



## **COVID-19 Update for Students - Financial Aid** **April 23, 2020**

### **CDHA is Here to Help**

Read our latest updates: [www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts](http://www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts)

Email us: [alerts@cdha.ca](mailto:alerts@cdha.ca)

Dear student member,

### **NEW federal aid for students who are ineligible for other COVID-19 federal benefits | Read about the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit**

CDHA recognizes that some of the mounting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are uniquely felt across post-secondary students and new graduates across Canada, particularly those working to become future health care professionals.

In our continuing efforts to advocate for and support our student members, CDHA has been actively lobbying government and others such as the banking sector.

A major win for students and recent graduates was announced yesterday, April 22, with the creation of the **Canadian Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)**. CESB aims to fill the support gap for students not covered by the federal government's other COVID-19 benefits and will cost over \$9 billion. CDHA hopes that these new measures will help many dental hygiene students and new graduates building a career and future as part of the dental hygiene workforce.

Based on the initial press release:

- Post-secondary (college and university) students who are currently in school, are planning to start school in September 2020, or who graduated from school in December 2019 are eligible for the CESB if they have lost work or cannot find work due to the pandemic.

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- The benefit would be available from May to August 2020. Postsecondary students who qualify for the CESB will receive \$1,250 a month from May to August 2020. The amount will increase to \$1,750 per month for those with dependents or disabilities. Payments will start on May 1 through the Canada Revenue Agency.
- Working students who earn less than \$1,000 per month are also able to apply for the benefit if their hours have been cut due to COVID-19.
- Eligibility includes those who did not earn \$5000 in the previous 12 months and are not employed.
- *The federal government still needs to pass legislation to activate the CESB program as soon as possible. The government is expected to provide more information online in the days to come.*

The government also pledged:

- \$291 million to extend post-graduate fellowships and grants.
- Creation of a Canada Student Service Grant (\$1,000-\$5,000) for COVID-19 volunteers.
- Creation of 76,000 new student jobs in various sectors.
- \$75 million in support for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students.
- A doubling of Canada Student Grants for the 2020-21 academic year, with money going directly to the Quebec, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut governments for their programs.

CDHA will continue to provide updates as they become available.

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*Please be well and take care of yourselves in this difficult time.  
Everyone can do their part to slow COVID-19.*