



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

[Canada.ca](#) > [Department of Finance Canada](#) > [News](#) > [03](#)

Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June

From: [Department of Finance Canada](#)

News release

March 3, 2021 - Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support have helped protect millions of Canadian jobs and supported businesses of every size across Canada through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, announced that the government intends to extend the current rate structures for these subsidies from March 14 to June 5, 2021. Specifically:

- the maximum wage subsidy rate for active employees would remain at 75 per cent;
- the maximum rent subsidy rate would remain at 65 per cent; and
- Lockdown Support would remain at 25 per cent and continue to be provided in addition to the rent subsidy, providing eligible hard hit businesses with rent support of up to 90 per cent.

These extensions would provide certainty and continued support for workers, businesses and other affected organizations in the face of ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic. With regard to furloughed employees, the government intends to continue to align the wage subsidy rate structure with the benefits provided through the Employment Insurance program from March 14 to June 5, 2021. This means employers who qualify for the wage subsidy would be able to continue to claim up to a maximum benefit of \$595 per week per employee to support remuneration of their furloughed workers.

Through the pandemic, applicants have demonstrated revenue declines by comparing revenue to the previous year. Given that we are approaching a full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government is today announcing that applicants would be able to continue to use a pre-pandemic 2019 reference month, effective for the upcoming periods from March 14 to June 5, 2021.

Further details are in the [backgrounder issued with today's announcement](#).

Quotes

“Workers and businesses have showed incredible resilience over the past year, especially through this difficult winter, and today’s announcement makes clear that they can continue to rely on their government to be there for them, every step of the way. With variants in Canada and many regions still under lockdown, we are giving workers and businesses the certainty they need that strong government support will be there to get them through this crisis and ensure they come out strong.”

*The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance*

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and employ millions of hard-working Canadians. Our government introduced comprehensive emergency response programs, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and the Lockdown Support, so business owners and their workers have the support they need to bridge through the pandemic. These programs, combined with the incredible resilience of our small businesses, will ensure that we are set up for a strong economic recovery.”

*The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export
Promotion and International Trade*

Quick facts

- More than 5 million Canadian employees have had their jobs supported through the wage subsidy with more than \$66 billion paid out in wage subsidies as of February 21, 2021.
- The rent subsidy provides direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage interest support until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. Since its launch in November 2020, more than 129,000 organizations have been supported with more than \$1.6 billion paid out in rent subsidies as of February 21, 2021. This includes amounts paid out to eligible organizations through Lockdown Support.

Related products

- [Backgrounder: Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June](#)
- [Draft Legislative Proposal Related to the Income Tax Act \(Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy\)](#)

Associated links

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Claims to Date – Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#)
- [Claims to Date – Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support](#)

Contacts

Media may contact:

Media Relations

Department of Finance Canada

fin.media-media.fin@canada.ca

613-369-4000

General enquiries

Phone: 613-369-3710

Facsimile: 613-369-4065

TTY: 613-369-3230

E-mail: fin.financepublic-financepublique.fin@canada.ca

Stay connected

[Twitter: @financecanada](#)

[RSS](#)

Search for related information by keyword: [EC Economics and Industry](#) | [Department of Finance Canada](#) | [Canada](#) | [Canada and the world](#) | [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | [general public](#) | [news releases](#) | [Hon. Chrystia Freeland](#)

Date modified:

2021-03-03



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

[Canada.ca](#) > [Department of Finance Canada](#) > [News](#) > [03](#)

Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June

From: [Department of Finance Canada](#)

Background

March 3, 2021

Businesses, non-profits, and charities that have experienced a decline in revenues while weathering the COVID-19 crisis are eligible for a variety of government support measures including direct subsidies to support workers and pay rent.

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy helps employers retain and quickly rehire workers previously laid off.
- The Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy provides direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage interest support to tenants and property owners.
- Lockdown Support provides additional rent relief to organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly restrict their activities under a public health order issued under the laws of Canada, or a province or a territory.

The wage subsidy, the rent subsidy, and Lockdown Support are legislated to be available until June 2021. Proposed program details, from March 14 to June 5, 2021, for the three measures are described below.

Maintaining the Current Rate Structures Until June 5, 2021

The rate structures for the wage subsidy for active employees, the rent subsidy, and Lockdown Support that are currently in place until March 13, 2021, would be extended for March 14 to June 5, 2021. This means that:

- The maximum base wage subsidy rate for active employees would remain at 40 per cent, and the maximum top-up wage subsidy rate for employers most adversely impacted by the pandemic would remain at 35 per cent. As such, the maximum combined wage subsidy rate would remain at 75 per cent.
- The maximum rent subsidy rate would remain at 65 per cent.
- Lockdown Support would remain at 25 per cent and continue to be provided in addition to the rent subsidy, providing eligible hard hit businesses with rent support of up to 90 per cent.

Support for Furloughed Employees

A separate wage subsidy rate structure applies for furloughed employees. To ensure that the wage subsidy for furloughed employees remains aligned with benefits available under Employment Insurance (EI), and that workers are provided with equitable treatment between the two programs, the weekly wage subsidy for a furloughed employee, from March 14 to June 5, 2021, would remain the same and continue to be the lesser of:

- the amount of eligible remuneration paid in respect of the week; and
- the greater of:
 - \$500; and
 - 55 per cent of pre-crisis remuneration for the employee, up to a maximum subsidy amount of \$595.

Employers would also continue to be entitled to claim under the wage subsidy their portion of contributions in respect of the Canada Pension Plan, EI, the Quebec Pension Plan and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan for furloughed employees.

Revenue-decline Reference Periods Until June 2021

Since the wage subsidy and rent subsidy programs launched, an organization's decline in revenues has generally been determined by comparing the change in the organization's revenues in a current calendar month with its revenues in the same calendar month of the previous year. An organization may also elect to use an alternative approach, which compares the change in the organization's monthly revenues relative to the average of its January 2020 and February 2020 revenues. A deeming rule provides that an organization's decline in revenues for any particular qualifying period is the greater of its decline in revenues for the particular qualifying period and the immediately preceding qualifying period.

Given that we are approaching a full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that the general approach continues to calculate an organization's decline in revenues relative to a pre-pandemic month, the prior reference periods would be based on calendar months from 2019, effective as of the qualifying period from March 14 to April 10, 2021. The proposed reference periods are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy Reference Periods, Periods 14 to 16 (March 14 to June 5, 2021)

Timing	Period 14 March 14 – April 10	Period 15 April 11 – May 8	Period 16 May 9 – June 5
General approach	March 2021 over March 2019 or February 2021 over February 2020	April 2021 over April 2019 or March 2021 over March 2019	May 2021 over May 2019 or April 2021 over April 2019
Alternative approach	March 2021 or February 2021 over average of January and February 2020	April 2021 or March 2021 over average of January and February 2020	May 2021 or April 2021 over average of January and February 2020

Employers that had chosen to use the general approach for prior periods would continue to use that approach. Similarly, employers that had chosen to use the alternative approach would continue to use the alternative approach.

More Flexible Baseline Remuneration Periods

An eligible employer's entitlement to the wage subsidy for a furloughed employee or an active non-arm's length employee is determined through a calculation that takes into account both the employee's current and baseline (pre-crisis) remuneration.

By default, baseline remuneration means the average weekly eligible remuneration paid to an eligible employee by an eligible employer during the period beginning January 1, 2020, and ending March 15, 2020. Any period of seven or more consecutive days for which the employee was not remunerated is excluded from the calculation. However, the eligible employer may elect an alternative baseline period for calculating the average weekly eligible remuneration.

An additional elective alternative baseline remuneration computation for March 14 to June 5, 2021 (Qualifying Periods 14 to 16), is proposed to ensure that the baseline remuneration comparator remains appropriate. In particular, an eligible employer would be allowed to elect, for qualifying periods from March 14 to June 5, 2021, to use the period of March 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019, **or** July 1 to December 31, 2019 (the current alternative period), to calculate baseline remuneration.

The Canada Revenue Agency will administer this measure on the basis of draft legislative proposals released with today's announcement.

The estimated cost for the wage subsidy from March 14 to June 5, 2021, is \$13.9 billion in 2021-22 and the estimated cost for the rent subsidy and Lockdown Support from March 14 to June 5, 2021 is \$2.1 billion in 2021-22. Costs may change depending on changing public health restrictions and economic activity.

Search for related information by keyword: [GV Government and Politics](#) | [Department of Finance Canada](#) | [Canada](#) | [Money and finances](#) | [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | [general public](#) | [backgrounders](#) | [Hon. Chrystia Freeland](#)

Date modified:

2021-03-03



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

[Canada.ca](#) > [Employment and Social Development Canada](#)

Government of Canada proposes increase to number of weeks for recovery benefits and EI regular benefits to ensure continued support for Canadians who have been hardest hit

From: [Employment and Social Development Canada](#)

News release

February 19, 2021

Gatineau, Quebec

Employment and Social

Development Canada

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada has been there for Canadians and provided them with the support they need to stay healthy, safe and solvent. Many workers and families across the country continue to face uncertain times as a result of the difficult but necessary public health measures put in place to save lives.

That is why the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, today announced the Government of Canada's intent to introduce regulatory and legislative amendments to increase the number of weeks of benefits available for the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) and Employment Insurance (EI) regular

benefits.

As some workers could begin to exhaust their benefits in late March, this increase would ensure continued support as Canada's economy and labour force recovers. It would also provide additional access to the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, so that Canadians do not have to make the choice between going to work sick and putting food on the table.

The proposed changes would:

- increase the number of weeks available under the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) by 12 weeks extending the maximum duration of the benefits through regulation from 26 weeks to up to 38 weeks;
- increase the number of weeks available under the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) through regulation from the current 2 weeks to 4 weeks; and
- increase the number of weeks of EI regular benefits available by up to 24 weeks to a maximum of 50 weeks through legislation, for claims that are made between September 27, 2020 and September 25, 2021.

To ensure employees in the federally regulated private sector can access the proposed additional weeks of CRCB and CRSB without the risk of losing their jobs, the maximum length of the leave related to COVID-19 under the *Canada Labour Code* would also be extended.

Provincial and territorial governments will determine whether they need to amend their job-protected leaves in order to facilitate employees' access to the proposed additional weeks of CRSB and CRCB benefits.

Subject to the legislation receiving Royal Assent, in addition, self-employed

workers who have opted in to the EI program to access special benefits would be able to use a 2020 earnings threshold of \$5,000, compared to the previous threshold of \$7,555. This change would be retroactive to claims established as of January 3, 2021 and would apply until September 25, 2021.

By increasing the number of available weeks for these important benefits, the Government is giving certainty to workers in hard hit sectors and their families, and better positioning our economy to recover.

Quotes

“Canadian workers can be confident that our government will always be there to support them through this pandemic, regardless of where they live in Canada or who they work for. We created recovery benefits and introduced flexibilities to the EI program so that workers who needed support in this new phase of the pandemic could continue to provide for their families. By increasing the number of weeks available for these important benefits, we are easing a big financial stress for workers and giving them the certainty they need.”

–Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough

It's been nearly a year since Canadians first faced the challenges of adapting to life during a pandemic. Since the beginning, the Canada Revenue Agency has prioritized our work to ensure any Canadian worker who lost income due to COVID-19 would still have the means to live. Today's announcement demonstrates our commitment to that priority has not changed. Once implemented, these measures will ensure Canadians avoid further financial challenges while maintaining the health and safety of their families."

– Minister of National Revenue, Diane Lebouthillier

Quick facts

- Effective September 27, 2020 the three temporary recovery benefits were put in place to support workers who do not qualify for EI and require income support in relation to COVID-19. They include the Canada Recovery Benefit, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit.
- As of February 14, 2021, the numbers of unique applicants that have accessed the recovery benefits are:
 - 1,715,090 for the Canada Recovery Benefit;
 - 333,760 for the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit; and
 - 392,280 for the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit.
- As of February 14, 2021 there were 2,045,250 active EI regular benefit claimants.
- Canadians would continue to apply for the recovery benefits through the Canada Revenue Agency and for Employment Insurance benefits through Service Canada.

Associated links

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [Legislation to support new recovery benefits and extend funding for COVID-19 measures receives Royal – Assent](#)
- [Backgrounder: The COVID-19 Response Measures Act](#)

Contacts

For media enquiries, please contact:

Marielle Hossack

Press Secretary

Office of the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough

marielle.hossack@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Media Relations Office

Employment and Social Development Canada

819-994-5559

media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

Search for related information by keyword: [Employment insurance](#) | [Employment and Social Development Canada](#) | [Canada Revenue Agency](#) | [Canada](#) | [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | [funding applicants](#) | [media](#) | [general public](#) | [government](#) | [news releases](#) | [Hon. Carla Qualtrough](#) | [Hon. Diane Lebouthillier](#)

Date modified:

2021-02-19