

Increases in Income for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Participants

- Through a combination of benefit increases and asset exemptions, the Government of Manitoba has supported increases in the disposable income of EIA participants.
- Between 1999 and 2013, the total incomes for EIA participants, which include both federal and provincial benefits, have increased as follows:
 - The total monthly income available to a single parent with 2 children (ages 10 and 13) has increased by 34.6 per cent from \$1,253 to \$1,687;
 - The total monthly income available for a two-parent family with 2 children (ages 6 and 4) has increased by 41.5 per cent from \$1,288 to \$1,822;
 - The total monthly income available for a single person with a disability has increased by 18.4 per cent, from \$695 to \$823; and
 - The total monthly income available for a single non-disabled adult has increased by 31.1 per cent, from \$463 to \$607.
- In 2004, the National Child Benefit was fully exempted from consideration as a financial resource by EIA. This federal benefit is worth \$48 million annually to families on EIA.
- In March 2005, payments received as compensation for abuse at a residential school were exempted.
- In August 2005, asset building accounts, such as Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) and individual development accounts (IDAs) were exempted.
- In July 2006, the federal Universal Child Care Benefit was exempted from consideration as a financial resource.
- As of January 2009, people on EIA are allowed to keep \$4,000 per person to a family maximum of \$16,000 in liquid assets (cash savings or assets readily convertible to cash) when applying for EIA or receiving benefits.
- Since January 2009, persons with disabilities can keep certain assets in a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and receive up to \$500 in monthly contributions from family without their benefits being affected. The EIA Disability Trust provisions have also been enhanced to allow up to \$200,000 in savings to meet disability-related expenses, without affecting eligibility.
- Effective November 2010, federal land claim settlement compensation payments to First Nations were exempt.