

COVID-19 Pandemic Cash contributions from federal government

Cash deposits:

Purpose	Amount	Deposit Date
Essential Worker Support Fund	370,888,333	Jun 19/20
Recorded as CRF \$319m other feds STOB 4959 and \$52m as deferred rev		Oct 6/20
Federal Transfer for Reclamation of Dormant, Orphan and Legacy Sites	120,000,000	Aug 31/20
Safe Restart Agreement	900,000,000	Sept 30/20
Safe Restart Agreement	68,735,000	Sept 30/20
Safe Restart Agreement	900,000,000	Sept 30/20
Safe Restart Agreement - first payment	1,868,735,000	
Safe Restart Agreement - second payment	94,391,000	March 30/21
Safe Restart Agreement - total funding	1,963,126,000	
Safe Return to Class Fund - first payment	121,181,000	Sept 30/20
Safe Return to Class Fund - second payment	121,181,000	Jan 29/21
Safe Return to Class Fund - total funding	242,362,000	



391524

The Honourable Bill Morneau, PC, MP
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

Dear Minister Morneau:

Further to the Prime Minister's announcement on May 7, 2020 that all provinces and territories have agreed to the federal government's proposal to cost-share measures to boost the wages of essential workers, I am writing you with details of the four measures British Columbia is introducing at this time. The measures include:

- Pandemic pay for frontline workers in health, social services and corrections
- Leveling up the wages of non-unionized workers in long-term care facilities
- Reducing the wage gap between non-unionized workers in the community social services sector and unionized workers
- A working short premium for nurses

Details about the measures, as requested by your officials on April 23, 2020, are included in the attached table. As identified in the table, the estimated total cost of the four measures is \$498 million, which represents approximately 92 per cent of the total available federal/provincial cost-share of \$540 million. I request the remaining funding available under the federal/provincial cost-share be set aside for future measures.

The four measures recognize the particular impact that COVID-19 has had on essential workers in these sectors, and I thank the federal government for agreeing to share their costs. Should

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there be subsequent waves of the pandemic, British Columbia will be looking to the federal government to again make available opportunities to cost-share similar measures as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carole James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carole James
Minister and Deputy Premier

Attachment

Measure	Eligible essential workers	Benefit Amount	Administration	Anticipated date of receipt	Costs of the measure
Pandemic pay	Frontline workers in health services, social services and corrections who provide clinical services and supportive services to vulnerable populations where physical distancing is difficult or impossible Excludes management, fee-for-service providers	Equivalent to \$4 per hour	Payments to be made by employers	Lump sum payments made after 16-week period	\$415 million
Leveling up the wages of non-unionized workers in long-term care facilities with those of unionized workers covered by collective agreements	All workers in long-term care, assisted living and provincial mental health facilities excluding management and designated groups not tied to a specific facility (e.g. paramedic, delivery persons, trades people), as per Provincial Health Officer order for single site employment to minimize COVID-19 transmission	Approx. \$3 per hour	Payments to be made by employers	Beginning in June	\$60 million
Reducing the wage gap between non-unionized workers in the community social services sector and unionized workers covered by collective agreements	All non-unionized workers in the community social services sector Excludes management	Approx. 2.75%	Payments to be made by employers	Lump sum payments made after 16-week period	\$6 million
A working short premium for nurses	All Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses under the Nurses' Bargaining Association Collective Agreement	\$2 to \$5 per hour	Payments to be made by employers	Beginning in June	\$17 million

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.16 ; s.17