

# LVAC MEMO

TO: LVAC Members and RGI Households  
FROM: LVAC Co-op Office/Donna Hamilton  
DATE: June 1, 2020  
RE: COVID related benefits and recalculating of RGI rent

## **Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**

As advised previously, any RGI household that is in receipt of the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) must advise the co-op office in writing and provide proof of this income so that a mid-year income and asset review can be done to re-calculate the RGI rent.

## **Ontario GAINS**

The Ontario government is providing a temporary top-up to payments made through the Ontario Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS). Effective April 2020, monthly GAINS payments are being automatically doubled for a period of six months. The COVID-19 GAINS top-up is considered income and must be included for the purpose of re-calculating RGI rent. Please advise the co-op office in writing and provide proof of this additional income so that a mid-year income and asset review can be done to re-calculate the RGI rent.

## **Canada Tax-Free Benefit**

The government of Canada is providing a one-time tax free payment of \$300 to seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension and \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

The City of Toronto Housing Administration is waiting for confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the treatment of this federal benefit for RGI re-calculation purposes and as soon as an update is received you will be advised.

## **Canada Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowance Payments**

The government of Canada is extending Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information has not been assessed. All seniors receiving GIS are encouraged to file their tax return as soon as possible.

## **Canada Emergency Student Benefit**

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provides financial support to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to the COVID-19. This benefit is for students who do not qualify the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).

The income of a student is excluded from gross monthly income if they are a child of the household, and are attending a recognized educational institution full-time and have not been out of secondary school for more than 5 years at the start of the current study period.

If the student's income is not excluded according to these criteria, the CESB is considered income and a mid-year review to assess and recalculate the household RGI rent is needed. Please advise the co-op office in writing and provide proof of this additional income so that a mid-year income and asset review can be done to re-calculate the RGI rent.