



November 15, 2017

Dear Client,

Transportation Supplement

Beginning January 1, 2018, if you are receiving disability assistance, you will receive an extra \$52 each month for a new transportation supplement.

How to use the Transportation Supplement for an annual bus pass:

- If you are on disability assistance and would like an annual bus pass, you can contact the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction at 1-866-866-0800 or visit the BC Bus Pass Program website.
- If you **already** have an annual BC Bus Pass and want to keep it, you can. **You don't have to contact the ministry.** Beginning with the January 2018 payment, you will no longer have \$52 deducted from your support payment.
- The BC Bus Pass can still be used in both TransLink and BC Transit areas.

How to use the Transportation Supplement for other transportation needs:

- If you do not want or need a bus pass, you can use the supplement to pay for any other transportation costs (for example, a taxi).
- You don't have to contact the ministry; the \$52 Transportation Supplement will be automatically added, starting with your January 2018 payment.

More information about the supplement:

- As your needs may change over time, the new supplement will provide flexibility. You can apply for the BC Bus Pass at any time during the year. You can also cancel your bus pass at any time and use the supplement for other transportation needs.

Why government made this change:

- Transportation is important to everyone.
- Government consulted with stakeholders and asked for their advice on the best approach to improve the system of transportation supports.

Other Recent Increases:

Rate Increase

Effective Oct 1, 2017, the monthly Support allowance increased by \$100 per PWD client. Therefore, family units where 2 people are PWD clients will now receive an additional \$200 in support. You will have seen this increase on your October cheque which was issued on September 20, 2017.

Annual Earnings Exemption Increase

Effective October 1, 2017, the Annual Earning Exemption (AEE) limits for 2017 have also been increased.

This change is retroactive for the entire 2017 period. The new Annual Earnings Exemption Amounts are indicated below:

Family Type	Old Limit	New Limit
Single person	\$9,600	\$12,000
Couple – one person with a disability	\$12,000	\$14,400
Couple – two people with a disability	\$19,200	\$24,000

If you exceeded the previous limit, contact the ministry to have your file reviewed and reassessed under the new limit.

For more information on any of these topics, please call 1-866-866-0800 or access the ministry websites below:

Transportation Supplement: www.buspass.gov.bc.ca

Annual Earnings Exemption:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/eligibility/income-treatment-and-exemptions>

Disability Assistance Rates:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual/bc-employment-and-assistance-rate-tables/disability-assistance-rate-table>

Sincerely,

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction