

Backgrounder – Government Working to Improve Quality of Life for Saskatchewan Citizens

Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) Program

The SAID program, designed in collaboration with members of the disability community, provides an income for persons with significant and long-term disabilities.

In June 2012, the Government of Saskatchewan implemented the first installment of a four-year commitment to increase benefits under the SAID program by \$100 per month for people in residential care and by \$350 and \$400 per month for single individuals and couples respectively who live in independent arrangements. The second installment of the planned increases will be implemented in June of 2013.

SAID Benefit Increases

Living Arrangement	Estimated Cumulative Benefit Increases				
	Jan. 2012	June 2012	June 2013	2014	2015
Residential Care	\$50	\$90	\$110	\$130	\$150
Single Independent Living	n/a	\$200	\$250*	\$300*	\$350*
Couples Independent Living	n/a	\$230	\$290*	\$345*	\$400*

*Based on estimated average increase.

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Seniors Income Plan (SIP)

The Seniors Income Plan (SIP) provides senior citizens with the financial assistance required to meet their basic needs. A monthly supplement is provided to seniors who have little or no income other than the federal Old Age Security pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Effective July 2013, maximum benefits will be increased by \$10 per month, plus a benefit increase of a maximum of \$25 per month for clients living in Special Care Homes.

Maximum Monthly Benefits in the SIP Program

Marital Status	Historical Rate Changes			Future Government Commitments		
	1992	2009	2012	2013*	2014	2015
Single Pensioner	\$90	\$190	\$240	\$250	\$260	\$270
Married/Common-law Both Pensioners	\$72.50	\$155	\$205	\$215	\$225	\$235

*New maximum benefit effective July 2013

Maximum Monthly Benefit

	2012	2013*
<i>Seniors in Special Care Homes</i>	\$25	\$50

*New maximum benefit effective July 2013

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Personal Care Home Benefit

The Personal Care Home Benefit (PCHB) provides seniors with monthly financial assistance to help them with the cost of living in a licensed personal care home. To be eligible for the PCHB, an applicant must be 65 years of age or older; have a monthly income below the predetermined threshold; live in a licensed personal care home in Saskatchewan; and be receiving the Old Age Security pension.

In July 2013, the monthly income threshold for the program will increase from \$1,800 to \$1,875.

PCHB Monthly Income Threshold Increases

Year	Monthly Income Threshold
July 2012	\$1,800
July 2013	\$1,875
2014	\$1,950
2015	\$2,000

Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities

- The province has been providing financial support to municipalities that offer paratransit services for persons with disabilities since 1975. Originally for cities, the program was expanded in 1981 to include towns.
- Today there are 74 municipalities participating in the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities (TAPD) Program.
- In 2011, participating municipalities provided 581,043 TAPD eligible trips for people with disabilities who require paratransit transportation.
- Communities participating in the TAPD program determine their own operating arrangements and these vary in areas that include:
 - Hours of service;
 - Fare structure;
 - Eligibility criteria;
 - Service operations: community or by contract (company/community organization);
 - Provision of out-of-town services; and,
 - Vehicles: transit bus; combination of buses, vans and taxis.
- The 2013-14 TAPD program budget totals \$3.5 million, an increase of \$0.3 million that will accelerate the renewal of the paratransit fleet and allow for the expansion to additional eligible municipalities.