

**\* ONTARIO INCOME SECURITY  
& TAX BENEFIT PROGRAMS \***

**Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System**

- ❖ The Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) ensures a guaranteed minimum income for Ontario senior citizens by providing monthly payments to qualifying pensioners.

GAINS (A) payment	GAINS (A) guarantee		
	Single	Couple	
Monthly payment	\$83.00	\$166.00	
Break-even point	\$166.00	\$332.00	
GAINS (A) guarantee	Single	Couple	
	Monthly payment	\$1,252.47	\$2,061.72
	Total income at break-even point	\$1,252.47	\$2,061.72
	Spouse's allowance		\$1,978.72

**Ontario Child Benefit**

- ❖ The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is a provincial program that helps low-income families provide for their children.

\$600/year per child reduced by 8% of family net income over \$20,000 effective July 2008.

**Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families**

- ❖ The Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families supports low and modest income parents who are working, studying or training and have children under age seven, as well as working families with one stay-at-home parent.

Net Family Earnings	Benefit
\$5,000 or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of qualifying child care expenses up to the maximum annual benefit of                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1,100 per child under 7 in a two-parent family</li> <li>• \$1,310 per child under 7 in a single-parent family</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Over \$5,000	Greater of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21% of earnings over \$5,000 for one child</li> <li>• 42% of earnings over \$5,000 for two children</li> <li>• 63% of earnings over \$5,000 for three or more children; OR</li> <li>• 50% of qualifying child care expenses</li> </ul>

Benefits are reduced by 8% of family net income greater than \$20,000.  
\*OCCS payments reduce dollar for dollar amount with OCB. OCCS will phase-out starting in July 2011 when OCB is fully implemented.

**Ontario Sales and Property Tax Credits**

- ❖ The refundable sales tax credit offsets provincial sales tax for people with low to moderate incomes.
- ❖ The refundable property tax credit provides property tax assistance for people with low to moderate incomes.
- ❖ The combined maximum amount of property and sales tax credits for any one taxation year is \$1,000 for non-seniors and \$1,125 for seniors.

Sales Tax Credit	Non-Seniors	Seniors
Tax credit per adult	\$100	\$100
Tax credit per child	\$50	\$50
Property Tax Credit	\$250	\$625
	plus 20% of occupancy cost	
Tax-back threshold	\$4,000	\$22,000
Tax-back rate	2.0%	4.0%

For more information regarding Ontario income security and tax benefit programs, visit <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca>

INTERNAL: FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

# SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, PENSION, and TAX CREDIT RATES

October – December 2008



Compiled by  
Statistics and Analysis Unit  
Policy Research and Analysis Branch  
Social Policy Development Division  
Ministry of Community & Social Services

**\* FEDERAL INCOME SECURITY  
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**OAS, GIS, SPA**

- ❖ The Old Age Security (OAS) pension is a monthly benefit available, if applied for, to most Canadians 65 years of age or over. Old Age Security residence requirements must also be met.
- ❖ The Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) provides additional money, on top of the OAS pension, to low-income seniors.
- ❖ 60-to-64-year old spouses of OAS recipients (living or deceased) may receive a Spouse's Allowance (SPA).

OAS monthly benefit	\$516.96	
GIS	Single	Couple
		(benefit per person)
Maximum supplement	\$652.51	\$430.90
Break-even point	\$1,305.02	\$861.80
Federal OAS/GIS/SPA Guarantee	Single	Couple
Monthly benefit	\$1,169.47	\$1,895.72
Total income at break-even point	\$1,821.98	\$2,757.52
	Regular	Widowed
Spouse's allowance	\$947.86	\$1,050.68

**Canada Pension Plan**

- ❖ The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) pays a monthly retirement pension to people who have worked and contributed to the CPP. The CPP also acts as an insurance plan, providing disability, survivor and death benefits.

	Maximum monthly benefit
Retirement Pension (at age 65)	\$884.58
Disability Pension	\$1,077.52
Flat Rate	\$414.08
Earnings-related	\$663.44
Survivors Pension	
Under 65	\$493.28
Over 65	\$530.75
Children of deceased contributor	\$208.77
Death Benefit (lump sum)	\$2,500.00

**Goods and Services Tax Credit**

- ❖ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Credit helps offset the GST paid by individuals and families with low to moderate incomes. The credit is paid every three months.

	Credit Per Year
Each adult	\$242
Each child	\$127
Single supplement	Lesser of \$127 or 2% of net income over \$7,851
Tax-back threshold	\$31,524
Tax-back rate	5%

**Medical Expense Tax Credit**

Up to \$1,041 refundable. Begins to be phased out at \$23,057.

**War Veterans Allowance**

- ❖ The War Veterans Allowance (WVA) is a form of financial assistance granted in recognition of war service. Qualified persons receive a monthly benefit designed to help them meet basic needs.

Family size	Monthly benefit
1 Single widow/er	\$1,273.88
1 Blind widow/er	\$1,325.61
2	\$1,989.23
3	\$2,210.23
4	\$2,431.23
5	\$2,652.23
Orphan	\$662.25

**Employment Insurance**

- ❖ Employment Insurance (EI) provides temporary financial help to unemployed Canadians while they look for work or upgrade their skills, while they are pregnant or caring for a newborn or adopted child, or while they are sick.

**Benefit**  
55% of average insured earnings, with a maximum of \$435/week  
**Premium**  
1.73% of employment income, with a maximum premium of \$711.03/year

**Canada Child Tax Benefit**

- ❖ The Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) is a monthly, tax-free payment made to eligible families with children under 18. It includes the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS), a monthly benefit for low-income families with children; the Child Disability Benefit and the new Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB) effective July 1, 2006.

Basic Child Tax Benefit	Per Month	Per Year
Benefit per child under 18	\$108.92	\$1,307
For each of 3 <sup>rd</sup> and subsequent Children	Add \$7.58	Add \$91
Tax-back threshold		\$37,885
Tax-back rate: 1 child		2.0%
2 + children		4.0%
National Child Benefit Supplement	Per Month	Per Year
First child	\$168.75	\$2,025
Second child	\$149.33	\$1,792
Each additional child	\$142.00	\$1,704
Tax-back threshold		\$21,287
Tax-back rate: 1 child		12.2 %
2 children		23.0%
3+ children		33.3%

**Child Disability Benefit**  
Per child (At incomes greater than \$37,884, benefits reduced at the same rates as CTB.) \$2,395  
**Universal Child Care Benefit**  
Provides all low income families with \$100 per month for each child under the age of 6 years \$1,200

For further information, contact:  
Mithila Pathmanathan (416) 325-5279  
Mithila.pathmanathan@ontario.ca

Source: HRDC  
For more information regarding federal income security and tax benefit programs, visit <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca>

**Ontario Works**  
(Social Assistance rates effective December 2008)

- ❖ Ontario Works (OW) provides employment and financial assistance to people who are in temporary financial need.
- ❖ The Basic Needs Allowance is provided to renters/owners to offset the costs of food, clothing, personal needs, and other non-shelter needs.
- ❖ Boarders receive assistance based on the actual shelter costs up to a maximum for board and lodging. In addition, a \$58 "Special Boarder Allowance" is payable to each boarder household.

**Basic Needs Allowance**

• **For Renters/Owners:**

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 13-17 Years	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	0	\$216	\$429
1	0	0	1	360	429
	0	1	0	377	446
	1	0	0	535	562
2	0	0	2	360	429
	0	1	1	377	446
	0	2	0	394	463
	1	0	1	535	562
	1	1	0	552	579
	2	0	0	668	711

For each additional dependent, add \$150 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$17 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age, or \$0 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

• **For Board and Lodging:**

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or Older	Dependents 0-17 Years	Recipient	Recipient and Spouse
0	0	0	\$392	\$599
1	0	1	547	652
	1	0	651	687
2	0	2	607	702
	1	1	711	737
	2	0	751	770
3	0	3	663	752
	1	2	767	787
	2	1	807	820
	3	0	843	854

For each additional dependant of a sole support parent: add \$99 if the dependant is 18 years old or older add \$56 if the dependant is younger than 18 years old Otherwise, for each additional dependent: add \$86 if the dependant is 18 years old or older add \$50 if the dependant is younger than 18 years old

- ❖ The Transition Child Benefit is provided to recipients who have primary or shared physical custody of a dependent child (or children) and who are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)/National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) or who are receiving less than the maximum OCB.

Ontario Works (maximum/month) \$172/child

- ❖ For participants who reside in private market rental accommodation, their own home, or in public housing, the Shelter Allowance is the sum of the actual cost of shelter and the cost of fuel for heat, up to a maximum based on family size.

**Shelter Allowance**

Family size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$356
2	560
3	607
4	660
5	711
6 or more	738

**Maximum Monthly Allowance for Selected Case Types**

	Renters/Owners			Boarders
	Basic Needs Allowance	Shelter Allowance	Total Allowance	
Single person	\$216	\$356	\$572	\$392
Couple	429	560	989	599
Single parent + 1 child under 12	360	560	920	547

- ❖ The following items, if required, are paid, on top of the basic needs allowance and the shelter allowance, for all recipients:

**Other Employment and Employment Assistance Activities Benefit (formerly Employment Start-up Benefit)**

Maximum 253

**Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (once in a 24-month period)**

Families with dependent children 1,500  
Others (Singles, Couples) 799

**Up Front Child Care**

An amount determined by the Director, up to the allowable maximums in any 12-month period.

❖ **Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) - \$125 per month**

Recipients who reside in specific types of facilities including hospitals may be eligible for personal needs allowance of \$125 a month.

❖ **Earnings Incentives (Effective August 1, 2005)**

The following earnings incentives and supports are provided to help participants make the transition to sustainable employment:

1. **Earnings Exemption:**

- A 50% exemption from all employment earnings
- A child care cost expenses exemption:  
Licensed child care: The child care deduction is equal to the actual cost of licensed child care.  
Unlicensed child care: The maximum child care deduction is \$600 per month per child.

Earnings are based on net earnings, i.e., gross earnings minus income tax, CPP, EI deductions, union dues and pension contributions. Earnings exemptions are applicable only after a three-month qualifying period.

2. **Full-Time Employment Benefit (FTEB):**

Up to \$500 FTEB will be provided to help participants who obtain full-time employment (i.e., 30+ hours per week) with the costs of going to work if they have been on assistance for 3 consecutive months or more.

3. **Extended Employment Health Benefit:**

Current Ontario Works health benefits may be provided to participants who exit Ontario Works to employment for a transitional period of up to 6 months or until the participant receives health benefit from his/her employer with the possibility of extension for an additional 6 months in exceptional circumstances.

The health benefits include items such as prescribed drugs, cost for dental services and vision items etc.

**Temporary Care Assistance**

- ❖ Temporary Care Assistance (TCA) refers to assistance available to an adult who is looking after a child in financial need of whom he or she is not the natural or adoptive parent.

First child \$236  
Second + \$192

**Ontario Disability Support Program**  
(Social Assistance rates effective November 2008)

- ❖ The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) is designed to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities while recognising that many of them can and do want to work.

**Basic Needs Allowance<sup>1</sup>**

• **For Renters/Owners:**

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or over	Dependents 13-17 Years	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient (no spouse included in benefit unit)	Recipient and Spouse (one disabled)	Recipient and Spouse (both disabled)
0	0	0	0	\$566	\$838	\$1,130
1	0	0	1	709	838	1,130
	0	1	0	768	897	1,189
	1	0	0	902	1,009	1,301
2	0	0	2	709	838	1,130
	0	1	1	768	897	1,189
	0	2	0	827	956	1,248
	1	0	1	902	1,009	1,301
	1	1	0	961	1,068	1,360
	2	0	0	1,074	1,200	1,492

For each additional dependent, add \$192 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$59 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age, or \$0 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

• **For Board and Lodging:**

No. of Dependents other than a Spouse	Dependents 18 Years or over	Dependents 13-17 Years	Dependents 0-12 Years	Recipient (no spouse included in benefit unit)	Recipient and Spouse (one disabled)	Recipient and Spouse (both disabled)
0	0	0	0	\$721	\$1,093	\$1,441
1	0	0	1	940	1,185	1,533
	0	1	0	988	1,230	1,578
	1	0	0	1,143	1,297	1,645

For each additional dependent, add \$204 if the dependent is 18 years of age or older, or \$137 if the dependent is 13-17 years of age, or \$92 if the dependent is 0-12 years of age.

- ❖ The Transition Child Benefit is provided to recipients who have primary or shared physical custody of a dependent child (or children) and who are not receiving the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB)/National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) or who are receiving less than the maximum OCB.

ODSP (maximum/month) \$148/child

**Shelter Allowance<sup>2</sup>**

Family size	Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance
1	\$454
2	714
3	775
4	842
5	907
6 or more	941

**Maximum Monthly Allowance for Selected Case Types**

	Renters/Owners			Boarders
	Basic Needs Allowance	Shelter Allowance	Total Allowance	
Single person (disabled, aged 65+)	\$566	\$454	\$1020	\$721
Couple (one disabled)	838	714	1,552	1,093
Couple (both disabled) <sup>2</sup>	1,130	714	1,707	1,441
Disabled + Spouse + 1 child under 12	838	775	1,613	1,185

- ❖ The following items, if required, are paid, on top of the basic needs allowance and the shelter allowance, for all recipients:

**Employment Start-up Benefit**

Maximum in a 12-month period 500  
**Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (once in a 24-month period)**  
Families with dependent children 1,500  
Others (Singles, Couples) 799

**Up Front Child Care**

An amount determined by the Director, up to the allowable maximums in any 12 month period.

❖ **Personal Needs Allowance and Institutional Rates**

Recipients who reside in specific types of facilities including hospitals may be eligible for personal needs allowance of \$125 a month. In addition, recipients, who reside in certain institutions as defined under the regulation, are eligible to receive an additional amount, depending on the type of institution.

- Recipients who reside in an approved charitable home for the aged under the *Charitable Institutions Act* are eligible to receive \$888 per month.
- Recipients who reside in a group home for persons with a developmental disability under the *Developmental Services Act* are eligible to receive \$895 per month.

❖ **Earnings Incentives**

The following earnings incentives and supports are provided to help recipients make the transition to sustainable employment:

1. **Earnings Exemption**

- A 50% exemption for all employment earnings.
- A disability related employment expense deduction up to a maximum of \$300.
- A child care expenses deduction of actual costs for licensed child care and up to a maximum of \$600 for unlicensed child care.

2. **Work-Related Benefit**

- \$100 per month for all eligible members of the benefit unit who report earnings.

3. **Employment Transition Benefit**

- \$500 payment, once in any 12-month period to eligible recipients who exit ODSP to employment to assist with the transition to work.

4. **Transitional Health Benefits**

- Drug, dental and vision care benefits to eligible recipients who exit ODSP to employment unless or until the employer provides these benefits.

5. **Rapid Reinstatement**

- Former recipients who are financially eligible for ODSP may be rapidly reinstated and do not have to go through the disability adjudication process if they meet defined criteria.

**Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities**

- ❖ Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) provides a benefit to parents caring for children with severe disabilities.

Minimum benefit \$25  
Maximum benefit \$430

<sup>1</sup> See additional notes regarding Basic Needs Allowance and Shelter Allowance under the section on Ontario Works.

<sup>2</sup> All couples where both persons are disabled receive an additional shelter allowance amount of \$63, but not receive more than \$1,707 per month total income support for basic needs and shelter attributable to the couples.