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April 2020

**Community Update**  
**BC government announces temporary additional supports**  
**for income assistance and PWD recipients**

Dear Community Partner,

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Shane Simpson announced that the BC government would introduce temporary additional supports and policy changes for British Columbians receiving provincial income assistance (IA) or the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) benefit. DABC is pleased to learn about these temporary measures, which are intended to mitigate some of the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The changes include:

- temporary exemption of EI and the new federal Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) from clawback from IA and PWD
- an automatic \$300 crisis supplement which will be provided for the next three months to people on IA and PWD who are not receiving EI or the CERB
- a three-month automatic payout of the \$52 Transportation Supplement for people receiving PWD. This amount will be added to PWD assistance cheques beginning in April.

We will share more details about these new measures as that information becomes available.

We hope the federal and/or provincial government will be providing comparable supports to people who receive federal disability assistance (CPP-D). DABC will be advocating that this gap be addressed.

For more information on the measures listed above, please [click here](#), read the BC government's [news release](#), or contact our Advocacy Access Program at [advocacy@disabilityalliancebc.org](mailto:advocacy@disabilityalliancebc.org) or 604-872-1278/1-800-663-1278 (Toll-Free).