

The ODSP Work-Related Benefit is still available

If you get benefits from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), you can still get the \$100 Work-Related Benefit.

You should continue to keep all the information you get about your hours and earnings. Make sure to declare your income each month, as required.

Background:

The government was going to get rid of the ODSP Work-Related Benefit and six other employment benefits in OW and ODSP and replace them with a single new employment benefit in each program. The change was supposed to happen October 1, 2015.

The government has decided to put the change on hold until they make decisions about bigger changes to the social assistance system. They changed their minds because of a campaign led by people on ODSP and their allies. Decisions will only be made after talking to people on OW and ODSP and other stakeholders.

This change means that people on ODSP will still get the \$100 Work-Related Benefit in any month where they have income from work or a training program, or make a profit from self-employment. Family members with income are also eligible (spouses as well as children aged 18+ who are not attending full-time post-secondary school).

To receive the Work-Related Benefit, you must provide proof of your earnings or your business income. You are not eligible in months that you do not have earnings.

These other employment benefits are also still available:

- OW: Full-time Employment Benefit; Other Employment and Employment Assistance Activities Benefit; Employment-Related Expenses; Vocational Training
- ODSP: Employment Training and Start-Up Benefit; Employment Transition Benefit.

For more information about these benefits, contact your caseworker.

Your local community legal clinic may also be able to help. To get contact information for your local clinic, call 1-800-668-8258.

Here's the Ministry of Community and Social Services' announcement about the change:
<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/news/releases/2015/20150909.aspx>.

Here's information about the campaign that helped save the Work-Related Benefit:
<http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=095b12c98935ecaadd327bf90&id=29ceb0292a>.