

Subject: Treatment of New Federal Payments

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BACKGROUND:Cost of Living Relief Act

In September 2022, the Government of Canada introduced the *Cost of Living Relief Act* that includes the following benefits:

- The Canada Housing Benefit, which provides a one-time top-up payment of \$500 to help low-income renters with the cost of renting.
- The Canada Dental Benefit, which provides two annual payments of up to \$650 to cover out-of-pocket dental expenses for children under 12 years of age.

Canadian Armed Forces - Department of National Defense Sexual Misconduct Class Action Settlement

On November 25, 2019, the Federal Court certified the lawsuits as class proceedings and approved the

- Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) - Department of National Defense (DND) Sexual Misconduct Class Action Settlement providing financial compensation to people who experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment, or discrimination based on gender, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation while serving in the CAF, working for DND, or for the Staff of the Non-Public Funds, Canadian Forces.

All three of these payments are not considered income by the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program, as they are not reportable to the Canada Revenue Agency under the federal *Income Tax Act*.

To ensure clients do not experience a reduction in or termination of benefits as a result of any of these payments, the Minister has exercised his authority to exempt these payments from the determination of assets through Ministerial Order.

INTENT:

To ensure AISH policy reflects the treatment of these payments.

POLICY:

The following policies have been updated:

- [Income Policy](#) including
 - [Income Category Table](#) and the
 - [Income Type Exemption Table](#)
- Assets – [Government Payments](#) including
 - [Income Type Exemption Table](#)