

## Provincial Government Announces New Paid Sick Days Benefit

The provincial government has introduced a new provincial paid sick day's benefit program (Covid-19 Worker Income Protection Benefit):

1. Every employee in the province (including hourly and temporary employees) will be entitled to three days of paid sick leave with a payment of up to \$200 per day. The employer will have to up-front these costs but will be reimbursed by the province for the full amount through the WSIB. The program is not intended to duplicate existing paid sick leave policies. If an employer's existing sick leave policy is equivalent or better, then this program will not apply.
2. The program will also include a supplement to the [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#) (CRSB), with the province adding up to \$500 per week (for up to \$1000 per week total) to the existing federal program, which would kick in after the above noted three days, if an employee is required to isolate. The program will continue to be administered through the federal government.

The provincial benefit has a 'sunset clause' tied to the CRSB, which is set to expire on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This date may change, depending on the course of the pandemic, but the province is intent on having a hard closeout date so that this is not made a permanent benefit.

It is important to note that the three-day leave is a cumulative total over the life of the program. So, an employee cannot take three days because they feel sick this week and another three additional days in two weeks because they feel sick again. However, given that there is no way to track a worker between multiple employers, a temporary employee may be able to take the benefit multiple times if they are employed by multiple employers over the life of the program.

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