business or organization in Essential Worker Listing ▪ Not received the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) during the eligibility period ▪ Worked in both Alert Levels 4 and 5 ▪ Gross earnings less than \$3,000 in a month and a minimum of 190 work hours during the program eligibility period
Nova Scotia	Additional Income Assistance ^{1,2}	A one-time additional payment of \$50 for all individuals and families on income assistance to help pay for food, cleaning supplies and personal care items.	<p>Announced 19-Mar-20</p> <p>Applicable 20-Mar-20</p> <p>Effective Until Apr-20</p>	<p>Category Social assistance</p> <p>Type Change to existing</p> <p>Payment One-time</p>	\$2.2M	All income assistance recipients.

	Worker Emergency Bridge Fund ^{1,2,3}	A one-time, \$1,000 payment for people laid off or out of work because of COVID-19, to bridge the gap between layoffs and closures and the federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit.	Announced 02-Apr-20 Applicable 16-Mar-20 Effective Until Closed (date unknown)	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$20M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia resident 18 or older Employed and laid off, or self-employed and lost all revenue because of COVID-19 on or after March 16, 2020 Earned between \$5,000 and \$34,000 in 2018 Have applied (or plan to apply) for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) <p>Ineligible if receiving Employment Insurance benefits; eligible for Employment Insurance benefits; receiving Income Assistance; receiving any income or benefit (like salary, sick leave, disability insurance or workers' compensation) for lost income for reasons other than COVID-19; incarcerated in a federal or provincial institution.</p>
	Essential Health Care Workers Program ^{1,2}	A bonus of up to \$2,000 after a four-month period for frontline health care workers.	Announced 07-May-20 Applicable 13-Mar-20 Effective Until 12-Jul-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Unknown	\$13.4M	Full-time, part-time and casual non-management employees at the Nova Scotia Health Authority, IWK Health Centre and other health services who worked on the front-line providing direct care and service to COVID-19 patients and/or public with exposure to potential risk of COVID-19 or were instrumental in the containment efforts during the pandemic in their work in screening, contact tracing and lab testing. Those who work during the four months but are placed on isolation, quarantine or COVID-19 sick leave are also eligible. Employees who volunteered to be redeployed to work at a facility experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak will also receive this benefit.
Prince Edward Island	Emergency Income Relief for the Self-Employed ^{1,2,3}	A weekly payment of up to \$500 per week for self-employed individuals significantly affected by COVID-19, for the period of March 16 to March 29, 2020.	Announced 16-Mar-20 Applicable 16-Mar-20 Effective Until 29-Mar-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$500K* <i>*Captures total value of applications approved by March 27, 2020.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declared business income on their most recent tax return Business income is primary source of income Able to demonstrate direct financial losses resulting from the COVID-19 isolation measures at the time of application Not eligible for Employment Insurance or receiving any other income support (e.g. Business Interruption Insurance)
	Emergency Relief Worker Assistance Program ^{1,2,3}	A weekly supplement of up to \$250 for employees that have a significant drop in their working hours. Applied for by the employer.	Announced 18-Mar-20 Applicable 16-Mar-20 Effective Until 11-Apr-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$114K* <i>*Captures total value of applications approved by March 27, 2020.</i>	Eligible employers include registered private sector businesses or non-profit organizations in Prince Edward Island where employed workers have experienced a reduction of at least 8 hours per week, as compared to pre-COVID-19 hours, during the four-week period March 16, 2020-April 11, 2020.

	Temporary Rental Assistance Benefit ^{1,2,3}	A rent benefit of \$1000 over three months to assist renters with an unexpected loss of income due to COVID-19. Islanders will receive \$500 in the first month they apply and \$250 the next two months, paid directly to the landlord.	Announced 30-Mar-20 Applicable Apr-20 Effective Until Jun-20	Category Housing and utilities Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$1M	Eligible individuals must have applied for either federal employment insurance benefits or the recently announced Canada Emergency Response Benefit, must live on P.E.I. and must not be receiving other rental subsidy programs. Post-secondary students will also be eligible for the rental subsidy, even if they are not eligible for the two federal programs. Self-employed individuals are also eligible.
	COVID-19 Income Support Fund ^{1,2}	A one-time lump sum payment of \$750 to bridge the gap between their loss of income as a result of COVID-19 and receiving Employment Insurance benefits or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.	Announced 01-Apr-20 Applicable 13-Mar-20 Effective Until 30-Apr-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	Unknown	Individuals aged 18 years or older who, as of March 13, 2020, have lost their job or have been laid off, have had their Employment Insurance benefits expire and do not yet have a job to return to, or are self-employed and have lost all revenues through self-employment, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resident of Prince Edward Island as of December 31, 2019 ▪ Earned minimum of \$5,000 (gross) in last 12 months ▪ Lost their primary source of income because of COVID-19 and have no other income ▪ Applied for federal benefits (e.g. Employment Insurance or the Canada Emergency Response Benefit)
	Special Situation Fund for Individuals ^{1,2}	A one-time payment of up to \$1,000 to Islanders who have experienced urgent income loss as a result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for other federal and provincial funding support.	Announced 02-Apr-20 Applicable 13-Mar-20 Effective Until 08-May-20	Category Other Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$1M	Income impacted between March 13, 2020 and June 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health state of emergency in Prince Edward Island and over the age of 16, a PEI resident for tax purposes as of December 31, 2019, and not eligible for Employment Insurance.
	COVID-19 Support for Essential Workers ^{1,2}	A one-time wage top-up of \$1000 for essential workers earning \$3000/month or less and employed during the PEI Public Health State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Announced 07-May-20 Applicable 06-Apr-20 Effective Until 26-Jul-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$16.7M	Employers: Any business or organization including for-profit, non-profit, public sector or other entity providing goods and services, deemed to be providing an essential service as defined by the PEI Chief Public Health Office as of May 11, 2020. Employees (one time and from only one employer): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resident of Prince Edward Island for at least six months and legally authorized to work in Canada ▪ Employed in any business or organization providing 'essential services' as defined by the PEI Chief Public Health Office as of May 11, 2020 ▪ Earning \$3,000/month or less (gross) in a consecutive four-week period during the program eligibility period from April 6, 2020 through to July 26, 2020 ▪ Earning hourly wage of \$18.75/hr or less; worked a minimum of 60 hours during the consecutive four-week period selected (i.e. April 6, 2020 – May 3, 2020)

	Child Care Allowance ^{1,2}	A childcare allowance of up to \$75 per child, per week between May 22, 2020 and June 26, 2020 to help with childcare costs for families who are returning to work.	Announced 15-May-20 Applicable 22-May-20 Effective Until 26-Jun-20	Category Worker/employment Type Change to existing Payment One-time for families using private childcare services; Multiple for families using licenced childcare centres	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resident of Prince Edward Island ▪ Working in Prince Edward Island ▪ Spouse/common law partner is working ▪ Receive childcare services in Prince Edward Island ▪ Parent or guardian of child 12 and under
Northwest Territories	Income Assistance ^{1,2,3}	A one-time emergency allowance for Income Assistance clients registered in March to help with a 14-day supply of food and cleaning products as the stores have them available. Individuals receive \$500 and families receive \$1,000.	Announced 31-Mar-20 Applicable 31-Mar-20 Effective Until TBD	Category Social assistance Type Change to existing Payment One-time	\$1.617M	Current Income Assistance clients who are NWT residents, 19 years or older, with need greater than their income.
	Transitional Rent Supplement Program ^{1,2,3}	An enhancement of the existing rent subsidy program that ensures a minimum support level of \$100/month, paid directly to the landlord. Other enhancements include: no requirements to take a financial counselling course or be arrears-free; previous participants are eligible; and a simplified application process.	Announced 23-Apr-20 Applicable 23-Apr-20 Effective Until 31-Aug-20	Category Housing and utilities Type Change to existing Payment Multiple	\$200K	NWT residents in private market rentals who pay more than 30% of their total income for rent.
	NWT Wage Top-up Program ^{1,2}	A temporary wage top-up for employees who make less than \$18 per hour, for a maximum of 16 weeks between April 1 and July 31, 2020.	Announced 12-May-20 Applicable 01-Apr-20 Effective Until 31-Jul-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$6.2M	All workers in the NWT currently earning less than \$18 per hour and over 15 years old.

Yukon	COVID-19 Rent Assist Program ^{1,2}	A monthly rent supplement paid directly to landlords. Eligible households will receive 50% of Whitehorse median market rent based on unit size, retroactive to April 1, 2020.	Announced 11-May-20 Applicable Apr-20 Effective Until Sep-20	Category Housing and utilities Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	\$1.29M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenant in private non-subsidized market rental housing Lost 30% or more of their income due to COVID-19 Yukon resident with a residential lease for a private market rental unit for at least three months Applied to other COVID-19 relief funds
	Families with Students Support ^{1,2}	A one-time payment of \$250 per student for families with children in kindergarten to grade 12 who have been impacted by COVID-19.	Announced 19-May-20 Applicable 19-May-20 Effective Until 19-Jun-20	Category Child and family Type New/emergency Payment One-time	\$1.4M* <i>*Based on reported student enrolment.</i>	Primary caregivers with children or youth enrolled in kindergarten to grade 12 at a Yukon public school whose family has been impacted by COVID-19 and is not already receiving funding support for home education or BC distance learning.
	Yukon Essential Workers Income Support Program ¹	A wage subsidy for low-income essential workers earning no more than \$20/hour that will either raise earnings to \$20/hour or top-up earnings by \$4/hour, whichever is less. The subsidy is applied for by and provided directly to employers for any 16-week period retroactive to March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.	Announced 22-May-20 Applicable 15-Mar-20 Effective Until 03-Oct-20	Category Worker/employment Type New/emergency Payment Multiple	Unknown	Full-time and part-time workers who make a base wage of no more than \$20/hour at services identified as critical or essential and who have not accessed the Canada Emergency Response Benefit during the same period.
	Additional Disability Services Funding ¹	An additional monthly payment of \$250-400 for families accessing supports through Disability Services to pay for services such as respite care, childcare, or housekeeping, or for specialized equipment or supplies.	Announced 02-Jun-20 Applicable Jun-20 Effective Until Aug-20	Category Child and family Type Change to existing Payment Multiple	\$94K* <i>*Based on reported numbers of families currently accessing supports and services.</i>	Families who currently access supports and services through Disability Services or the Approved Home Caregiver program.