

# **BC Recovery Benefit and Recovery Supplement**

## ***A plain language Summary***

- The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and hardships for people and families.
- To help people and families recover from these hard times, the BC Government has announced a new benefit called the BC Recovery Benefit.
- This is a one-time, tax-free provincial benefit of up to \$500 for an adult or \$1,000 for a family.
- For people who receive income or disability assistance, the BC Government also announced the \$150 Recovery Supplement.
- The \$150 Recovery Supplement will replace the \$300 Covid-19 Supplement.
- People receiving Disability Assistance can receive BOTH the BC Recovery Benefit AND the \$150 Recovery Supplement.

Here are some questions and answers to help you understand how the benefit and supplement work.

### **How much money is the BC Recovery Benefit?**

- The amount of money you receive will depend on how much money you made in 2019.
- If you are a single person and made less than \$62,500 you will receive a \$500 payment.
- Families (including single parents) who make under \$125,000 will receive \$1,000.
- PWD benefits will NOT be clawed back if you receive this benefit.
- You do not have to pay tax on this benefit.

### **How do I apply for the BC Recovery Benefit?**

- The new recovery benefit is not automatic, you will need to apply.
- To apply you will need:
  - to be a resident of B.C. on Dec. 18, 2020;
  - be at least 19 years old on Dec. 18, 2020, unless you meet special criteria;
  - a Social Insurance Number
  - your 2019 income tax notice of assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
  - If applicable, your spouse's 2019 income tax notice of assessment from the CRA
  - Direct deposit information.
- You can apply online OR by phone.
  - Online - you can start to apply online [here](#) on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

- By phone - You can start to apply by phone on December 21<sup>st</sup> by calling 1 833 882-0020 toll-free, Monday to Friday [except statutory holidays], from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific time).
- You have until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to apply.

### **What if I need help to apply?**

- Ask someone you trust to help you get what you need to apply.
- Starting Dec. 21, support is also available by phone at 1 833 882-0020 toll-free, Monday to Friday [except for statutory holidays], from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Pacific time).

### **What if I didn't do my 2019 income taxes or do not have access to banking services?**

- Everyone is encouraged to file their income taxes. By filing, people can receive benefits and credits they might not know they are eligible for.
- People can also phone the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281 for more information on how to file their taxes, including free virtual tax clinics.
- If you haven't filed yet, don't worry – you'll still be able to access the BC Recovery Benefit.
- We know that some people have barriers to filing their income taxes and others may not have access to banking services.
- That is why the BC Government is working as quickly as possible to create a different application process for people on Disability Assistance who have not filed their 2019 income tax return or do not have banking services
- You have until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to apply.
- The BC Government will make an announcement when this different application process is ready in the new year. You can also subscribe to receive updates at [gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit](http://gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit).

### **How fast will I get the BC Recovery Benefit?**

- The quickest way to receive the BC Recovery Benefit is if you apply online.
- Most people will receive payment within five business days of their application being approved.
- It will take longer for payments to be made if:
  - you have not filed your 2019 income tax return
  - you do not have access to banking services
  - you provide incomplete or inaccurate information on your application

- you need help with gathering information for your application,
- your supporting documents are incomplete or illegible documentation
- or you are new to the province in 2020.

### **What is the BC \$150 Recovery Supplement?**

- The \$150 Recovery Supplement will replace the COVID-19 supplement starting in January 2021.
- The \$150 Recovery Supplement will be automatically added to your Disability Assistance (PWD) cheque for 3 months from January to March 2021.
- You do not have to apply for it.

### **Why is the BC Recovery Supplement less than the COVID-19 Crisis Supplement?**

- The \$300 COVID-19 Crisis Supplement was extended to December 2020.
- The \$150 Recovery Supplement will replace the COVID-19 Crisis Supplement starting in January 2021.
- From January to March, the combined amount of money you will receive with the Recovery Supplement and Recovery Benefit will be slightly more than the \$300 Crisis Supplement would have been over three months.
  - Single people on Disability Assistance will receive a total of \$950 – a \$50 increase