

Who can apply for the new COVID Lockdown Benefit ?

Are there other Income Supports ?

(Edited from a Toronto & York Region Labour Council January e-newsletter)

Here are just a few resources you may be eligible to access. Federal COVID benefits have been extended to May 7, 2022.

For details or assistance, contact Service Canada or your provincial government (such as Service Ontario), or contact your MP or MPP/MLA directly. We also encourage you to reach out to your local union or community legal clinic.

1. Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit:

- This benefit is NOT restricted to full lockdowns. It also applies to workers who lose 50% or more of their income due to COVID restrictions (until Feb.12, subject to extension by Parliament).
- All provinces except Saskatchewan currently qualify as lockdown regions
- Workers can apply retroactively for pay periods starting December 19, 2021
- The “Lockdown” benefit rate is a flat \$300 (\$270 after taxes)
- EI-eligible workers can apply as long as they don't apply for EI in the same week (for example, if saving their EI weeks for future use)

2. Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit:

- Eligible applicants receive a flat \$500/week (\$450 after taxes) to enable the direct care of family members who require supervision due to COVID conditions (including children, seniors and adults with disabilities, subject to limitations).
- Each household can apply for a combined maximum of 44 weeks between Sept 27, 2020 and May 7, 2022.

3. Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit:

- Eligible applicants receive a flat \$500/week (\$450 after taxes).
- Up to 6 weeks of support if you are sick or must self-isolate due to COVID-19.

4. To apply for a federal COVID benefit and for more details:

www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/covid19-emergency-benefits.html

5. Provincial supports vary. For example, the Ontario Worker Income Protection Benefit provides for paid infectious disease emergency leave for certain reasons related to COVID-19. (This benefit has been extended until July 31, 2022; see www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-worker-income-protection-benefit for details.)

~ prepared by the Good Jobs for All Coalition, EI Working Group (Jan 23, 2022) ~