

Social policies to support workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

This list was last updated on August 10, 2021 with information taken from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html#individuals>. For any further details please refer directly to this website.

Information specific for Ontario is available via <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-support-people>

	Canada/Ontario	Policy Status
Policies that expand existing unemployment insurance payments	Removal of the 1 week waiting period for sick benefits for those who qualify for Employment Insurance	Active.
Direct payments to workers	Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) Benefit: \$2,000 a month for six months for those who do not qualify for EI and lost their jobs (taxable).	CERB is now closed.
Policies that enhance sick benefits	1) The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) provides \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) per week for up to a maximum of four weeks, for workers who (1) are unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they contracted COVID-19; (2) are self-isolating for reasons related to COVID-19 or (3) have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments or have contracted other sicknesses that, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, person in authority, government or public health authority, would make them more susceptible to COVID-19. 2) The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) provides \$500 (\$450 after taxes withheld) for up to 42 weeks per household for eligible workers.	1) The CRSB is available until October 23, 2021. 2) The CRCB is available until October 23, 2021.
Indirect payments to essential workers	1) Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS): 75% wage subsidy to employers (12 weeks). 2) Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA): \$40,000 loans to small businesses 3) Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA): 75% reduction in rents for small businesses - difficult to access	1) CEWS - A proposal has been made to continue the CEWS until October 2021, including possible changes to the rates as of claim period 20. 2) CEBA - The June 30, 2021 CEBA Application Period Deadline Has Now Passed.

		3) CECRA - The program is now closed.
Other direct cash transfers	<p>1) Increase in Canadian Child Benefit (CCB) by \$300 per child per year.</p> <p>2) Increase in GST credit for low-income Canadians by \$400 per individual and \$600 per family.</p> <p>3) Wage top-ups for low wage essential workers</p>	<p>1) 2021 Update - in recognition that many families are struggling with a wide range of expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic, families entitled to the CCB are receiving additional temporary support of up to \$1,200 for each child under the age of 6 through the CCB.</p> <p>2) A one-time additional GST/HST credit payment in April 2020.</p> <p>The Canada Workers Benefit provides a refundable tax credit to help people who are working and earning a low income. More information here: https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-workers-benefit.html</p> <p>3) Temporary</p>
Other	<p>1) \$157m to support those in homeless shelters.</p> <p>2) \$50m for women's support shelters.</p> <p>3) \$305m for indigenous communities.</p> <p>4) Suspended payments on Canada Student Loans for 6 months.</p> <p>5) Canada Emergency Student Benefit: \$1,250 per month for students and recent grads (4 months)</p>	