

Subject: Changes to the *Income and Employment Supports Act*

Number: IS-LEARNER-2019-001

Date Issued: January 2, 2019

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Issuer: David Schneider
Executive Director
Foundational Learning Supports
Advanced Education

Deb Kaweski
Executive Director
Program Effectiveness
Labour

Distribution: **Advanced Education**
Foundational Learning Supports
Student Aid Alberta

Labour
Workforce Strategies Division
Program Effectiveness
Strategy and Policy Division

Community and Social Services
Delivery Services Portfolio

Training Providers
Subscribers to Alberta Works Updates Distribution list

BACKGROUND:

The *Income and Employment Supports Act* (IESA) has been amended effective January 1, 2019 to reflect an increase in the maximum Core Shelter and Core Essential benefit rates for Learners.

The Ministers of Advanced Education and Labour have also signed Ministerial Orders to establish the new supplementary income support benefit amounts.

IESA has been amended to provide annual increases to learner benefits and the calculation to index benefits. The new rates will be provided to all learners who are attending training as of January 1, 2019.

Note: The EMP 5585 Financial Benefits Summary is being updated to reflect the new rates and will be available on line on January 2, 2019.

The liquid asset limit has increased from 2 x to 3 x monthly core benefits, increasing the amount of savings a learner household can have when applying for Learner Income Support.

INTENT:

To update policy to reflect regulated rates for Core Shelter, Core Essential and Supplementary Benefits.

To ensure that Learner Income Support policy accurately reflects the new liquid asset limit.

POLICY:

The following Ministerial Orders have been posted:

[Ministerial Order 2018-32](#) (Labour)

[Ministerial Order 306/2018](#) (Advanced Education)

The following Learner policies have been updated:

[Core Essential Benefit](#)

[Core Shelter Benefit](#)

[Policy Governing All Benefits](#)

[Director Approval](#)

[Emergency Benefits](#)

[Additional Shelter](#)

[Child Care](#)

[Handicap Benefit](#)

[High Cost Community](#)

[High School Incentive Benefit](#)

[Isolated Community Allowance](#)

[Child Supplement Allowance for Non-EI Learners](#)

[Personal Benefit-Telephone and Transportation-Leaving Abusive Situations](#)

[Special Diets](#)

[Training Transportation](#)

[Transportation to Day or Employment Programs](#)

[Children's School Expenses](#)

[Employment Training and Transition Supports](#)

[Escaping Abuse Benefit](#)

[Natal and Adoptive Needs Payment](#)

[Special Transportation and Travel Payment](#)

[Assets - General - Overview](#)

[Assets - General - Liquid Assets](#)

[Financial Eligibility Overview](#)