# \* ONTARIO INCOME SECURITY & TAX BENEFIT PROGRAMS \*

# Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System

The Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) ensures a guaranteed minimum income for Ontario senior citizens by providing monthly payments to qualifying pensioners.

<b>GAINS Pay</b>	ment
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,	<u>Single</u>	Couple
Monthly payment	\$83.00	\$166.00
Break-even point	\$166.00	\$332.00
GAINS Guarantee		
	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Monthly payment	\$1,525.62	\$2,363.40
Total income at break-even point	\$1,525.62	\$2,363.40
Spouse's allowance		\$2,280.40

# Ontario Child Benefit

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is a provincial program that helps low-income families provide for their children.

\$1,356/year per child reduced by 8% of family net income over \$20,706 effective July 2016.

#### Ontario Trillium Benefit

- The refundable Ontario Sales Tax Credit provides sales tax assistance for people with low to moderate incomes.
- The refundable Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit provides sales tax on energy and property tax assistance for people with low to moderate incomes.

# Ontario Sales Tax Credit (OSTC) - Effective July 2016

Basic Credit \$291/adult and \$291/child

Family Reduced by 4% of 2015 AFNI over \$27,985 Single Reduced by 4% of 2015 AFNI over \$22,388

# Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit (OEPTC) - Effective July 2016

	Non-Senior	<u>Senior</u>
Energy Credit	Min. of \$224 and OC	Min. of \$224 and OC
Property Tax Credit	\$56+10% of OC(Max. \$784or OC)	\$476+10% of OC (Max. \$924 or OC)
Family	Reduced by 2% of 2015 AFNI over \$27,985	Reduced by 2% of 2015 AFNI over \$33,582
Single	Reduced by 2% of 2015 AFNI over \$22,388	Reduced by 2% of 2015 AFNI over \$27,985

Occupancy Cost (OC) = Property tax paid or 20% of rent paid.

AFNI - Adjusted Family Net Income

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For more information regarding Ontario income security and tax benefit programs, visit http://www.fin.gov.on.ca

INTERNAL: FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

# SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PENSION, and TAX CREDIT RATES

October – December 2016



Compiled by

Social Assistance Analytics Unit Policy Research and Analysis Branch Social Policy Development Division Ministry of Community & Social Services

# \* FEDERAL INCOME SECURITY & TAX BENEFIT PROGRAMS \*

## OAS, GIS, SPA

- The Old Age Security (OAS) pension is a monthly benefit available, if applied for, to most Canadians 65 years of age or over. Old Age Security residence requirements must also be met.
- The Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) provides additional money, on top of the OAS pension, to low-income seniors.
- 60-to-64-year old spouses of OAS recipients (living or deceased) may receive a Spouse's Allowance (SPA).

OAS monthly benefit		\$578.53
GIS	<u>Single</u>	Couple
Maximum cumplement	\$864.09	(benefit per person) \$520.17
Maximum supplement Break-even point	\$1.728.18	\$1.040.34
'	ψ1,720.10	Ψ1,040.54
Federal OAS/GIS/SPA Guarantee	01 1	0 1
	<u>Single</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Monthly benefit	\$1,442.62	\$2,197.40
Total income at break-even point	\$2,286.15	\$3,208.86
	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
Spouse's allowance	\$1,098.70	\$1,309.67

#### Canada Pension Plan

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) pays a monthly retirement pension to people who have worked and contributed to the CPP. The CPP also acts as an insurance plan, providing disability, survivor and death benefits.

	Maximum monthly bene
Retirement Pension (at age 65)	\$1,092.50
Disability Pension	\$1,290.81
Flat Rate	\$471.43
Earnings-related	\$819.38
Survivors Pension	
Under 65	\$593.62
Over 65	\$655.50
Children of deceased contributor	\$237.69
Death Benefit (lump sum)	\$2,500.00

#### Harmonized Sales Tax Credit

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Credit helps offset the HST paid by individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. The credit is paid every three months.

	Credit Per Year
Family	\$276/adult and \$145/child.
,	Single parent: \$276/ for 1st child plus \$145 supplement
Single	\$276 and the lesser of $$145$ and $2%$ of AFNI above $$8,948$
	Reduced by 5% of AFNI > \$35,926

#### Working Income Tax Benefit

- The Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB) is a refundable tax credit for low-income individuals with earnings from employment or business. It consists of a basic amount and a disability supplement.
- The basic WITB provides an amount equal to 25% of each dollar earned over \$3,000 to a maximum credit.
- The disability supplement provides an amount in addition to the basic amount and is equal to 25% for each dollar earned over \$1,150 to a maximum.

	Max Credit Per Year
Single	\$1,028
Families	\$1,868
Disability Supplement	\$514
(each eligible individual excluding dependants)	

Note: Rates are for Tax Year 2016

Source: CRA

 $For more information regarding federal income security and tax benefit programs, visit \verb|http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca| \\$ 

#### War Veterans Allowance

The War Veterans Allowance (WVA) is a form of financial assistance granted in recognition of war service. Qualified persons receive a monthly benefit designed to help them meet basic needs.

	Max monthly benefit
Single/Survivor	\$1,559.45
Single/Survivor Blind	\$1,617.35
Couple	\$2,324.01
Couple (both blind)	\$2,381.70
Additional amount for each dependent child	\$247.33
Orphan	\$741.15

# **Employment Insurance**

Employment Insurance (EI) provides temporary financial help to unemployed Canadians while they look for work or upgrade their skills, while they are pregnant or caring for a newborn or adopted child, or while they are sick. Renefit

55% of average insured earnings, with a maximum of \$537/week Premium

1.88% of employment income, with a maximum premium of \$955.04/year

# Medical Expense Tax Credit

Up to \$1,187 refundable. Phased out by 5% of family net income over \$26,277.

#### Canada Child Benefit

• The Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a monthly, tax-free payment made to eligible families with children under 18. This benefit replaced the universal child care benefit (UCCB) and the Canada child tax benefit (CCTB) effective July 1, 2016.

Basic Child Benefit	Per Month	Per Year
per month for each child under the age of 6 per month for each child age 6 to 17 years $\frac{1}{2}$	\$533 \$450	\$6,400 \$5,400
Phase-out rates	AFNI \$30,000- \$65,000	<u>AFNI &gt;</u> \$65,000
1 child 2 children 3 children 4 or more children	7.0% 13.5% 19.0% 23.0%	3.2% 5.7% 8.0% 9.5%

# Child Disability Benefit

Per child \$2.730

Per child for families receiving the CCB whose disabled child qualifies for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). Benefits are reduced by 3.2% of AFNI over \$65,000 for 1 child and by 5.7% of AFNI over \$65,000 for more than 1 DTC qualified child.

AFNI - Adjusted Family Net Income

# Ontario Works (Social Assistance rates effective October 2016)

- Ontario Works (OW) provides employment and financial assistance to people who are in temporary financial need.
- The Basic Needs Allowance is provided to renters/owners to offset the costs of food, clothing, personal needs, and other non-shelter needs.
- Boarders receive assistance based on the actual shelter costs up to a maximum for board and lodging. In addition, a \$67 "Special Boarder Allowance" is payable to each boarder household.

#### Basic Needs Allowance

#### For Renters/Owners:

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	\$330	\$476
1	0	1	347	476
	1	0	599	627
2	0	2	347	476
	1	1	599	627
	2	0	750	794
3	0	3	347	476
	1	2	599	627
	2	1	750	794
	3	0	918	962

For each additional dependent, add \$168 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$0 if the dependent is 0-17 years of age.

#### For Board and Lodging:

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	\$514	\$663
1	0	1	633	724
	1	0	724	761
2	0	2	703	782
	1	1	794	819
	2	0	840	854
3	0	3	768	840
	1	2	859	877
	2	1	905	912
	3	0	942	947

For each additional dependent of a sole support parent:

add \$115 if the dependent is 18 years old or older

add \$65 if the dependent is younger than 18 years old Otherwise, for each additional dependent:

add \$96 if the dependent is 18 years old or older

add \$96 if the dependent is 18 years old or older

add \$58 if the dependent is younger than 18 years old

The Transition Child Benefit is provided to recipients who have primary or shared physical custody of a dependent child (or children) and who are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)/Canada Child Benefit (CCB) or who are receiving less than the maximum OCB.

Ontario Works (maximum/month)

\$230/child

For participants who reside in private market rental accommodation, their own home, or in public housing, the Shelter Allowance is the sum of the actual cost of shelter and the cost of fuel for heat, up to a maximum based on family size.

## Shelter Allowance

Family size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
Ĭ.	\$376
2	619
3	672
4	729
5	786
6 or more	814

#### Maximum Monthly Allowance for Selected Case Types

Renters/Owners

		Vehicle 2/Owners		
	Basic Needs	Shelter	Total	<del>-</del>
	Allowance	Allowance	Allowance	Boarders
Single person	\$330	\$376	\$706	\$514
Couple	476	619	1,095	663
Single parent	347	619	966	633

The following items, if required, are paid, on top of the basic needs allowance and the shelter allowance, for all recipients:

# Other Employment and Employment Assistance Activities Benefit (formerly Employment Start-up Benefit)

Maximum

\$253

#### Up Front Child Care

An amount determined by the Director, up to the allowable maximums in any 12 month period.

## Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)

Recipients who reside in specific types of facilities may be eligible for personal needs allowance of \$143 a month.

#### Earnings Incentives

The following earnings incentives and supports are provided to help participants make the transition to sustainable employment:

#### 1. Earnings Exemption:

- Flat rate exemption \$200 per member with employment earnings. (effective September 2013)
- Partial exemption 50% of all employment earnings remaining after mandatory deductions and the flat rate exemption have been deducted. (effective September 2013)
- · A child care cost expenses exemption:

<u>Licensed child care</u>: The child care deduction is equal to the actual cost of licensed child care.

 $\underline{\text{Unlicensed child care:}}$  The maximum child care deduction is \$600 per month per child.

Earnings are based on net earnings, i.e., gross earnings minus income tax, CPP, EI deductions, union dues and pension contributions. Earnings exemptions are applicable only after a three-month qualifying period.

#### 2. Full-Time Employment Benefit (FTEB):

Up to \$500 FTEB will be provided to help participants who obtain fulltime employment (i.e., 30+ hours per week) with the costs of going to work if they have been on assistance for 3 consecutive months or more.

# 3. Extended Employment Health Benefit:

Current Ontario Works health benefits may be provided to participants who exit Ontario Works to employment for a transitional period of up to 6 months or until the participant receives health benefit from his/her employer with the possibility of extension for an additional 6 months in exceptional circumstances.

The health benefits include items such as prescribed drugs, cost for dental services and vision items etc.

#### **Temporary Care Assistance**

Temporary Care Assistance (TCA) refers to assistance available to an adult who is looking after a child in financial need of whom he or she is not the natural or adoptive parent.

First child	\$263
Second +	\$215

# Ontario Disability Support Program (Social Assistance rates effective September 2016)

The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) is designed to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities while recognising that many of them can and do want to work.

#### Basic Needs Allowance<sup>1</sup>

#### For Renters/Owners:

• FOI Refile(S/OWHers).						
No. of Dependents other than	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 13-17 Years	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient (no spouse included in	Recipient and Spouse	Recipient and Spouse
a Spouse				benefit unit)	(one disabled)	(both disabled)
0	0	0	0	\$649	\$935	\$1,295
1	0	0	1	792	935	1,295
	0	1	0	792	935	1,295
	1	0	0	1,004	1,116	1,476
2	0	0	2	792	935	1,295
	0	1	1	792	935	1,295
	0	2	0	792	935	1,295
	1	0	1	1,004	1,116	1,476
	1	1	0	1,004	1,116	1,476
	2	0	0	1,186	1,317	1,677

For each additional dependent, add \$202 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$0 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age,

#### For Board and Lodging:

	Dependents	Dependents		Recipient	Recipient	Recipient
Dependents		13-17	0-12	(no spouse	and	and
other than	or Older	Years	Years	included in	Spouse	Spouse
a Spouse				benefit unit)	(one	(both
					disabled)	disabled)
0	0	0	0	\$796	\$1,187	\$1,587
1	0	0	1	1,029	1,284	1,684
	0	1	0	1,064	1,319	1,719
	1	0	0	1.242	1.405	1,805

For each additional dependent, add \$218 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older,

The Transition Child Benefit is provided to recipients who have primary or shared physical custody of a dependent child (or children) and who are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)/Canada Child Benefit (CCB) or who are receiving less than the maximum OCB.

ODSP (maximum/month) \$207/child

#### Shelter Allowance<sup>2</sup>

Family size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance		
1	\$479		
2	753		
3	816		
4	886		
5	956		
6 or more	990		

#### Maximum Monthly Allowance for Selected Case Types

# Renters/Owners

	Basic Needs	Shelter	Total	Boarders
	Allowance	Allowance	Allowance	
Single person	\$649	\$479	1,128	\$796
(disabled, aged 65+)				
Couple (one disabled)	935	753	1,688	1,187
Couple (both disabled)2	1,295	753	1,902	1,587
Disabled + Spouse + 1 child under 12	935	816	1,751	1,284

The following items, if required, are paid, on top of the basic needs allowance and the shelter allowance, for all recipients:

#### Employment Start-up Benefit

Maximum in a 12-month period

\$500

#### Up Front Child Care

An amount determined by the Director, up to the allowable maximums in any 12 month period.

#### Personal Needs Allowance and Institutional Rates

Recipients who reside in specific types of institutions may be eligible for personal needs allowance of \$143 a month. In addition, recipients, who reside in certain institutions as defined under the regulation, are eligible to receive an additional amount.

- Recipients who reside in a long-term care home under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 are eligible to receive \$981 per month.
- Recipients who reside in an intensive support residence or a supported group living residence under the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008 are eligible to receive \$985 per month.

#### Earnings Incentives

The following earnings incentives and supports are provided to help recipients make the transition to sustainable employment:

#### Earnings Exemption

- Flat rate exemption \$200 per member with employment Earnings. (effective September 2013)
- Partial exemption 50% of all employment earnings remaining after mandatory deductions and the flat rate exemption have been deducted. (effective September 2013)
- A disability related employment expense deduction up to a maximum of \$300.
- A child care expenses deduction of actual costs for licensed child care and up to a maximum of \$600 for unlicensed child care.

### 2. Work-Related Benefit

\$100 per month for all eligible members of the benefit unit who report earnings.

# 3. Employment Transition Benefit

\$500 payment, once in any 12-month period to eligible recipients who exit ODSP to employment to assist with the transition to work

#### 4. Transitional Health Benefits

Drug, dental and vision care benefits to eligible recipients who exit ODSP to employment unless or until the employer provides these benefits.

#### 5. Rapid Reinstatement

Former recipients who are financially eligible for ODSP may be rapidly reinstated and do not have to go through the disability adjudication process if they meet defined criteria.

# Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) provides a benefit to parents caring for children with severe disabilities.

Minimum benefit	\$25
Maximum benefit	\$480

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See additional notes regarding Basic Needs Allowance and Shelter Allowance under the section on Ontario Works.

or \$0 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

or \$132 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age,

or \$97 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> All couples where both persons are disabled receive an **additional shelter allowance** amount of \$68, but must not receive more than \$1,902 per month total income support for basic needs and shelter attributable to the couple.