

Federal Support for Seniors

To help seniors who are struggling during the COVID-19 public health crisis, the federal government has provided support measures that provide direct financial relief, as well as support for organizations that provide seniors with essential services. The latest updates can always be found on Canada.ca/coronavirus.

Top-up to the Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

- Seniors receiving the Old Age Security (OAS) pension will receive a one-time tax-free payment of \$300, with an additional \$200 for seniors who are eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

Temporary Extension of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowance Payments

- To avoid an interruption in any benefits, we are temporarily extending GIS and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed. This will ensure that seniors continue to receive their benefits.

Investment of \$20 million to organizations offering services to seniors

- The federal government is expanding the New Horizons for Seniors Program through an additional investment of \$20 million to support organizations that offer community-based projects that reduce isolation, improve the quality of life of seniors, and help them maintain a social support network.

Support for delivery of items and personal outreach

- The federal government is providing \$9 million through United Way Canada to support practical services to Canadian seniors, including the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items. Seniors in Winnipeg can access these services by phoning 311.

Reduced minimum withdrawals for Registered Retirement Income Funds

- The minimum required withdrawal for all types of registered retirement income funds has been reduced by 25% for 2020. This will help preserve RRIF assets during a volatile market. More information can be found, [here](#).

Top up to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Credit

- Low- and modest-income seniors who receive the GST credit received a one time top up in April of up to \$400 per adult and \$600 per couple

Working Seniors eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

- Seniors who have stopped working due to COVID-19, and made more than \$5,000 in employment income in 2019 are eligible for the CERB. This benefit provides \$2,000 a month. Receiving a pension income does not affect eligibility to this benefit. More information on this can be found, [here](#).