
FACTSHEET

September 16, 2008

Ministry of Housing and Social Development

INCREASES TO INCOME ASSISTANCE RATES

- Rate increases took effect in April 2007 – and were reflected on clients' March 28, 2007, payments.
- All income assistance clients were eligible to receive an increase of up to \$50 per month to the maximum shelter portion of their income assistance rates. This was the first across-the-board shelter rate increase since 1992 – benefiting 135,000 individuals.
 - For example, a single Expected to Work client is now eligible to receive a monthly maximum of \$375 for shelter.
- All single Expected to Work clients received an increased support payment of \$50 per month – benefiting over 16,000 individuals.
 - With the new rate, a single Expected to Work client now receives \$235 per month, a 27 per cent increase – up from \$185.
- Support and shelter rates for children were standardized, ensuring all children receive the same amount of support regardless of the classification of their parents. These changes immediately benefited 18,800 families.
 - For example, a single Expected to Work parent with two children now receives \$1,036 a month up from \$881, an 18 per cent increase.
- The full cost of all rate increases was \$58.1 million in 2007/08 – representing an additional \$185 million over three years.
- Changes were also made to existing policy benefiting a family unit in which only one adult is classified as a Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) and the other as Expected to Work. Support rates were increased to reflect a percentage of what a two-person PPMB family would receive and both adults are now eligible for PPMB medical supplements and earnings exemptions.
- As well, effective June 1, 2007, standardized payments were made to the approximately 5,000 clients residing in Community Living BC facilities, providing all clients in CLBC facilities with the maximum monthly disability rate – leaving clients with \$190 per month for personal expenses.
- The Diabetic Diet Supplement increased from \$15 to \$35 per month; and the Guide Animal Supplements increased to \$95 per month – up from \$62.

- A new transportation supplement was made available to help clients who are required to travel in order to receive drug or alcohol treatment at an approved facility. The cost of the supplement will be based on the least expensive, appropriate mode of transportation.
- In addition to provincial income assistance, low-income B.C. families benefit from a variety of programs offered by both the provincial and federal governments, including: Medical Service Plan and PharmaCare coverage; the Christmas and School Start-Up Supplements; the B.C. Sales Tax Credit; child tax credits; basic dental coverage; the GST Credit; the National Child Benefit; and the \$100 monthly Universal Child Care Benefit for children under six.

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For more information: The Ministry of Housing and Social Development Info Line
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Income Assistance Rate Changes

Expected to Work				
Category	Type	Current Rate	New Rate*	Total Increases
Single		\$510	\$610	\$100
Couple		\$827	\$877	\$50
Single Parent	One Child	\$846	\$946	\$100
	Two Children	\$881	\$1036	\$155
	Three Children	\$916	\$1076	\$160
	Four Children	\$951	\$1126	\$175
	Five Children	\$986	\$1161	\$175
Two Parents	One Child	\$956	\$1061	\$105
	Two Children	\$991	\$1101	\$110
	Three Children	\$1026	\$1151	\$125
	Four Children	\$1061	\$1186	\$125
	Five Children	\$1096	\$1221	\$125

*New rate came into effect April 1, 2007.

Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers				
Category	Type	Current Rate	New Rate*	Total Increases
Single		\$608	\$658	\$50
Couple (both PPMB)		\$972	\$1022	\$50
Couple (one PPMB)		\$827	\$966	\$139
Single Parent	One Child	\$897	\$994	\$97
	Two Children	\$932	\$1084	\$152
	Three Children	\$967	\$1124	\$157
	Four Children	\$1002	\$1174	\$172
	Five Children	\$1037	\$1209	\$172
Two Parents where both adults are PPMBs	One Child	\$1007	\$1206	\$199
	Two Children	\$1042	\$1246	\$204
	Three Children	\$1077	\$1296	\$219
	Four Children	\$1112	\$1331	\$219
	Five Children	\$1147	\$1366	\$219
Two Parents where one adult is a PPMB	One Child	\$956	\$1150	\$194
	Two Children	\$991	\$1190	\$199
	Three Children	\$1026	\$1240	\$214
	Four Children	\$1061	\$1275	\$214
	Five Children	\$1096	\$1310	\$214

*New rate came into effect April 1, 2007.



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Persons with Disabilities				
<i>Category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Current Rate</i>	<i>New Rate*</i>	<i>Total Increases</i>
Single		\$856	\$906	\$50
Couple (One PWD)		\$1221	\$1271	\$50
Couple (Two PWD)		\$1469	\$1519	\$50
Single Parent	One Child	\$1145	\$1242	\$97
	Two Children	\$1235	\$1332	\$97
	Three Children	\$1275	\$1372	\$97
	Four Children	\$1325	\$1422	\$97
	Five Children	\$1360	\$1457	\$97
Two Parents where one adult is a PWD	One Child	\$1311	\$1455	\$144
	Two Children	\$1351	\$1495	\$144
	Three Children	\$1401	\$1545	\$144
	Four Children	\$1436	\$1580	\$144
	Five Children	\$1471	\$1615	\$144
Two parents where both are PWD	One Child	\$1559	\$1703	\$144
	Two Children	\$1599	\$1743	\$144
	Three Children	\$1649	\$1793	\$144
	Four Children	\$1684	\$1828	\$144
	Five Children	\$1719	\$1863	\$144

*New rate came into effect April 1, 2007.

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New Income Assistance Rates Combined with Other Government Benefits (Updated October 10, 2007)

Expected to Work										
<i>Category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>New Rate*</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>School Start-Up</i>	<i>Federal GST Credit</i>	<i>BC Sales Tax Credit</i>	<i>Federal Child Tax Benefit</i>	<i>BC Family Bonus/ National Child Benefit</i>	<i>Federal Child Care Benefit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Single		\$610	\$2.92	\$0	\$19.75	\$6.25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$638.92
Couple		\$877.22	\$5.83	\$0	\$39.50	\$12.50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$935.05
Single Parent	1 Child Age 4	\$945.58	\$6.67	\$0	\$49.92	\$6.25	\$106.92	\$165.67	\$100	\$1381.01
	2 Aged 10 & 12	\$1035.58	\$7.50	\$9.67	\$60.33	\$6.25	\$213.82	\$312.16	\$0	\$1645.31
Two Parent Family	1 Child Age 4	\$1061.06	\$6.67	\$0	\$49.92	\$12.50	\$106.92	\$165.67	\$100	\$1502.74
	2 Aged 10 & 12	\$1101.06	\$7.50	\$9.67	\$60.33	\$12.50	\$213.82	\$312.16	\$0	\$1717.04

* New rate came into effect April 1, 2007.

Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers										
<i>Category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>New Rate*</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>School Start-Up</i>	<i>Federal GST Credit</i>	<i>BC Sales Tax Credit</i>	<i>Federal Child Tax Benefit</i>	<i>BC Family Bonus/ National Child Benefit</i>	<i>Federal Child Care Benefit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Single		\$657.92	\$2.92	\$0	\$19.75	\$6.25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$686.84
Couple (one PPMB)		\$966.22	\$5.83	\$0	\$39.50	\$12.50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1024.05
Single Parent	1 Child Age 4	\$993.58	\$6.67	\$0	\$49.92	\$6.25	\$106.92	\$165.67	\$100	\$1429.01
	2 Aged 10 & 12	\$1083.58	\$7.50	\$9.67	\$60.33	\$6.25	\$213.82	\$312.16	\$0	\$1693.31
Two Parent Family (one PPMB)	1 Child Age 4	\$1150.06	\$6.67	\$0	\$49.92	\$12.50	\$106.92	\$165.67	\$100	\$1591.74
	2 Aged 10 & 12	\$1190.06	\$7.50	\$9.67	\$60.33	\$12.50	\$213.82	\$312.16	\$0	\$1806.04

* New rate came into effect April 1, 2007.

Persons with Disabilities										
<i>Category</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>New Rate*</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Federal GST Credit</i>	<i>BC Sales Tax Credit</i>	<i>Federal Child Tax Benefit</i>	<i>BC Family Bonus/National Child Benefit</i>	<i>Federal Child Care Benefit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Single		\$906.42	\$2.92	\$0	\$25.10	\$6.25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$940.69
Couple (one PWD)		\$1270.56	\$5.83	\$0	\$39.50	\$12.50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1328.39
Single Parent	1 Child Age 4	\$1242.08	\$6.67	\$0	\$49.92	\$6.25	\$106.92	\$165.67	\$100	\$1677.51
	2 Aged 10 & 12	\$1332.08	\$7.50	\$9.67	\$60.33	\$6.25	\$213.82	\$312.16	\$0	\$1941.81
Two Parent Family (one PWD)	1 Child Age 4	\$1454.56	\$6.67	\$0	\$49.92	\$12.50	\$106.92	\$165.67	\$100	\$1896.24
	2 Aged 10 & 12	\$1494.56	\$7.50	\$9.67	\$60.33	\$12.50	\$213.82	\$312.16	\$0	\$2110.54

*New rate came into effect April 1, 2007.

- The Christmas and School Start-Up supplements are paid once per year. They have been pro-rated over 12 months in the tables.
- The federal GST credit is paid quarterly. It has been pro-rated over 12 months.
- The refundable BC Sales Tax Credit is paid once a year. It has been pro-rated over 12 months.
- The Universal Child Benefit is worth \$100 per month for each child under age six and paid monthly.
- The Canada Child Tax Benefit, National Child Benefit and BC Family Bonus are paid monthly.