

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Interim COVID-19 Supports

We understand you have questions about the supports available for Métis Albertans. So, we have answered the most frequently asked questions for you.

We are very busy processing applications, answering calls, and replying to emails in response to the four support programs rolled out on April 6, 2020. Since the announcement, we have approved hundreds of support applications for Métis families in need.

Our staff are working overtime to address questions and process applications.

We kindly ask for patience and understanding as we try to help everyone during this unprecedented health emergency.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Are these supports available to all Métis people in Alberta?

Yes. Please visit albertametis.com for information and requirements for each program available.

Have non-MNA citizens received support from the MNA?

Yes. We have processed hundreds of applications for both MNA card holders and Métis Albertans who are not registered with the MNA.

Do I have to be living in Alberta?

Yes. If you live out of the province, you do not qualify.

Why do I need to submit Long Form Birth Certificate (LFBC) when applying for the Child Wellness Benefit (CWB)?

This requirement acts as a protective factor to ensure we are giving these funds to Métis Albertans and their children. An LFBC has both the child's and the parent's names on it and is the best way to guarantee these limited funds are not going to fraudulent applicants.

You are able to obtain LFBC through the Government of Alberta's website, via the following link:

alberta.ca/order-birth-certificate.aspx

Most applicants receive theirs within 3-5 days.

If you're having trouble getting a LFBC, please contact us at cwb@metis.org

Will I lose my spot if I applied for the CWB and I don't yet have my LFBC or other required documentation?

No. All applications are both date and time stamped and as soon as you submit all remaining documents, you will be served in the order you applied.

The Child Wellness Benefit says it's a one-time payment over three months. What does this mean?

The MNA is offering the CWB for the remainder of the 2020 school year (April, May, June) to assist families with child wellness such as home-schooling supplies, online classes, and more. You will receive one payment under this program.

When will I hear about my application? When will I receive the support?

This is a very busy time and we are processing applications as quickly as possible. When an application has been processed, you will receive information about it. Once an application is approved, the MNA will mail you a cheque within 30 days.

What supports are available for families with kids older than 12?

Each MNA Regional Office has been given \$200,000 to support Métis Albertans and families in need. Please reach out to an MNA office near you.

MNA Affiliate Rupertsland Institute have launched a partnership with schools to provide a limited number of Chromebooks to Métis students currently participating in Alberta's K to 12 virtual classrooms. Learn more at rupertsland.org

There is also an Emergency Rent Supplement Program available. Please visit metishousing.ca for information about this program.

If I receive support from the MNA, do I still qualify for Canada's Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)?

Yes.

Does this affect my employment insurance (EI)?

You must report employment earnings while receiving EI, but generally relief payments do not count as earnings under EI regulations. However, every situation is different and it's best to connect directly with EI support before reporting. canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/various-types-earnings.html

Is the CWB payment taxable?

No. The CWB is a relief payment, therefore it will not affect your taxable income for the year.

What other supports are available?

The Government of Alberta have supports available including utility payment deferrals, student loans repayment deferrals, support for both employers and employees, and more. Please visit alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx.

The Government of Canada has its COVID-19 Economic Response Plan and supports for individuals, business, and industries who have been affected. Please visit canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html.