

CAREGIVER PROGRAM REVIEW

| Key Aspects | Canada Caregiver Credit | Nova Scotia Caregiver Allowance | Manitoba Primary Caregiver Tax Credit |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Benefit level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-refundable credit ▪ The maximum claim is \$7348 for dependents 18 or older ▪ \$2295 for children under 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receive Cash Transfer \$400 per month on the first day of every month. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refundable income tax credit of \$1,400 per year per caregiver - for providing the unpaid care |
| Application process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Claimed on tax returns ▪ The CRA may require a signed statement from a medical practitioner showing when the impairment began and what the duration of the impairment is expected to be ▪ A medical note is not needed if the CRA already has a Disability Tax Credit certificate on file | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A referral will need to be made to a care coordinator who will meet with the care recipient and conduct an assessment to identify care needs and determine qualifications for the program. ▪ Applicants who are assessed as having high care needs have some combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mild to significant problems with memory loss, decision-making and communication that affect daily functioning. ○ High level of physical impairment. ○ Many challenges in managing their personal needs. ○ Serious behavioural problems. ○ A high risk of falls. ○ A high risk of long-term care placement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit a copy of the registration form to the Manitoba Tax Assistance Office ▪ Claim the credit on personal income tax return beginning in the year of registration (even if earning no income) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of three avenues through which care recipient can access tax credit: home care assessment, physician or nurse practitioner assessment, or disABILITY services |
| Care recipient eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care recipients may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A spouse or common-law partner ○ A child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew who is dependent on the caregiver for support because of a physical or mental impairment ▪ An individual is considered dependent if they rely on the taxpayer regularly and consistently to provide them with some or all of the basic necessities of life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be 19 years of age or older ▪ Be a Nova Scotia resident ▪ Be in a care relationship with a caregiver ▪ have a net annual income of \$26,165 or less if single, or a total net household income of \$41,165 or less, if married or common-law ▪ Been assessed by a Nova Scotia Health Authority care coordinator as having a high level of impairment or disability requiring significant care over time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be a resident of Manitoba; ▪ Reside in an area under the jurisdiction of a Regional Health Authority; ▪ Reside in a private residence (e.g., not a group home, foster home, hospital, or personal care home, in supportive housing, or on a reserve); ▪ Assessed as having care level requirements equivalent to level 2 or higher (see Registration Form); and ▪ Designate only one primary caregiver to claim this credit |

| Key Aspects | Canada Caregiver Credit | Nova Scotia Caregiver Allowance | Manitoba Primary Caregiver Tax Credit |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Caregiver eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available where the taxpayer's spouse or common-law partner, minor child or other eligible relative is dependent on the individual because of a mental or physical disability during the tax year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be 19 years of age or older Be a Nova Scotia resident Be providing ongoing care of 20 or more hours of assistance per week Not already be receiving payment to provide assistance to the person for whom she/he is providing care Be willing to sign an agreement that defines the terms and conditions for receiving the Caregiver Benefit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a resident of Manitoba; Provide caregiving for longer than 90 days; Personally provide care or supervision to the care recipient without reward or compensation of any kind; and Not be the spouse or common-law partner of a person who receives compensation or reward for providing care to a qualified care recipient |
| Income targeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount claimed depends on the relationship between the caregiver and care recipient, the caregiver's circumstances, the care recipient's net income, and whether other credits are being claimed for that person | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net annual income of \$26,165 or less if single, or a total net household income of \$41,165 or less, if married or common-law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not income tested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caregivers who receive Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) are eligible to claim the full credit without reduction |
| Key takeaways and considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is currently a non-refundable credit, and thus, it is of little assistance to caregivers who have little or no income Only those who are able to file taxes can benefit from it, currently, only 8% of Canadian caregivers report receiving this tax credit Caregivers whose employment is disrupted because of their responsibilities are less able to benefit from this program The qualification process here (and Manitoba credit) is not necessarily less complex than the NS allowance The process for accessing the Disability Tax Credit (which is the gateway to the federal program) is notoriously difficult | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notable for providing a direct cash transfer and the benefit is considered social assistance and is not taxed by the government Application process is not straightforward and requires rigorous in-person assessment In-person assessment may require time and logistics causing a delay for those that may be in need of immediate financial assistance More restrictive income-based criteria in Nova Scotia. This eligibility criteria unfavorably hinders potential or current caregivers in need of financial assistance Strict restrictions on who individuals may be considered as eligible care recipients There is a budget amount allocated each year for the program. This makes the program inaccessible to most and only those with the greatest need for caregiving are prioritized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broader due to not mandating any specific family relationships with no hours/week requirement (unlike Nova Scotia) If caregiving continues from year to year without interruption, the initial 90-day qualification requirement is not repeated Caregivers do not have to submit new registrations forms for subsequent years A change in the primary caregiver designated by a care recipient requires a new Registration Form and a 90-day qualification period by the new caregiver Nuanced language in care recipient eligibility criteria → ensures recipient is not only a "Resident" of Manitoba (e.g., has a house in the province, social and other financial ties, etc.) AND lives in Manitoba, for which they receive care |