



*Yaqit Pa-knuqti'it*

March 26, 2020

To: Community Members

### **Provincial and Federal COVID-19 Financial Supports**

Below is a listing of current financial supports offered by the Province of BC and Canada. Most all of the payments are linked to an individual having filed an income tax return in the past.

Some of the financial supports should be sent directly to families and individuals who qualify and have filed income tax returns in the past. Other financial supports require you to apply for them directly on Canada's website-this will prove to be difficult given the volume of applicants over the next few weeks.

Please reach out the Band Office if you would like further information (that we have) or assistance, as possible.

#### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

1. Canada Child Benefit: An additional \$ 300 per child or \$ 550 for a family. Should be automatically included in the May payment. If you have never applied, you should do so in order to receive this benefit.
2. GST Tax Credit: Applicable to low and modest income families (less than \$ 37,780) who may receive up to \$ 400 for individuals (those over 19 years or older) and \$ 600 for families. Available only to those who have filed a tax return recently.
3. Filing Your Income Tax: Usually Yaqit Pa-knuqti'it arranges for the services of a Canada Revenue Agency Tax Preparer to visit the office and complete your return. Given the state of the pandemic response, this is not currently an option. If you think that you will be receiving a return, please reach out and we will try to find a way to file your return. But please note that just the volume of returns being filed may cause additional delays.
4. Individuals Unable to Work: A special emergency response benefit for those individuals who are not eligible for EI. Benefits up to \$2000 per month may be available under certain conditions (not yet confirmed). Canada will be setting up a new web portal/telephone access in April.

5. **Employment Insurance:** If you have been laid off due to a lack of work as a result of the pandemic, new rules apply including the waiving of the waiting periods especially you are sick and cannot work. Canada is trying to set up a new application process but it will be overloaded with new applications-you will need to be patient.

## **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**

1. **Climate Action Tax Credit:** One time payments for moderate to low income families who have filed a tax return recently. Single adults may receive up to \$218. Again, you will only receive the payment if you have filed a tax return and qualify.
2. **BC Hydro:** Has now started a COVID-19 Customer Assistance Program to allow you to defer coming payments, set up a flexible payment plan or access up to \$600 through the Customer Crisis Fund.

<https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/bill-payment/ways-to-pay/customer-crisis-fund.html#eligible>

### Eligibility for a CCF grant

To receive a grant from the Customer Crisis Fund, you need to meet a few criteria:

- You need to be the residential account holder.
- Only your primary residence is eligible.
- Your account must have overdue payments and be facing disconnection. Your current bill isn't eligible for a CCF grant if it is not overdue or if there are credits on the account.
- You must have experienced a life event, within the last 12 months, that caused a temporary financial crisis.
- To apply for a grant, you need to have an outstanding balance of \$1,000 or less, and should have demonstrated some attempt to make payments towards your bill.
- You may receive one CCF grant per account-holder annually (one per year). If a grant application is denied and your circumstances change, you can apply again in the same year.

### How to apply

**You can apply for a CCF grant online**

The fastest way to have your application reviewed is to apply online, but you can also fill out and submit a paper application. [Service BC locations](#) across the province have copies of the [paper application form](#). If you choose to apply with a paper form, you have three options to submit your application:

- Mail it in to PO Box 8910, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4X3
- Fax the completed application to 604 909 4861.

If you need help filling out the online application form, you can get assistance over the phone from BC211 by calling 1 844 708 3208.

3. ICBC: You may be eligible to defer your monthly insurance payments for up to 90 days with no penalty. If you need to renew your insurance, call your Autoplan Broker (your insurance company) who will help you renew your policy over the phone or via email.



#### Autoplan Payment plan

We recognize the financial impact COVID-19 may have on our customers and want to provide some relief during this challenging time. Customers on a monthly Autoplan payment plan, who are facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, can defer their payment for up to 90 days with no penalty.

Due to high call volumes, we encourage you to use our [online resource tool](#) to apply for deferrals. If needed, you can call our customer support team at 604-661-2723 or 1-800-665-6442 to discuss your payment options. Thank you in advance for your patience.

#### British Columbia Driver Licences (BCDL)

Effective March 25, you can now access the following transactions by phone at 1-800-950-1498 or 250-978-8300:

- Renewing an existing BCDL
- Reinstating a BCDL if your licence has been cancelled, prohibited or suspended and is now eligible for reinstatement
- Issuing a replacement BC driver's licence.

4. Rents: If you live in one of the Band-Owned Homes in the Village and are experiencing financial difficulties due to impacts from the pandemic and you are unable to pay your current month's rent (April, 2020), please reach out to Tania Brewer, Band Administrator at 250-887-3461 ext 3403.



**STAY SAFE-BE CALM-BE KIND**