



BRIEFING NOTE

Subject: Summary of Government of Canada Student Support Announcement

Objective: Information item

Date: April 22, 2020

Introduction

The Government of Canada announced approx. \$9 billion in new supports for students and new grads affected by COVID-19. The measures will provide financial support this summer and assist students to continue with studies in the fall. The announcement also provides new funds to extend federal research grants and expiring scholarships and fellowships.

Initiatives Announced

Key measures include:

- Creation of the **Canada Emergency Student Benefit**, which would provide support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020.
- **Extend expiring federal graduate research scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, and supplement existing federal research grants**, to support students and post-doctoral fellows, by providing \$291.6 million to the federal granting councils. In addition, the government intends to enhance work opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows through the National Research Council of Canada.

Other Measures include:

- **Double the Canada Student Grants** for all eligible full-time students to up to \$6,000 and up to \$3,600 for part-time students in 2020-21. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents would also be doubled.
- **Broaden eligibility for student financial assistance** by removing the expected student's and spouse's contributions in 2020-21, in recognition that many students and families will struggle to save for school this year.

- **Enhance the Canada Student Loans Program** by raising the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-21 from \$210 to \$350.
- **Create the Canada Student Service Grant**, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.
- **Increase existing distinctions-based support for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation students** pursuing post-secondary education by providing an additional \$75.2 million in 2020-21.

The link to the announcement can be found here: <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/22/support-students-and-new-grads-affected-covid-19>

Further details on implementation will be distributed as we become aware.