

March 30th, 2020

COVID-19 Update - #3

Dear Residents,

I hope that as time goes on you are finding this situation easier to cope with and comfort in new routines and ways of connecting to family, friends and neighbours. Please remember to reach out if you are anxious, have any questions or just want to talk.

We know that some of you may have heard that renters won't be evicted for not paying their rent, or that one housing provider in Ottawa has said their residents don't have to pay their April rent. We want you to know that your April rent is still due on April 1st. If you know that you aren't going to be able to pay your rent on April 1st, please contact us so we can discuss options and resources that may be available to you.

If your income has decreased or ended because of COVID-19, all levels of government have announced emergency assistance programs to help you with your basic expenses. We have included information about some of the programs available in this memo. If you are having difficulty finding out about them or not sure if you're eligible, please call or email the office so that we can help you. **Most importantly, please contact us if you're not able to pay your rent on April 1st, 2020.**

City of Ottawa – Emergency Financial Assistance

This includes residents who are waiting for employment insurance benefits.

Ottawa residents, who have no other financial resources available, and are unable to meet basic living expenses (food, housing, transportation, medicine), may apply for Emergency Financial Assistance, through the City of Ottawa's, Community and Social Services Dept.

See Fact Sheet attached with the details.

Provincial Government

- Providing a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools.
- Setting electricity prices for customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage.

Federal Assistance Programs:

Wage Subsidy Program:

The Federal Government increased the wage subsidy program for employers from 10% to 75% - this means that even if you are unable to work, your employer may not have to lay you off.

Emergency Care Benefit:

The Federal Government has announced financial assistance that you may be eligible for. "Introducing the Emergency Care Benefit providing up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks. This flat-payment Benefit would be administered through the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and provide income support to:

c/o Heartwood House, 206 - 404 McArthur Rd, Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8
Telephone 613-686-1825 Fax 613-686-1829 Email mhi@multifaithhousing.ca

- Workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- Parents with children who require care or supervision due to school or daycare closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.

Application for the Benefit will be available in April 2020, and require Canadians to attest that they meet the eligibility requirements. They will need to re-attest every two weeks to reconfirm their eligibility."

For more information visit: www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html.

Thank you all for your co-operation, understanding and your patience. If you have any questions please reach out to us by phone or email. If you have an urgent matter and it is not a regular business day, please call LSM Services at 613-296-6859. You may also call me at 613-795-5767 or email me at lori@lsmervices.ca.

Stay safe, stay well.

Lori Simpson, Manager, LSM Services Inc.
On Behalf of Multifaith Housing Initiative