

Moving into the Workforce

It is important to notify the Department of Social Supports and Well-Being when you find a job while receiving Income Support. This will ensure you receive incentives and supports as you transition to work and avoid an overpayment of benefits.

- You may be eligible for a **Job Start** benefit of \$250 up to two times per year for any new jobs you begin.
- You can earn employment income and continue to receive full Income Support benefits for the first **60 days** after you start work.
- After the first 60 days of work, you may continue to qualify for Income Support as an **Earnings Supplement**. You will have a higher overall monthly income if you work while receiving Income Support, and the more you earn, the more you keep. The first \$150 per month you earn will not be deducted from your Income Support benefits. You will keep 75% of earnings from \$150 to \$225; 50% of earnings from \$225 to \$300; and 25% of any earnings above \$300 per month. A family receiving supportive services can keep the first \$250 of monthly earnings. In addition, expenses such as transportation and childcare will be considered.
- If you are a single parent working more than 30 hours per month, you may also receive an **Earned Income Supplement**, which is added to your monthly Income Support benefit.
- You may receive **Employment Continuation Bonuses** if you work without interruption for 6 months (\$250), 12 months (\$500) and 24 months (\$1000).
- If you receive Income Support as an earnings supplement, you will continue to have **100% prescription drug coverage**. If you no longer need Income Support to supplement your earnings, you will continue to keep 100% prescription drug coverage for the first 12 months. After the first 12 months, you may qualify for up to 80% prescription drug coverage.
- If you have a financial emergency that may cause you to stop working, you may qualify for up to \$1000 **Employment Stability Assistance** to help you keep your job.
- If you need **childcare**, help may be available through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (licensed)

Moving into the Workforce (Cont'd)

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/childcare/childcaresubsidy/> or Income Support (private).

- If you receive an **income tax refund**, it is yours to keep.
- You may be eligible for **Employment Development Supports** through the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development to help with certain expenses you may have when going to work. They may also help you with looking for a new job or going to school. You can reach out to this department by phone at 1-800-563-6600 (toll free) or email employmentprograms@gov.nl.ca. You can also visit the website <https://www.gov.nl.ca/labourmarketinformation>.
- You are encouraged to reach out to a Client Services Officer in the Income Support program to learn more about incentives and supports available to help you as you move into the workforce at 1-877-729-7888 (toll free).

IMPORTANT: You must report your employment earnings each month to receive the correct amount of Income Support as a supplement to your earnings and to prevent an overpayment of benefits, which will need to be repaid.