



July 21, 2008

AISH clients can earn more while still receiving financial assistance

Employment income exemption increases, effective July

Edmonton... Albertans receiving assistance through the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) program can now earn more money and still remain eligible for financial assistance. The employment income exemption increase is retroactive to July 1.

“Many AISH clients want to work to the extent that they are able and this change helps support that drive,” said Premier Ed Stelmach. “AISH clients have told us that, in addition to providing more income, having a job helps them connect with the community, develop new friendships and increase their self-confidence.”

On July 1, the upper limit of the employment exemption formula increased by \$500 to \$1,500 per month for single AISH clients and to \$2,500 per month for couples and clients with children. Close to 7,000 AISH clients are currently working.

“I applaud employers who see job seekers’ abilities rather than their disabilities,” said Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. “More than 30 pilot projects are underway across the province to connect clients seeking work with employers filling job vacancies.”

Enhancing employment incentives is one way the Alberta government is supporting AISH clients who are working or wish to do so. Depending on their circumstances, AISH clients may also receive assistance to help pay for child care and work-related supplies such as tools, specialty clothing or transportation to training.

In addition to a financial benefit of up to \$1,088 per month, all AISH clients receive comprehensive health benefits that include coverage for prescription drugs, dental and eye care, emergency ambulance services, and essential diabetic supplies and a waiver of fees for Alberta Aids to Daily Living.

-30-

Attachment: AISH employment support

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Mary Lou Reeleder, Communications

Seniors and Community Supports

marylou.reeleder@gov.ab.ca

780-415-9950

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

July 21, 2008

AISH employment support

Earnings exemption

Under the AISH program, some employment earnings are 100 per cent exempt, some are 50 per cent exempt and some are non-exempt. Effective July 1, the upper limit of the employment exemption increased by \$500 to \$1,500 per month for single people receiving AISH and to \$2,500 per month for couples and single parents.

Monthly Employment Income Exemption - effective July 1, 2008			
	Earnings 100% exempt	Earnings 50% exempt	Earnings deducted dollar for dollar
Single	\$400/month	between \$401 and \$1,500/month	over \$1,500/month
Couples/ Single parents	\$975/month	between \$976 and \$2,500/month	over \$2,500/month

Helping AISH clients find employment

Information sessions are held across the province to share information with AISH clients, employers and associations. AISH clients also have the option of meeting individually with staff to discuss employment goals and how to best reach them. More than 30 pilot projects are underway to provide people receiving AISH with training and on-the-job experience, and match job seekers with employers.

Employment-related personal benefits

In addition to the monthly living allowance, employment-related personal benefits can assist AISH clients with specific one-time or ongoing employment and training expenses:

- Employment and Training Supports - assists with the cost of tools, specialty clothing or other work related supplies and the cost of applications, deposits, registration and testing fees.
- Childcare - assists with the cost of childcare.
- Moving - assists with the costs related to establishing a new home if an AISH client moves for employment.

More information about AISH is available online at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/aish

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Mary Lou Reeleder, Communications
Seniors and Community Supports
marylou.reeleder@gov.ab.ca
780-415-9950

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Seniors and Community Supports Home Page](#)
| [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2008 Government of Alberta

