

Source: National Anti-Poverty Organization, *Monitoring the Impacts on Social Assistance Recipients of Welfare Cuts and Changes: An Overview*, Ottawa, October 1996.

Provinces	Basic rate changes	Changes to other benefits	Changes in eligibility	Welfare to work requirements
BC	<p>1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social assistance benefits for employable youth and adults reduced 8-10% overall, non-shelter portion of benefits reduces 20%</li> </ul> <p>July 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Family Bonus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ income tested monthly benefits to a max of \$103/child</li> <li>▸ Healthy Kids Program providing basic dental/vision care for children on low-income working families</li> <li>▸ in effect the family bonus provides a new benefit to low-income working families; however, families on social assistance do not receive any increase in benefits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Oct 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health services changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ dietary allowance supplements more targeted</li> <li>▸ limitation of coverage for therapies</li> <li>▸ tightening up of medical transportation guidelines</li> <li>▸ natal allowance increased from \$25 to \$40/month (until baby is 7 months)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Oct 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowable assets from \$5000 to \$1000 for a childless couple (primary car and home exempt) and \$2500 to \$500 for a single employable person</li> <li>• Previous earnings exemption eliminated</li> <li>• Single parents considered employable when youngest child reaches 12 (formerly 19)</li> </ul> <p>Dec 1 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 month residency requirement (subject to judicial challenge) for which refugee claimants are exempt</li> <li>• Mandatory cheque pick-up for singles and childless couples</li> </ul>	<p>1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth works program for employable youth ages 19-24 required for benefits</li> <li>• Welfare to work program for employable adults 25 and older</li> </ul>
Alberta	<p>1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic welfare rates for single employable and families reduced by 13%</li> </ul>	<p>1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug coverage limited to life-sustaining generic drugs only</li> <li>• No last month's rent or utility hook-ups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta Job Corps</li> <li>• Alberta Community Employment (ACE)</li> </ul> <p>Those who do not participate can be cut off benefits</p>
Saskatchewan	<p>1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social assistance rates have remained unchanged since the 1980s.</li> </ul>	<p>1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.8 million allocated to JobStart, providing employment opportunities for high school dropouts, postsecondary graduates and youth on social assistance</li> </ul>	<p>May 1 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social assistance recipients are required to apply for CPP early retirement (reduced) benefits at age 60 (previously 65)</li> </ul>	<p>1991</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory workfare eliminated and replaced by "New Careers" a 20-wk subsidized program</li> </ul>
Manitoba	<p>May 1 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rates for employable singles and couples without children cut by 10%</li> <li>• Reduction of 2% made to overall budget for single parent families</li> </ul>	<p>May 1994</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special needs category for social assistance recipients eliminated. There used to be an automatic minimum of \$150/year to help in the purchase of items such as furniture and winter clothing</li> </ul> <p>March 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients who receive full welfare benefits are ineligible for the provincial property and cost-of-living tax credits</li> </ul>	<p>April 1 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents with children over age 6 are deemed employable</li> </ul> <p>Sept 16 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill C-36 tabled before legislature would propose to remove the previous clause that ensured there was a legal obligation to provide social assistance benefits where a person would otherwise lack basic necessities</li> </ul>	<p>Sept 16 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill C-36 tabled before legislature would require social assistance recipients to develop a case plan for participation in an employment or training program and benefits can be cut if work plan is not followed</li> </ul>

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Ontario	<p>Oct 1 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates reduced by 21.6% except for the disabled and seniors</li> </ul>	<p>1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to community based agencies cut</li> <li>\$2 prescription fee</li> <li>Jobs Ontario cancelled</li> </ul>	<p>Oct 1 1995</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes to definition of spouse – person living in a common-law relationship would be unable to collect welfare as a single person or parent</li> <li>Those aged 16-17 are subject to more stringent conditions for welfare eligibility (i.e. family assessment, living with adult supervision, regular attendance at school or training programs)</li> <li>An employable person who is fired or quits a job will have to wait 3 months (previously 1 month) before applying for welfare</li> <li>Home visits will be a condition of eligibility</li> </ul> <p>Sept 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postsecondary student unable to collect welfare except in special circumstances</li> </ul>	<p>1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Works expected to require able-bodied welfare recipients, except parents with young children, to perform community service or enrol in work or training programs.</li> <li>Those who refuse or are dismissed will lose their benefit for 3 months the first time and 6 months the second time.</li> </ul> <p>Jan 1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government proposes to change GWA to “Ontario Works.” Recipients would be required to work 70 hours per month. The only recipients exempted from mandatory work or training are single sole support parents with a child under 3 or 6 years (to be determined).</li> </ul>
Quebec	<p>April 1, 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$50 monthly rate reduction made to those “available but not participating” in an employment program</li> <li>\$30 monthly rate reduction to those participating in an employment program</li> <li>Increased monthly penalty from \$100 to \$150, for claimant who refused to search for or take or who quit a job, up to a maximum of \$300 for those refusing a second job offer</li> </ul>	<p>1994</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social assistance recipients must pay 25% of their prescriptions up to a max of \$200/year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant changes</li> </ul>	<p>1989</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employable welfare recipients are classified (available, non-available, participating or non-participating)</li> <li>according to their willingness to participate and actual participation in designated employability development programs</li> </ul> <p>April 1 1996</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Category of “available” is removed and those claimants are considered as “non-participating”</li> </ul> <p>Rates depend on classification</p>

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New Brunswick	1996 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welfare rates in NB remain unchanged and remain the lowest in Canada (maximum single employable rate is \$260/month, single parent rate is \$880-\$929 depending on child's age)</li> </ul>	May 1 1995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clients who takes steps to leave welfare may be able to qualify for alternative child care assistance</li> <li>● Clients with disabilities allowed a \$75,000 trust fund by the family</li> </ul>	1994 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attendance in school or training program is mandatory for those aged 16-21 seeking social assistance</li> </ul> May 1 1995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase in amount of allowable cash assets from \$500 to \$1,000 for single persons, from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a family and from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for a disabled person</li> </ul> Sept 1 1995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Youth ages 16-18 need a social assessment before they can receive welfare in an independent living situation</li> </ul> Sept 1 1996 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Only one of two single employables sharing the same household is eligible to receive social assistance for the entire household, in effect reducing the assistance provided</li> <li>● Claimants are required to apply for early CPP benefits at ages 60-64</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of employment initiatives (i.e. Job Corps)</li> <li>● If a social assistance recipient is offered a placement in an employment program, the person is "highly encouraged" to take that placement</li> </ul>
Nova Scotia	April 1 1996 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shelter rates for single employable cut by 36% (from \$350 to \$225/month)</li> </ul>	April 1 1996 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transportation allowances eliminated unless people provide receipts</li> <li>● Single parents must pay \$3/prescription to qualify for assistance, with a maximum of \$150 paid by social assistance yearly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No significant changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No significant changes</li> </ul>
PEI	May 1994 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Shelter rates in urban areas reduced from \$480 to \$305/month and in rural areas from \$410 to \$260/month</li> </ul>	May 1994 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GST tax credit no longer exempt in calculation of social assistance benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No significant changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No significant changes</li> </ul>

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Newfoundland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes</li> </ul>	1996 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10% reduction in home support care (except to those receiving less than \$500/month, to those receiving 24 hr care and to those to whom the reduction is considered a risk)</li> <li>• \$3 pharmacy dispensing fee/prescription</li> <li>• Elimination of a \$61 “top up” in certain circumstances (i.e. utility expenses)</li> <li>• School bus user fee</li> <li>• Health cuts including limited dental payments, reduced number of drugs/medical supplies, decreased transportation assistance for medical appointments and treatments</li> <li>• Income tax rebate clawback for all social assistance recipients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant changes</li> </ul>