


Community Notice: **Income & Disability Assistance Increases**

Since I was elected in May 2017, we have increased disability and income assistance rates by \$150/month. These changes are important, but there is still much more to do to help people in BC. I will continue working hard for you as we work to address poverty across the province. – Bowinn Ma, MLA

<i>Effective Date</i>	<i>Description of Change</i>
September 20, 2017	Disability and income assistance rates increased by \$100/month.
October 1, 2017	Allowable earnings for people on disability and income assistance increased by \$200/month.
December 20, 2017	Choice of: Monthly bus pass OR \$52/month transportation supplement for people on disability assistance.
 April 1, 2019	Disability and income assistance rates will be increased by <u>\$50/month per adult</u> . This means that couples receiving assistance as a family will see a <u>\$100/month total increase</u> on their cheques.

Other Important Improvements for Low Income Individuals and Families:

Fair Pharmacare – As of January 1, 2019, individuals and families earning less than \$13,750*/year will receive full Fair Pharmacare coverage with no out-of-pocket costs. Deductibles (out-of-pocket costs paid before Fair Pharmacare coverage kicks in) are now \$0 for those earning up to \$30,000*/year.

BC Child Opportunities Benefit – This new program will provide monthly support payments to families with children, starting October 2020 (delay due to mandatory implementation timelines). This money will *not* be clawed back from income and disability assistance payments and are in *addition* to child care fee reductions and subsidies. Families earning less than \$25,000*/year will receive the maximum amounts:

- \$1600/year for 1 child
- \$2600/year for 2 children
- \$3400/year for 3 children
- +\$800/year per child thereafter

*Based on net, after-tax income.

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