

Provincial government announcement on emergency supports

Plain Language Summary

On April 2, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Shane Simpson [made an announcement about the financial help available](#) for people on income or disability assistance during the COVID-19 crisis. Here is a summary of the key details below:

- If you lose your job and then get support from the federal government, you will still get the same PWD payments for the months of April, May and June. The means if you get Employment Insurance (EI) or the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), or any other federal support, your PWD payment will not change.
- If you are not eligible to get EI, the CERB, or other federal support, you will get an extra \$300 per month on your PWD Cheque. The extra money will be automatically added to your April 22, 2020 cheque. You can get it in April, May and June.
- If you get \$52 for your monthly bus pass, this money will be automatically added to your PWD cheque. Right now, BC Transit and Translink are not charging any money to ride buses or Skytrains. This extra money will be added to your cheque until BC Transit and Translink start charging money again. If you have a Compass pass, it will stay active. You won't need to reapply.

The provincial government is also supporting vulnerable people in B.C. by:

- providing \$3 million to foodbanks across the province
- having a Vulnerable Population Working Group with members from across government

Helpful Links:

- [Information about COVID-19 and Disability Assistance from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction](#)
- [Information about the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit](#)