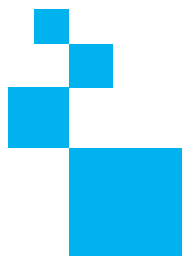


INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR OLDER WORKERS

EMPLOI-QUÉBEC



The goal of the [Income Support Program for Older Workers](#) is to temporarily provide individuals targeted by the program with [monthly financial assistance](#) in order to help them keep their assets and avoid having them turn to last-resort financial assistance.

TARGET GROUP

The program is aimed at workers aged 55 to 59 inclusively, who are dismissed or laid off between April 1, 2009 and December 31, 2012.

MAIN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be a Québec resident.
- Have worked for at least three consecutive months for an employer operating a business in Québec.
- Be aged 55 to 59 at the time of the dismissal or lay-off.
- Have contributed to the Québec Pension Plan or Canada Pension Plan for 20 of the past 30 years.

SPECIFICS

Forest industry workers

Forest industry workers who were dismissed or laid off between May 1, 2006 and March 31, 2009 and are not eligible for the **Financial Support Program for Older Workers Who Have Lost Their Jobs in the Forest Industry** can apply for assistance under the **Income Support Program for Older Workers**.

Self-employed workers

Self-employed workers whose income is derived entirely from contracts with businesses and whose contracts have been terminated for economic or technological reasons are eligible for the **Income Support Program for Older Workers**.

Self-employed workers whose work is linked to the forest industry and whose contracts terminated between May 1, 2006 and March 31, 2009 can apply for assistance under the **Income Support Program for Older Workers**.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTED

If you are eligible for the program, you could receive **financial assistance of up to \$987 per month in 2012**. This amount is increased on January 1 each year using Régie des rentes du Québec indexation rates.

CALCULATION OF ASSISTANCE

To determine the amount of assistance to which you may be entitled, the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale takes into account your personal income. If you have income, the first \$200 a month¹ is not taken into account, regardless of the source. Furthermore, the Ministère does not take the value of your property or liquid assets into account or, if applicable, those of your spouse or dependent children.

APPLICATION PERIOD

You can file your application for financial assistance between April 1, 2009 and December 31, 2012 inclusively as follows:

- if you are eligible for employment insurance benefits, no later than during the third month following the date your eligibility for these benefits ends;
- if you are not eligible for employment insurance benefits and were dismissed, no later than during the fourth month following the month you were dismissed;
- if you are not eligible for employment insurance benefits and were laid off, no later than during the seventh month following the month you were laid off².

This financial assistance is granted **up to the month following the one in which you turn 60**. However, it may be interrupted or cancelled, for example because of your income.

Throughout the time you receive this financial assistance, you must:

- exercise your right to employment insurance or other benefits;
- take action to re-enter the labour market, if need be with the support of public employment services;
- remain available for employment unless you are unfit for work for health reasons.

You must not leave or refuse suitable employment without serious cause.

1. This monthly amount is equivalent to the monthly employment earnings amount excluded under the Social Assistance Program.
2. No assistance may be granted under this program if the lay-off lasts fewer than six months.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the local employment centre in your region or call the Bureau des renseignements et plaintes of the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale at the following toll-free number: **1-888-643-4721** or visit **mess.gouv.qc.ca**.

NOTE

This document is for information purposes only and may not be used for legal interpretation purposes.