

# COVID-19: Learn about the benefits available

## Support for individuals

### A retired First Nations couple living on reserve with a combined net income of \$55,000

**John and Molly** are a retired First Nations couple who live on reserve in BC. They have been living off of John's pension, a modest retirement savings fund and are both also receiving the Old Age Security (OAS) pension. They also have some investment income. John worked his entire career off reserve and their investments were made off reserve.

As a result of recent market events, they have seen a reduction in the market value of their retirement savings portfolio. As a result, they are worried this will have an impact on their future retirement security.

#### Available benefits

- ✓ Reduction in minimum Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) withdrawals by **25%**
- ✓ Extension granted for income tax filing and payments
- ✓ Partial GST/HST credit top-up payment: a one-time GST credit top-up payment of **\$300** starting April 9
- ✓ One-time tax-free payment of **\$300** for each individual eligible for OAS, for a total of **\$600** for John and Molly.

John and Molly don't need to apply for the GST/HST credit top-up or the one-time payment for those eligible for OAS. They will receive it automatically based on information from their 2018 tax return.

If they don't already receive these benefits, they should file a 2018 income tax return to receive the payments they are entitled to, even if they have no taxable income.

If they need help with filing an income tax return, they can call 1 800 959-8281. They can also learn more about the benefits available to them by visiting [Canada.ca/economic-response-plan](https://Canada.ca/economic-response-plan).

#### In practical terms...

John and Molly typically withdraw the minimum required amount from their RRIFs. To give them more flexibility in how they manage their savings, they can reduce their required minimum RRIF withdrawal for 2020 by 25%.

John and Molly listened to public health advice and took physical distancing very seriously. It was difficult for them to meet with their accountant to go over their taxes before April 30. They took advantage of the extension of the tax filing date to June 1.

Since they report some taxable dividends and capital gains, John and Molly typically have a balance owing at tax time. They will be able to defer any payment until after August 31, 2020, giving them more financial flexibility.

Their income has typically put them just above the range of the GST/HST credit, but the top-up payment will reach more families (those with slightly higher incomes), so they received a payment of \$300 in April.

They may also receive additional support from their First Nation's government, which has leveraged funding from the new [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#) to put additional measures in place to serve community members. These include getting goods to community members who are in preventative isolation or quarantine; support for Elders and food bank or nutritional assistance.

