

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - December 21, 2020 - BC Recovery Benefit

**Date:** Monday, December 21, 2020 at 4:28:28 PM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Ernie Baatz

**To:** Ernie Baatz

## **Keeping Safe and Healthy Through the Holidays**

The basics of keeping the people we support, our teams and your families Healthy and Safe are important to practice every day:

- Stay home if you sick – Call 811 for further directions.
- Wash your hands regularly
- Keep your distance – at least two metres or six feet from people outside your bubble
- Wear a mask on transit, in stores, in all indoor public spaces.
- Keep your social bubble small – But stay connected with friends and family. Phone, video chat, go for a walk outside – it is so important to keep in touch.

**Thank you to everyone for the amazing job everyone has done over the past nine months!**

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## **BC Recovery Benefit**

For people we support who are on provincial Disability Benefits (PWD), the Province is reducing the payment for the next three months. Since April, people have received an extra \$300 per month. In January, February and March, you will receive \$150 per month. You are also eligible for the \$500 BC Recovery Benefit, but must apply for it. It is not automatically added to your PWD like the \$300 payments were. Here is more information from the government website:

The BC Recovery Benefit (the benefit) is a one-time direct deposit payment for eligible families, single parents or individuals. Benefit eligibility is based on net income from your 2019 tax return. You must **apply** to receive the benefit.

### **Benefit rates**

The amount you're eligible for will be automatically calculated based on your income when you apply.

### **Families and single parents**

- \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents with a net income of up to \$125,000
- Reduced benefit amount for eligible families and single parents with a net income of up to \$175,000

The benefit defines a family as an individual and their spouse or common-law partner, unless

they are [separated](#). Both people must be residents of B.C. on December 18, 2020.

The benefit defines a single parent as an individual who is the principal caregiver to at least one child.

## Individuals

- \$500 for eligible individuals with a net income of up to \$62,500
- Reduced benefit amount for eligible individuals with a net income of up to \$87,500

## Online applications

Applying online is the fastest way to get your payment.

Take your time when applying. Errors or incomplete information can cause long delays in processing your application.

**This process takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.**

[Submit your application](#)

You can use your desktop, tablet or smart phone. Your personal information is protected and secure.

After submitting, we'll email you a **confirmation number**.

## Phone applications

You can apply by phone with the help of our agents. Translation services are available to help you.

**We anticipate high call volumes and strongly recommend applying online if you can.**

[Dial 1-833-882-0020](#)

Our agents will complete the application with you and give you a **Case ID** number when you're done.

Call us Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays.

## Submit eligibility documentation

If you're asked to submit additional documents to support your application, include your **confirmation number** or **Case ID**.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>

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## Zoom Holiday Alternatives

Video chats have been the go-to this year for those looking to connect with loved ones outside their household, but a B.C. tech expert says there are other, less exhausting ways to stay in touch without touching during the holidays.

Research has shown that constant video chat meetings are draining users more than in-person conversations. If your work life is already filled with virtual appointments, the idea of a Christmas Zoom conversation may not be so appealing.

- Make a Playlist and share music
- Get gaming
- Make it a movie night

Read more here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/zoom-holiday-alternatives-1.5835808>

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## Local Holiday Concerts Now Online

### Good Noise Gospel Choir:

This Christmas, celebrate the season by joining with the choir from the comfort of your own home as you watch a uniquely designed concert video that brings together the musicians and soloists along with the music and voices of Good Noise through creative technology. You will be brought back into the beauty of Christ Church Cathedral where the Good Noise Gospel Band, our guest artist Crystal Hicks and two of the choir's soloists, Timothy Fuller and Syllona Kanu, were filmed and recorded live. The choir has done what so many choirs have while gathering together is restricted – created a virtual choir. Through the brilliance of creative editing, the live filming will be woven together with the virtual choir, and this video concert experience will keep us all connected as we continue to share the best of the spirit of the season.

<http://www.goodnoisevgc.com/concerts/>

### Mixed Nuts – (The Nutcracker – Youth Ballet Dancers – Arts Umbrella)

Arts Umbrella Dance Company presents a modern and engaging twist on Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, bringing together a flavoursome assortment of dance styles for an extra-special holiday treat.

This live holiday showcase is traditionally a landmark in our Dance calendar and AUDC dancers are so pleased to still have the chance to share the performance in a re-imagined digital setting.

This Special 2020 Edition Holiday Film version of *Mixed Nuts (and Assorted Candies)* will be available to view online at any time on Thursday, December 17 2020 through Thursday, December 31 2020. Access to the online screening is available by donation.

Enjoy the holidays from the comfort of your home and join us in celebrating the artistry and achievements of AUDC students.

<https://www.artsumbrella.com/events/mixed-nuts/>

**Ernie Baatz**

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**Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe**