

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Subject: Treatment of payments from the Heroes Fund, COVID Self-Isolation Payment, Enoch Cree Nation Yekau Lake Settlement, and Working Parents Benefit

Number: AISH-Program-2021-003

Date Issued: April 12, 2021

Effective Date: Immediately

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Distribution: **Community and Social Services**
Employment and Financial Services
AISH Program Policy Update Subscribers

BACKGROUND:**HEROES FUND:**

The Alberta *Ensuring Safety and Cutting Red Tape Act* established the creation of The Heroes Fund. This provincial fund is intended for the families of provincial first responders (firefighters, paramedics, police officers, corrections officers and sheriffs) who died as a result of performing their duties. Families are eligible for this fund from April 1, 2020 onwards.

The Heroes Fund is administered through the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and will provide a tax-free payment of \$100,000 to the surviving family.

Payments will be issued as Alberta WCB Fatality Benefits.

Payments as Income

As WCB Fatality Benefits are considered death benefits, a Heroes Fund payment is exempt income under AISH General Regulation, Schedule 1.1, Table 1, section 1(b).

Note: Interest or investment income generated from these payments that is reportable to the CRA is considered passive business income and receives a partial income

exemption. Any money remaining from these interest or investment amounts in subsequent months is considered a non-exempt asset.

Payments as Assets

The Minister exercised her authority to exempt Heroes Fund Payments from the determination of assets including any asset to the extent it was purchased with that payment, under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) General Regulation, Schedule 2, Section 2 (2)(i).

Ministerial Order 2021-004 allows for a full exemption to AISH clients and applicants. Through the MO, the Minister exercised her authority to exempt these payments as assets. As such, these payments are not included in the determination of assets for AISH clients and applicants.

COVID SELF-ISOLATION PAYMENT

The Government of Alberta has made temporary supports available for persons who must isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19, but cannot do so safely in their own home.

Upon referral from Alberta Health Services, a person may be eligible for the following supports:

- Access to a hotel room, paid for by the province, during their isolation period; and
- A \$625 COVID Self-Isolation payment, issued upon completion of their hotel stay.

The COVID Self-Isolation payment is considered fully exempt under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program, as this payment is not reportable to the Canada Revenue Agency under the Income Tax Act.

Under the AISH Regulation, the Minister has exercised her authority to exempt the COVID Self-Isolation payment in the determination of assets.

Ministerial Order 2021-009 exempts the COVID Self-Isolation payment as an asset as well as any asset purchased with the payment, under section 2(2)(i) of Schedule 2 of the Regulation.

ENOCH CREE NATION YEKAU LAKE PRACTICE BOMBING RANGE SPECIFIC CLAIM

Enoch Cree Nation reached a resolution with the Government of Canada with respect to a Specific Claim under Canada's *Specific Claims Tribunal Act* regarding the improper use of Enoch's reserve lands as a practice bombing range by the federal government during World War II.

Enoch Cree Nation is making a one-time per capita distribution (PCD) payment of \$13,500, paid equally to their members from the proceeds of the Specific Claim.

The payment is considered exempt income as it is not reportable income to the Canada Revenue Agency under the *Income Tax Act*.

Note: Interest or investment income generated from these payments that is reportable to the CRA is considered passive business income and receives a partial income exemption. Any money remaining from these interest or investment amounts in subsequent months is considered a non-exempt asset.

The Minister has exercised her authority to exempt the payment in Ministerial Order 2021-011 from the determination of assets, including any asset to the extent it was purchased with the payment, under the AISH General Regulation, Schedule 2, section 2(2)(i.1).

WORKING PARENTS BENEFIT

The Government of Alberta is providing the Working Parents Benefit (WPB) to eligible Albertans who paid for full-time child care services in 2020. The WPB is a one-time, lump-sum payment of up to \$561 per child, issued to eligible households between March and May 2021.

WPB Payments as Income

The WPB is a tax-free benefit that is not reportable to the Canada Revenue Agency. As such, the WPB is considered fully exempt income under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program.

WPB Payments as Assets

The Minister has exercised her authority to exempt the WPB from the determination of assets, including any asset to the extent it was purchased with the WPB payment, under the AISH General Regulation, Schedule 2, Section 2 (2)(i).

Ministerial Order 2021-013 exempts the WPB payment both as income and as an asset for AISH program clients.

INTENT:

To ensure that AISH program policy accurately reflects the treatment of these payments.

POLICY:

The following policies have been updated:

- The [Income Type Exemption Table](#) has been updated under the [Income Policy](#).
- Assets – [Government Payments](#)