

Making Life Affordable for Saskatchewan People

Since being elected in November 2007, the Provincial Government has taken a number of measures to make life more affordable by putting more money back in the pockets of Saskatchewan people. Below are a few examples of the amount Saskatchewan people are saving through tax rebates and other increased benefits.

	Income Tax Savings	Low-Income Tax Credit Savings	Active Families Benefit	Seniors Income Plan Increase	Employment Supplement Increase	Annual Total Savings
Family of 4 with \$35,000 income	\$718	\$420	\$300	N/A	\$1,210	\$2,648
Family of 4 with \$50,000 income	\$1,418	\$227	\$300	N/A	N/A	\$1,945
Family of 4 with \$60,000 income or higher	\$1,418	\$0	\$300	N/A	N/A	\$1,718
Single Person with \$25,000 income	\$475	\$108	\$0	N/A	N/A	\$583
Single Senior with \$15,000 income	\$0	\$108	\$0	\$1,200	N/A	\$1,308
Senior Couple with \$25,000 income	\$0	\$216	\$0	\$1,980	N/A	\$2,196
Single Parent of 2 with \$15,000 income	\$0	\$219	\$300	N/A	\$540	\$1,059
Single Parent of 2 with \$35,000 income	\$1,007	\$371	\$300	N/A	\$1,210	\$2,888

Notes:

1. Income tax savings attributable to: October 21, 2008 announcement which for the 2008 taxation year increased the basic and spousal personal tax credit amounts generally by \$4,000 each and the Saskatchewan dependent child amount by \$2,000 per child; as well as indexation for 2009.
2. Low-Income Tax Credit savings result from the October 21, 2008 announcement renaming and enhancing benefits retroactive for 2008.
3. Active Families Benefit effective January 1, 2009 provides an annual refundable tax benefit of up to \$150 per child to assist families with the costs associated with their children participating in cultural, recreational and sports activities.
4. Increased seniors benefit result of the October 29, 2008 announcement that Senior's Income Plan would be more than doubled January 1, 2009.
5. Saskatchewan Employment Supplement was increased effective May 1, 2008.

Savings Far Exceed Utility Rate Increases

The SaskEnergy rate hike which came into effect on November 1, 2008 increased the average residential energy bill by about \$20 a month. SaskEnergy is now requesting a rate decrease of about \$20 a month for the average residential customer which, if approved, would take effect April 1, 2009.

SaskPower has requested a rate hike of about \$10 per month for urban residential customers which, if approved, would take effect on May 1, 2009.

The total impact of these utility rate charges, if approved, will be approximately \$140 in 2009 for an urban residential customer – far less than the tax savings and benefits increases provided by the Provincial Government.