

## ***Policy Manual Update***

Subject: IS Policy Changes under new Income Support, Training and Health Benefits (ISTHB) Regulation

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### **Background:**

Effective August 1, 2011 the Income Supports, Health and Training Benefits Regulation has been repealed and replaced with the Income Support, Training and Health Benefits (ISTHB) Regulation. Although the new regulation reflects current Alberta Works programming, some Income Support policies have been revised or clarified.

### **Intent:**

To highlight and clarify specific Income Support policies that have changed with the introduction of the new Income Support, Training and Health Benefits Regulation.

### **Policy:**

There are two Income Support policy changes.

1. Within **Special Transportation and Travel payment** a new provision is available to clients who must travel within Alberta to make a mandatory appearance in a criminal court proceeding (ISTHB, Schedule 4, Section 6(1)(c)). The remaining transportation benefits have been reorganized within the regulation and can be found in ISTHB, Schedule 4, Section (6),(7),& (15).
2. **Natal and Adoptive needs payment** (formally the natal allowance) has been extended to provide for adoptive situations and make it available to single father households (ISTHB, Schedule 4, Section 17).

There are two other regulatory changes, where the regulation sections have been amended to clarify authority, but the IS policy **remains** the same:

1. Clarify the Director (Alberta Works) has the authority to **exempt dependant children's assets** in discretionary circumstances (ISTHB Regulation, Section 20(3)).
2. **Changing the Authority from the Minister to the Director** (Alberta Works) to lower age requirements for full time learner eligibility (ISTHB Regulation, Section 41(2)), and to waive the "out of school" requirements for part time training (ISTHB Regulation, Section 62(2)).

**Note:** The [Financial Benefits Summary Sheet for ETW/ BFE \(EMP0433\)](#), and [Financial Benefits Summary Sheet for Learners \(EMP 5585\)](#) have been updated to reflect changes as a result of the new regulations.

The following **ETW/BFE** policies have been revised:

[Natal and Adoptive Needs Payment](#)

[Non-Emergency Travel and Related Costs](#)

The following **Learner** policies have been revised:

[Natal and Adoptive Needs Payments](#)

[Non-Emergency Travel and Related Costs](#)