

MLA Bullets

CLIFF number:

eApprovals number:

Date:

Constituent Name:

MLA Name:

Consent form required? ____

Consent form received? ____

REQUEST/ISSUE:

- BC Recovery Benefit
 - Why is eligibility based on 2019 tax return?
 - What are the qualification criteria?
 - When will I receive my benefit?
 - Why is there an income threshold to qualify for the benefit?
 - What about low-income seniors or those on disability?

INFORMATION ON POLICIES/LEGISLATION:

- The BC Recovery Benefit is a one-time, tax-free payment for eligible families, single parents or individuals. The benefit provides \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents with a net income of up to \$125,000 and \$500 for eligible individuals with a net income of up to \$62,500. A reduced benefit amount is available for eligible families and single parents with income up to \$175,000 and for eligible individuals with net income up to \$87,500.
- The decision to base eligibility requirements for the BC Recovery Benefit on 2019 tax returns allows government to provide immediate financial relief to those in need, as income tax data for the 2020 tax year won't be available until well beyond the April 30, 2020 filing deadline and after the Canada Revenue Agency has had an opportunity to issue Notices of Assessment.
- Generally, the BC Recovery Benefit is available to people:
 - Residing in British Columbia on December 18, 2020
 - Who are at least 19 years old on December 18, 2020, or meet specific eligibility requirements
 - Who filed a 2019 Canadian personal income tax return, or meet specific eligibility criteria
 - Who have a valid social insurance number, individual tax number or temporary tax number
- It is anticipated that the majority of applicants will receive payment within five business days. The benefit will only be issued by direct deposit. For applications that require manual review to determine eligibility, it will take longer for payments to be made, depending on the volume of

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applications that require manual review. The fastest way to receive the benefit is by applying online.

- The B.C. Recovery Benefit is intended to help those who have been hurt most by the COVID-19 pandemic. Low- and medium-income earners are experiencing the most job losses and rising costs are making it difficult for them to pay their bills. The B.C. Recovery Benefit parameters ensure low- and medium-income earners receive as much of the benefit as possible with 90% of B.C. adults eligible for some of the benefit.
- British Columbians receiving income assistance and disability assistance are eligible for the BC Recovery Benefit. As well, people on income assistance, disability assistance and low-income seniors receiving the B.C. Senior's Supplement will also receive the additional B.C. Recovery Supplement of \$150 per month from January 2021 to March 2021. The supplement will automatically be added to cheques issued in January, February and March 2021.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS:

- More information regarding the BC Recovery Benefit, including specific eligibility requirements and how to apply, is available online at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>.
- Those with further questions regarding the BC Recovery Benefit can contact support by phone (1-833-882-0020) or email (BCRBPinfo@gov.bc.ca).

Branch Responsible:

Ministry Contact Name & Phone #: