

eligible seniors up to \$500



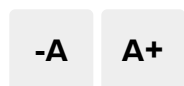
BY [AMANDA CONNOLLY](#) - GLOBAL NEWS

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— WATCH ABOVE: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is promising Canadian seniors a one-time payment of up to \$500 during the pandemic. David Akin explains why the opposition and advocacy groups say it's far from enough.



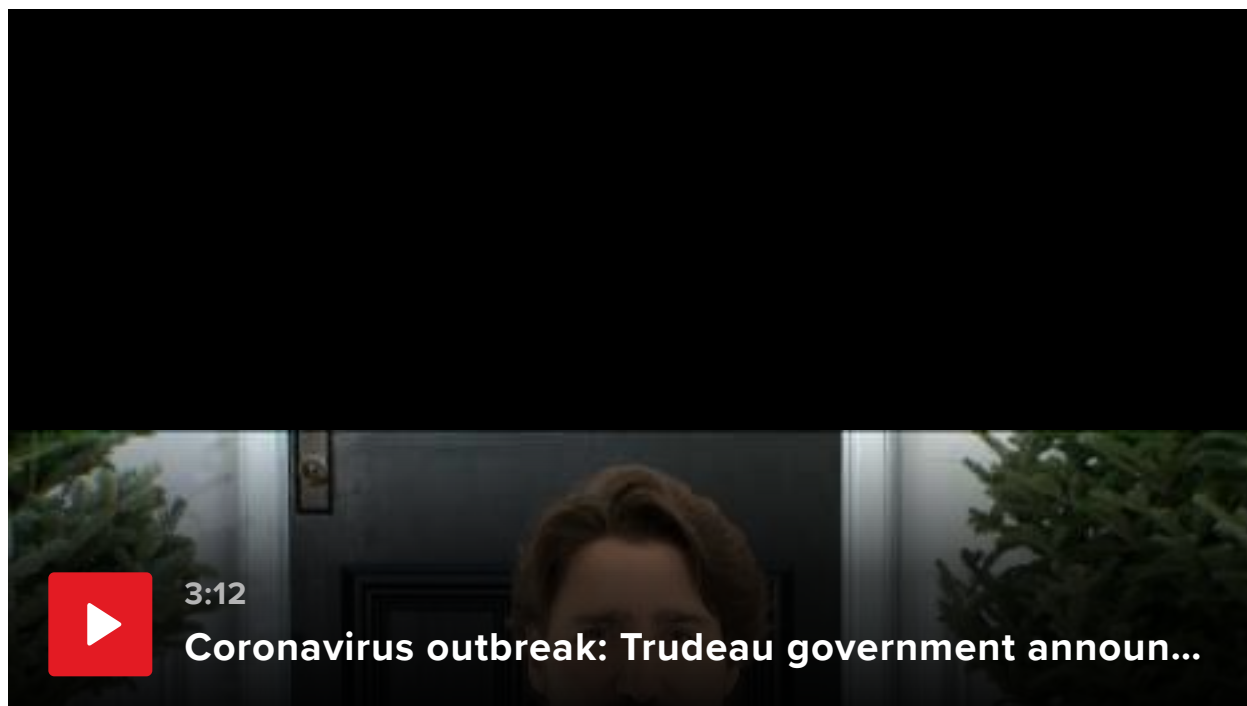
Seniors feeling the financial impacts of the [coronavirus](#) pandemic will be able to get a one-time top-up to their Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement payments.

Seniors Minister Deb Schulte and Treasury Board president Jean-Yves Duclos held a press conference on Tuesday morning to roll out details of a \$2.5-billion plan to give seniors eligible for the OAS pension a one-time, tax-free payment of \$300, with an additional \$200 going to those also eligible for the GIS.

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The government will also spend an extra \$20 million on expanding the New Horizons for Seniors Program that supports community-based projects for seniors and will temporarily extend GIS payments.

The coronavirus pandemic has led to an unprecedented global economic shutdown over the last three months as countries scramble to try to stop the spread of the deadly virus.



— Coronavirus outbreak: Trudeau government announces new financial supports for seniors

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Canada lost [nearly two million jobs in April](#) in addition to the roughly one million lost in March when lockdowns began across the country.

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Those shutdowns, targeting non-essential businesses, have primarily hit women and vulnerable Canadians hardest, as they fill many of the jobs in the retail and service industries, both hit hard by the restrictions.



— Coronavirus outbreak: Federal government announces one-time benefit top-up for seniors

Seniors who work part time and earn less than \$1,000 per month are also eligible to claim the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, along with other working Canadians who have seen their pay cheques shrink or disappear because of the pandemic shutdowns.

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But seniors advocates have argued that older Canadians have seen their retirement savings take a hit as stock markets have been roiled by the crisis and that increasing costs of essential goods are stretching the budgets of seniors used to living on fixed incomes.



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Schulte said during the press conference that the government has also increased the GST credit for seniors but wouldn't answer questions about why the top-up announced Tuesday will only be paid out once given there's no indication of when the pandemic will end.

She also wouldn't answer when asked what criteria will be used to determine whether to provide further support for seniors, but said she acknowledged the GST credit was not enough.

"We recognize that wasn't enough and that's why we're stepping up now," she said.

"We've been focused on those who have no income, who've lost their businesses ... we have been focused on looking after seniors – it's just, they are still getting their benefits."

READ MORE: [Supporting seniors hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also addressed the decision during his daily briefing with journalists on Tuesday, saying the move will help roughly seven million Canadian seniors over the coming weeks.

He said while attention on seniors has focused on those in long-term care homes — where high numbers of seniors have died in virus outbreaks across the country — seniors also face other challenges.

"The challenges for seniors are not only limited to what's happening in long-term care homes. The quarantine is difficult for seniors," he said. "They depend on delivery services and this often times means they can't benefit from sales. Times are difficult, emotionally and financially."

Trudeau pledged the government will be working with provinces over the coming months "to find lasting solutions" to the lack of staffing and resources at long-term care homes that appear to have contributed to the explosion of cases in those homes.





— Whitby hotline keeping seniors connected during pandemic

Canadian cases

CONFIRMED

71,146

(Today: +1,176)

DEATHS

5,169

(Today: +176)

RECOVERED

34,055

(Today: +1,048)

1,199,208 tests administered (Today: +23,361)

Updates may take up to 10 minutes to appear in the table.

Last Updated: EDT

Sources: [How we got the data](#)

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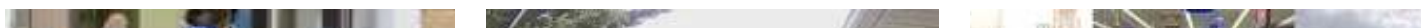
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**Henry Last**

As a senior, I love Trudeau....

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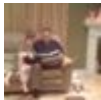
**Stephen Green**

A single grant of \$500 is seriously not enough! Costs are escalating for essential needs in most consumer goods.

Governments need to significantly increase Senior benefits, especially OAS and CPP. Further medical, dental and vision costs are completely unaffordable. That also applies to pharmaceuticals.

Once this pandemic finishesm there is no doubt in my mind that costs will increase even more,

Like · Reply · 1 · 48m

**Roy Stephenson**

Glad to see this. Scheer would only bail out banks as usual.

Like · Reply · 1 · 4h

**DM Kerrman**

You are very silly.

Like · Reply · 3 · 4h

**Tyler Jukes**

Trudeau jacked their taxes up only a couple weeks ago.

Like · Reply · 6 · 6h

**Roy Stephenson**

No he didn't. Full of it much?

Like · Reply · 1 · 4h

**Rabnwaz Uthwal**

I m making over 15-k dollars a month working part time. I kept hearing other people tell me how much money they can make online so I decided to look into it. Well, it was all true and has totally changed my life.

AND GOOD LUCK.

HERE →→→→→ Www.workbaar.ComCOPY THE LINK.

Like · Reply · 4h

**Tyler Jukes**

Roy Stephenson really? Seniors don't pay carbon tax?

Like · Reply · 4 · 4h

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**Gina MLane**

There are individuals that are on CPP from the ages 60-65 that are low income and no additional support for them other that the GST increase that all others receive. These people also have addtional costs due to the pandemic, perhaps this should also be addressed, perhaps in the future or are they falling into the cracks?

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