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Quebec unveils new rules for welfare recipients



CTV Montreal: Welfare rules to change
Advocates for the poor are criticizing proposals to change welfare rules, Stephane Giroux reports.

Extended: 'Welfare change is a Catch-22'
Cathy Inouye of Project Genesis offers a critique of the proposed changes to welfare rules.

Extended: 'Welfare roommates shouldn't be punished'
Kady Cavanaugh of Multi-Caf Community Centre in CDN said that the cuts to welfare hurt the poor and those helping the poor.

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CTV Montreal
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Last Updated Wednesday, January 28, 2015 7:06PM EST

Upcoming rule changes will affect welfare recipients with two or more roommates, who own homes or who spend significant time outside of the province.

Social assistance recipients who spend 15 days or more outside of the province will also be cut off from welfare, according to the new rules that will take effect on July 1.

Those with more than one roommate will receive less and recipients who fail to report their full income will also be punished, Employment Minister Francois Blais announced in Montreal Wednesday.

Some critics were quick to denounce the measures.

"The type of changes they're proposing certainly propagate a lot of prejudice about welfare recipients. We believe these changes are based on misconceptions about the reality of the most marginal people in our society," said Cathy Inouye of Project Genesis.

The Quebec government expects to save \$16 million from the adjustments, which they estimate will affect 16,000 of the 442,000 welfare recipients in the province.

One social worker noted that the adjustments will compound difficulties caused by other social cuts.

"We have a place where people can come and work on certain objectives that will eventually lead them to employment. Recently the government has made cutbacks to that program," said Kady Cavanaugh of Multi-Caf.

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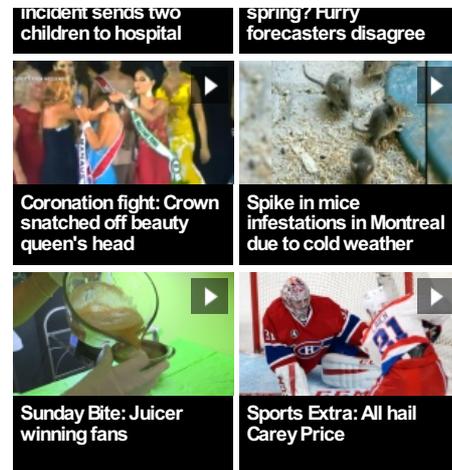
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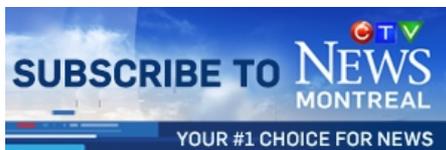
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Adult children collecting welfare while living at home and driving around all day in a new vehicle registered in the father's name. Are my taxes paying for the gas? Cut down on the abuse of the welfare system and give more to the people who truly need the welfare payments.
- Luc**
Jan. 29, 2015
3:32 PM
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In response to Mike, I believe regular welfare is around 625 or so but many people get well over 900 if they are "disabled". So if they are already getting 950 for free what's the reason to apply at Tim Hortons and have to work every day for practically the same thing? I'd rather sit at home and watch TV too!
- Luc**
Jan. 29, 2015
3:29 PM
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This province is a joke! 442,000 people on welfare? Almost half a million people not contributing whatsoever to the system, and costing only god knows how much money to the healthcare system as well. Does this province think money grows on trees? If it wasn't for the Federal transfer payments we'd be up the creek without a paddle. Time to give welfare ONLY to those who are severely disabled. I understand some people need help but this is ridiculous.
- Mike**
Jan. 29, 2015
10:06 AM
[Abuse](#)

In my opinion, unless you have a disability whether it is physical or mental you should not qualify for welfare. If someone lives somewhere where there is not a lot of jobs, they should move to a city where they can get a job! If you are a healthy man or woman you should be working.. Think about it, even if welfare recipient worked 30 hours a week at a coffee shop making minimum wage they would still bring in about \$1000 a month which is a lot more than welfare pays. Unless of course they have kids, then the government will pay the big bucks! Our system is broken and can't be fixed, it need to be remade
- Kelly**
Jan. 29, 2015
9:51 AM
[Abuse](#)

Why should people who own homes be eligible for welfare? I know people who work full time and can't even afford a house since they have to pay off their educational debt. I know people who work and can't even afford eye care examination, so why do welfare people have an advantage? There is NO excuse not to work in this province. You can always find work, Tim Hortons hires people who speak little English and French. If you are healthy and younger then 60 you have no reason not to work!
- taxi**
Jan. 28, 2015
11:15 PM
[Abuse](#)

I agree with Subs that would help.. I also agree with the changes that they are making.. not that I am against people who are on welfare cause some dont have a choice. But then you have the ones that take advantage of the system eg.. living with roommates and collecting at another address.. collecting and working under the table.. the ones who stay home play video games do nothing drink beer and smoke pot on our hard earned money.. and the ones who truly need it have a hard time getting it. Or are the ones being harrassed to get a job go back to school etc.. They get medication etc paid and you have seniors that worked are living on low income but have to pay for theirs thats not fair..
- scratching head**
Jan. 28, 2015

People who own homes shouldn't qualify for welfare, which is NOT the same as EI. Aside from physical disability and other medical

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9:27 PM <input type="button" value="Abuse"/>	issues, should we have a welfare system at all?
subs Jan. 28, 2015 9:21 PM <input type="button" value="Abuse"/>	How about not giving those guys on welfare 100% dental and eye care? That right there some serious cash...
Morgan Jan. 28, 2015 7:25 PM <input type="button" value="Abuse"/>	As anyone who has collected EI benefits knows all the rules in place, it is high time that the same rules be put in place for people collecting welfare. Working people have EI benefits taken from their pay and this is put into a collective account to be used by all who loose their job. Welfare is also taken from a person's pay cheque and these benefits then, should also have the same rules for collecting. i.e. no travel outside the country, looking for a job, or training for one, etc.



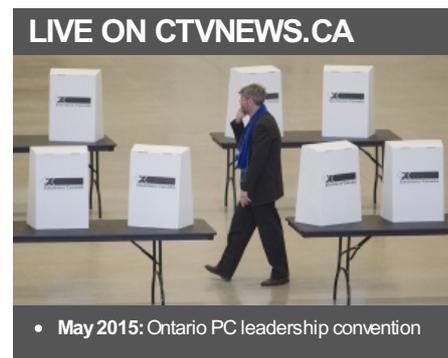
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