

Backgrounder: Increasing the Seniors Income Plan

A re-elected Saskatchewan Party government will increase the Seniors Income Plan from a maximum of \$270 per month to a maximum of \$360 per month.

When the increase is fully implemented the Saskatchewan Party government will have quadrupled the benefit for low income seniors over 16 years in government – a sharp contrast from the previous NDP government which didn't increase the benefit at all for 16 years.

Benefit:

- Approximately 14,000 Saskatchewan seniors receive the Seniors Income Plan (SIP) Benefit.
- Approximately 2,800 seniors (20% of seniors enrolled in the program) currently receive the maximum benefit under the Seniors Income Plan and will see the full benefit of the increase. Other seniors enrolled in the program will also receive increases to their monthly benefit, depending on their income.
- The average benefit under the program will increase from \$164 per month to \$218 per month or an average increase of almost \$650 annually (from \$1,968 annually to \$2,616 annually) once fully implemented.
- The increase to the Seniors Income Plan will be phased following the 2021-22 Budget:
 - The maximum monthly payment will be increased by \$30 per month for seniors in 2021-22
 - The maximum monthly payment will be increased by \$60 per month for seniors in 2022-23
 - The maximum monthly payment will be increased by \$90 per month for seniors in 2023-24

Program Details

- The Saskatchewan Income Plan (SIP) is a monthly supplement provided to seniors who have little or no income other than the federal Old Age Security (OAS) pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).
- Seniors are eligible to receive the Seniors Income Plan benefits if they receive full or partial Old Age Security (OAS) pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS); and have an annual income below a specified level.

- If seniors are entitled to the maximum GIS, they are also entitled to the maximum SIP benefit. An increase in a senior's income will lower the GIS entitlement and SIP benefit.
- SIP recipients with active basic Saskatchewan Health coverage are eligible for a variety of additional health benefits including:
 - One eye examination in each 12-month period.
 - A reduced semi-annual deductible under the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits.
 - Loan of some low-cost devices through Saskatchewan Abilities Council.
 - Supplementary health benefits for Seniors Income Plan recipients living in special care homes.

Cost:

2021-22: \$3M

2022-23: \$6M

2023-24: \$9M per year when fully phased in.