



**Government help during Covid-19: a summary**

**Tax filing deadline**

The filing deadline for individuals is now June 1. For trusts with a taxation year ending on Dec. 31, 2019, the filing deadline is now May 1. Individuals and businesses that owe taxes can defer payments until September. The Canada Revenue Agency has also halted debt collection.

Encourage clients who expect to receive the GST credit and/or Canada Child Benefit (CCB) to file their returns as soon as possible to ensure their entitlements for the 2020-21 benefit year are properly determined.

**GST credit**

Those eligible for the GST credit will receive a one-time special payment of about $400 for singles and $600 for couples.

**Canada Child Benefit**

The maximum annual CCB payment amount will increase for the 2019-20 benefit year only by $300 per child as part of the May payment. The average increase for families will be approximately $550.

**RRIFs**

The minimum withdrawal rate for RRIFs has dropped by 25% for 2020. A similar decrease will apply to those receiving variable benefit payments under defined-contribution pension plans.

**Employment insurance sickness benefits**

Those applying for employment insurance (EI) sickness benefits are no longer required to provide a medical certificate.

**Canada Emergency Response Benefit**

This taxable benefit provides [$2,000 a month](https://www.investmentexecutive.com/news/industry-news/liberals-repackage-covid-19-benefits/) for up to four months for workers who lose income as a result of the pandemic due to job loss, illness, quarantine, caring for others (including children) and work disruption. Canadian workers qualify whether or not they are eligible for EI.

**Student loans**

Payments are paused from March 30 until Sept. 30, with no accrual of interest.

**Small businesses**

Eligible employers will receive a temporary wage subsidy for three months. Eligible employers include those eligible for the small business deduction, unincorporated employers, certain partnerships, non-profit organizations and charities.

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