

Questions & Answers

Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Credit (NSPRC)

1. What is the purpose of the Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Credit (NSPRC)?

- a. The credit will enhance the ability of Nova Scotians who are among the most vulnerable and living in chronic and deep poverty. Many of these people have a disability, and are unable to participate in and contribute to their community.

2. Who is eligible for the NSPRC ?

- a. If you were in receipt of income assistance in 2009, have filed a 2009 Income Tax Return, have no children and have annual adjusted income of \$12,000 or less, you may be eligible.

3. I am married; do each of us receive the NSPRC ?

- a. No, only one of a married or common-law couple can receive the credit on behalf of the family.

4. I have children; why can't I receive the NSPRC ?

- a. The purpose of the credit is to assist those living in the deepest poverty, and who do not benefit from other income supplements like the Canada Child Tax Benefit, provided to families with children.
- b. Families with children are eligible for the Nova Scotia Affordable Living Tax Credit (NSALTC).

5. Do I have to apply for the NSPRC ?

- a. No. This year, eligibility will be determined by the Department of Community Services, and cheques issued by the Department of Finance.
- b. For future years, eligibility will be based on your income tax return.

6. Why is the NSPRC eligibility being determined by the Department of Community Services this year?

- a. Government wanted to do something this year. In order to get this program started as quickly as possible, Community Services will determine initial eligibility.
- b. In future, eligibility will be based on your income tax return.

7. How much will I receive and when will cheques be issued?

- a. Single individuals and couples without children will be eligible for \$200 per year, paid in quarterly payments of \$50.
- b. Payments will be made at the same time as the GST Rebate. The first payment will be made early in July, and each quarter after that – October, January, and April

8. I am not an income assistance client; why can't I receive the NSPRC?

- a. This year is the beginning of this program. We are starting with those living in the deepest poverty. Our research, and input from the community, tells us that individuals without children on income assistance are those most vulnerable to long term poverty.
- b. If your income is less than \$30,000 you will be eligible for the NSALTC.
- c. The Income Assistance program is available to all Nova Scotians in financial need to assist with the cost of basic needs such as food, rent, utilities like heat and electricity, and clothing.
- d. If you are a single person with income below \$9,000, or a childless couple with income below \$12,000 you may want to apply for income assistance.

9. How will the NSALTC and NSPRC affect federal benefits I receive, like the Child Tax Benefit, the GST rebate, or my provincial income assistance?

- a. Neither of these credits will affect your federal or provincial benefits.

10. If I have any other questions, who do I contact for additional information?

- a. You may contact the NS Department of Community Services at 1-866-424-1269.