



June 14, 2021

Ref: 213804

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer
Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
judy@ubcic.bc.ca

Dear Chief Judy Wilson:

I am writing to let you know that we are working on proposed amendments to the *Employment and Assistance Regulation* and the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation*. The proposed amendments will extend the existing exemption of Employment Insurance (EI), the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), and pandemic pay by four months, covering payments received until the end of October 2021.

The amendments will ensure that these supports continue to be exempt from the calculation of income and assets for the purpose of determining eligibility for assistance in relation to specific categories of family units (the same cohort of existing clients and persons with disabilities who are returning to assistance).

Maintaining the exemptions for this additional period will further support existing assistance clients experiencing loss of employment income during the COVID-19 crisis. Extending these exemptions will predominantly benefit persons with disabilities and single parents who were using their earnings exemption and lost their job as a result of the pandemic.

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These changes are being made in response to the federal government announcement to increase the maximum number of CRB and EI weeks available to individuals and will ensure our clients are not negatively impacted in any way by the federal changes. The ministry anticipates that the proposed amendments will take effect in July 2021.

Please note that this is confidential information subject to the 2021 Confidentiality Agreement that I understand you and your staff have signed.

If you or your staff would like to discuss these amendments further, please contact Mr. Cary Chiu, Executive Director of Strategic Policy and Legislation, at 778 698-7686 or Cary.Chiu@gov.bc.ca.

Before signing off, I want to thank you again for the feedback and support you provided on the accessibility bill; it was invaluable and strengthened this important piece of legislation.

I look forward to talking with you in the future and working together on upcoming initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Suzanne Christensen
Assistant Deputy Minister
Research, Innovation and Policy Division
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

cc: Cary Chiu, Executive Director, Research, Innovation and Policy Division,
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Tricia Daykin, Director, Legislation, Research, Innovation and Policy Division,
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Denise Sandison, Director of Policy, IGR, & Indigenous, Research, Innovation
and Policy Division, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Andrea Glickman, Policy Director, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

