

Appendix 2:

Earnings exemptions, 2022

Income tests in all jurisdictions allow for the exemption of some earnings from employment. These exemptions allow people receiving social assistance to earn a certain amount of money without impacting their benefits. (See [Eligibility criteria for social assistance](#) for more information.)

- Each social assistance program has its own way of calculating earnings exemptions but there are generally three approaches:
- A *flat-rate amount* permits a client to earn a certain amount after which social assistance benefits are reduced dollar for dollar.
- A *percentage of earnings* approach means that benefits are reduced by a certain percentage. For example, a 25 per cent exemption means that benefits are reduced by 75 cents for every dollar earned.
- A *combined flat-rate and percentage* approach means that once the flat-rate amount is exceeded, benefits are reduced by a percentage amount.

In most cases, earnings exemptions are based on monthly earnings (e.g., a household could earn \$200 each month before their benefits are reduced) and therefore benefit amounts and eligibility are calculated monthly. A minority of social assistance programs calculate exemptions based on annual earnings.

Note that Table A2 shows the earnings exemption levels in effect as of January 1, 2022. Any changes that occurred during the year are described in the footnotes. Earning exemptions are for both those applying for and receiving social assistance unless otherwise stated. The amounts given in the table below are monthly, unless otherwise indicated.

None of the jurisdictions increased earnings exemption limits in 2022.

Table A2: Monthly earnings exemption levels as of January 2022

	Unattached single considered employable	Unattached single with a disability	Single parent, one child	Couple, two children
AB ¹	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$230 of net earnings is exempt; a 25% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$230 of net earnings is exempt; a 25% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$230 of net earnings is exempt; a 25% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: For each earner, the first \$115 of net earnings is exempt; a 25% exemption applies thereafter
AB, AISH ²	Not applicable	The first \$1,072 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies to amounts in excess of \$1,072 up to \$2,009	The first \$2,612 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies to amounts in excess of \$2,612 up to \$3,349	The first \$2,612 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies to amounts in excess of \$2,612 up to \$3,349
BC ³	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$500 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$15,000 of net annual earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$750 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$750 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter

- 1 Exemptions are for those in “Expected to Work” and “Barriers to Full Employment” categories of social assistance. They apply to employment or self-employment income (for certain home-based businesses) the household can access. If a dependant is attending school, their income is fully exempt. If a dependant is not in school, the first \$350 of net earnings is exempt and a 25% exemption applies thereafter.
- 2 AISH refers to the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program in Alberta.
- 3 In British Columbia, recipients must be in receipt of assistance for at least one month before the earned income exemption amount applies. Exemptions are for BC’s Income Assistance program except in the case of the unattached single with a disability. In that case, they refer to the Disability Assistance program.

	Unattached single considered employable	Unattached single with a disability	Single parent, one child	Couple, two children
MB ⁴	Applicants: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter Recipients: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter Recipients: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter Recipients: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter Recipients: For each earner, the first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter
NB ^{5,6}	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$500 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$500 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$500 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$500 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter
NL	The first \$75 of net earnings is exempt; a 20% exemption applies thereafter	The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; a 20% exemption applies thereafter ⁷	The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; a 20% exemption applies thereafter	The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; a 20% exemption applies thereafter
NT	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 15% exemption applies thereafter	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 15% exemption applies thereafter	The first \$400 of net earnings is exempt; a 15% exemption applies thereafter	The first \$400 of net earnings is exempt; a 15% exemption applies thereafter

- 4 In Manitoba, recipients must be in receipt of assistance for at least one month before the earned income exemption amount applies. Note that Manitoba also provides the Rewarding Work Allowance (RWA) to all employed adults without disabilities on income assistance. The RWA is \$100 for people working more than 80 hours or ten days in a month, or \$50 for those working less. Employed people with disabilities receive similar benefits.
- 5 All amounts refer to New Brunswick's Transitional Assistance Program except in the case of the unattached single with a disability. In that case, they refer to the Extended Benefits Program.
- 6 Although this is not an earned income exemption, it is worth noting that an income exemption for social assistance recipients was introduced on October 1, 2022, and applies to the first \$200 of Canada Pension Plan (CPP) income their household receives monthly.
- 7 This applies to an unattached single with a disability requiring supportive services.

	Unattached single considered employable	Unattached single with a disability	Single parent, one child	Couple, two children
NS ⁸	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$250 of net earnings is exempt; a 75% exemption applies to amounts between \$250.01 and \$500; a 50% exemption applies to amounts between \$500.01 and \$750; a 25% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$350 of net earnings is exempt; a 75% exemption applies to amounts between \$350.01 and \$500; a 50% exemption applies to amounts between \$500.01 and \$750; a 25% exemption applies thereafter ⁹	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$250 of net earnings is exempt; a 75% exemption applies to amounts between \$250.01 and \$500; a 50% exemption applies to amounts between \$500.01 and \$750; a 25% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$250 of net earnings is exempt; a 75% exemption applies to amounts between \$250.01 and \$500; a 50% exemption applies to amounts between \$500.01 and \$750; a 25% exemption applies thereafter
NU	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to the next \$600	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to the next \$600	The first \$400 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to the next \$600	The first \$400 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to the next \$600
ON ¹⁰	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter ¹¹	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: For each adult, the first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption applies thereafter

8 In Nova Scotia, families already in receipt of assistance may also earn up to \$3,000 per fiscal year through the Harvest Connection program without affecting their basic Income Assistance payment.

9 These exemptions apply to people with disabilities participating in supported employment.

10 All amounts refer to the Ontario Works (OW) program except in the case of the unattached single with a disability. In that case, the amount refers to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). In Ontario, recipients must be in receipt of assistance continuously for at least three months before the earned income exemption amount applies. The earnings of, and amounts paid under a training program to, people attending full-time post-secondary school are exempt as income and assets.

11 In addition to earnings exemptions, ODSP provides a \$100 Work-Related Benefit to each eligible adult family member in any month they receive earnings.

	Unattached single considered employable	Unattached single with a disability	Single parent, one child	Couple, two children
PE	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$250 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$500 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$400 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter	Applicants: Support is reduced dollar for dollar on all earned income Recipients: The first \$400 of net earnings is exempt; a 30% exemption applies thereafter
QC	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter ¹²	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter ¹³	The first \$200 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter ¹⁴	The first \$300 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter ¹⁵
SK ¹⁶	The first \$325 of net earnings from wages (or net income from self-employment) is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter	The first \$6,000 of net annual earnings from wages is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter	The first \$500 of net earnings from wages (or net income from self-employment) is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter	The first \$500 of net earnings from wages (or net income from self-employment) is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter

-
- 12 This exemption amount applies to a person with no limited capacity for employment in the Social Assistance program and to participants in the Aim to Employment Program (AEP). Participants in AEP may also receive a supplement of 20% of any portion of their work income in excess of the applicable exemption amount.
- 13 This applies to a person with severely limited capacity for employment in the Social Solidarity program.
- 14 This applies to a person in the Social Assistance program with temporary limitations to employment and to participants in the Aim to Employment Program (AEP). Participants in AEP may also receive a supplement of 20% of any portion of their work income in excess of the applicable exemption amount.
- 15 This applies to couples in the Social Assistance program, regardless of the type of limitations to employment, and to participants in the Aim to Employment Program (AEP).
- 16 All amounts refer to the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program except in the case of the unattached single with a disability. In that case, the amount refers to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program.

	Unattached single considered employable	Unattached single with a disability	Single parent, one child	Couple, two children
YT ¹⁷	<p>Applicants: The first \$100 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter</p> <p>Recipients: The first \$100 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to any additional earnings for the first 36 months, after which a 25% exemption is applied</p>	<p>Applicants: The first \$100 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter</p> <p>Recipients: The first \$100 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to any additional earnings for the first 36 months, after which a 25% exemption is applied¹⁸</p>	<p>Applicants: The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter</p> <p>Recipients: The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to any additional earnings for the first 36 months, after which a 25% exemption is applied</p>	<p>Applicants: The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; support is reduced dollar for dollar thereafter</p> <p>Recipients: The first \$150 of net earnings is exempt; a 50% exemption is applied to any additional earnings for the first 36 months, after which a 25% exemption is applied</p>

¹⁷ In the Yukon, recipients must be in receipt of assistance for at least one month before the earned income exemption amount applies.

¹⁸ People who qualify for the Yukon Supplementary Allowance (payable to people with disabilities and the elderly) are eligible for an additional annual earned income exemption of up to \$3,900.