

**Subject:** Covid-19 Updates - June 6, 2020

**Date:** Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 12:04:56 PM Pacific Daylight Time

**From:** Ernie Baatz

**To:** Ernie Baatz

## New Payment for People with Disabilities from Government of Canada

The Government of Canada is providing a special one-time-tax payment to individuals who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) as of June 1, 2020, as follows:

- \$600 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate.
- \$300 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension.
- \$100 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

People who are eligible for this special payment will receive it automatically.

The Government of Canada recognizes that people with disabilities are also at higher risk of job loss during economic downturns. To help Canadians with disabilities get and maintain good jobs so they can continue to support themselves and their families, the government will:

- Create a National Workplace Accessibility Stream through the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities. A new investment of \$15 million in 2020-21 will provide community organizations with resources to improve workplace accessibility and access to jobs in response to COVID-19, including by helping employers set up accessible and effective work-from-home arrangements. This support will also cover expanding accessible online training opportunities and helping connect Canadians with disabilities working from home with employers.
- Invest \$1.18 million in five new projects across the country through the Accessible Technology Program. With this funding, organizations will develop dynamic and affordable technology, such as accessible payment terminals for retailers and tools to make communication easier for Canadians with disabilities in the digital economy.

As we mark [National AccessAbility Week](#), we reaffirm our commitment to continue listening to and working in partnership with persons with disabilities to maintain their health, safety, and dignity as we address the wide-ranging impacts of COVID-19.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/06/05/prime-minister-announces-supports-canadians-disabilities-address>

### ‘minimize, manage and modify’

(From Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 Presentation with Dr. Bonnie Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix)

“Today, we shared our latest modelling to show British Columbians where we are in our

COVID-19 pandemic and what we are watching for in the B.C. epidemic curve over the coming weeks.

“We have seen the incredible work of our provincewide public health teams in action, which is allowing us to quickly identify and contain new clusters and outbreaks.

“We have learned we need to stay on our path. The measures we have in place are working and so is the gradual easing of some restrictions. The modelling also shows that to keep our curve flat, we must continue to maintain our slow, thoughtful pace.

“Moving forward, our approach is to **‘minimize, manage and modify’**: minimize the number of new cases, manage cases and clusters with rapid contact tracing, and modify our measures as needed.

“That means assessing your risks with every step and following the rules for safe physical distancing are key. These include always staying home when ill, keeping your number of contacts small and not having large gatherings where the risk for spreading COVID-19 is so much higher.

“We know no one intends to pass on the virus. When this happens, it most often affects those we care about the most, so we must do all we can to keep our loved ones, our communities and ourselves safe.

“We all have a role to play in our COVID-19 response. What we do today will make a difference tomorrow.”

The latest modelling presentation and information is available online:

June 4<sup>th</sup> Presentation: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/June4\\_Covid19\\_PPP\\_V8.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/June4_Covid19_PPP_V8.pdf)

## **Pandemic Pay Update**

CLBC provided the following update on Pandemic Pay today. I don't think it says much new, so I'll repeat what I have been able to put together from the various government sources:

- All of our front-line CSWs, Supervisors, and night staff will be paid \$4/hour for each of their straight time hours worked between March 15 to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. (Our live-in caregivers who are employees also qualify as they are funded by the hour in our CLBC contracts).
- Government will fund us for this wage increase after we report the number of hours delivered, after July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- We will pay our workers with a lump sum payment for the hours worked X \$4 after we receive the funding.

[Link to CLBC Update on Pandemic Pay](#)

## Dr. Bonnie Henry in the New York Times

That Tuesday in March was the day Bonnie Henry had been preparing for her whole life.

Overnight, 83 people had tested positive for the novel coronavirus and three more had died. The pandemic had officially broken out in British Columbia.

Standing inside the provincial legislature's press gallery, the preternaturally calm top doctor of Canada's westernmost province declared a public health emergency. Under her orders and recommendations, schools closed, bars shuttered and social distancing measures were put in place.

"It seemed so surreal," she said. "I felt like someone was standing on my chest."

That day, March 17, Dr. Henry ended her presentation with a line that would become her trademark, and a mantra for many Canadians struggling to cope under a lockdown. It has since been hung in windows, painted on streets, printed on T-shirts, stitched on shoes, folded into songs and stamped on bracelets.

"This is our time to be kind," she said in her slow and low-pitched voice that many call comforting, "to be calm and to be safe."

Read the whole article here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/05/world/canada/bonnie-henry-british-columbia-coronavirus.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR1LgZfvj-O1h8dzF2rYr89KhrRVu3jhASx35pnkrpVwgXcEMtdJuwKgozQ>

## #AccessFromHome Stories: Liz & Leona

*#AccessFromHome Stories features people from the disability community and advocates and lived experiences at home during COVID-19. How are you managing during this time? We want to hear your story! [Contact us](#) to contribute.*

*Words by Liz Etmanski*

My name is Liz. I have Down Syndrome. My parents are Helen and [Allan](#). Since the Covid 19 I have been staying in Victoria with my aunt and uncle. My sister, Catherine, lives in Victoria as well. I like to write and do lots of different types of art – mostly electronically. Sometimes I go for walks to the park and nowadays I go for car rides. I always keep my distance of two metres. Pizza is my favourite food and my favourite colours are from the rainbow. I like to have catnaps around the house. I like taking photos of pretty things. And I get excited for '[Zoom](#)' time with family.

<https://accessnow.com/blog/accessfromhome-stories-liz-leona/>

## **Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe (and have a quiet weekend)**

**Ernie Baatz**

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