



September 3, 2020

CRA Increases Rate for Meal Claims & Meal Allowances

The Federal government announced today that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has increased the amount that employers can use to determine whether an overtime meal or allowance, or the meal portion of a travel allowance is taxable, from \$17 to \$23.

The increase to the reasonable amount for meal benefits and allowances, as well as the flat rate amount for meal expenses has *increased from \$17 to \$23. These increases are effective immediately.*

The CRA's policies on taxable benefits and allowances allows an employer to exclude the value of an overtime meal or allowance, or certain travel allowances (including a meal portion), from an employee's income as long as the value is reasonable (amongst other conditions). If all the conditions are met, the employer does not need to report the value of the meal or allowance on the employee's T4 slip.

For a full copy of the announcement and associated resources, please see:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/09/canada-revenue-agency-increases-flat-rate-amount-for-meal-claims-and-reasonable-amount-for-meal-benefits-and-allowances.html>

This change has no impact on those Agreements with a fixed meal allowance amount; however, the following Agreements are tied to the CRA amount. Please ensure your payroll staff are made aware of these important changes as soon as possible.

- BCRCC Craft Carpenters Standard CI & Industrial
- CMAW Craft Carpenters Standard CI & Industrial
- Cement Masons Standard ICI
- IBEW
- Mason Tenders Standard CI & Industrial
- Painters Standard CI & Industrial
- Aluma Yard
- BCRCC Standard Carpet, Resilient & Hardwood Floor Covering
- CMAW Lathers Standard ICI
- Plasterers Standard CI & Industrial
- Labourers Standard ICI
- Operating Engineers Crane Rental; Heavy Construction CI & Industrial
- Drywall Tapers & Finishers Standard ICI
- BCRCC All Employees Standard CI & Industrial