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Hey All: super brief summary of some of the key points in the federal government's financial aid package announced this morning. Full details available at: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html#Income_Support_for

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1. Emergency Care Benefit

Direct payments available for workers, including the self-employed, who meet ANY ONE of the following criteria:

- Sick or quarantined with COVID-19 who don't qualify for regular EI Sickness Benefits
- Taking care of a family member sick or quarantined with COVID-19
- Parents unable to earn income due to having children who require supervision due to school closures

2. Emergency Support Benefit

Direct payments for workers facing unemployment due to COVID-19 who are not eligible for EI

*I have been unable to confirm for certain at this time whether this measure will apply to self-employed, casual, contract, etc. workers, but based on the language in other measures, I'm pretty sure it will
*The applications for **both** of these will be done through the CRA, and are expected to open in April ("2-3 weeks," according to Finance Minister Bill Morneau)*

Steps you can take in the meantime:

- *If you have a "MyCRA" or "Service Canada" online account, make sure you are able to access it (if you DON'T have such an account YOU WILL STILL BE ABLE TO APPLY BY PHONE)*
- *Start collecting written records of lost income from any cancelled gigs/jobs (offer letters, etc.), AND of the fact they they were cancelled due to COVID-19*
- *Even just an email saying "(Your Name) was going to be (working/performing/etc.) for (company/event/show) on (dates), which was cancelled due to COVID-19 and was going to be paid (\$amount)*

3. Increased GST Credit

Anyone who receives the annual GST Tax Credit will be eligible to receive a higher amount from their GST Tax Credit. This will be received as a 1-time payment "by Early May 2020." Individuals may receive UP TO \$400 extra

In order to receive this money, experts are encouraging people who need it to file their taxes ASAP despite the extension in the tax deadline, as that might allow you to receive this payment sooner.

4. Increased Canada Child Benefit

Anyone who receives the Canada Child Benefit will AUTOMATICALLY receive an extra \$300 per child as part of their May payment

Full details of ALL supports in the aid package, look for "Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses" on the Government of Canada Website