

Social Development Funeral Benefit

Sometimes families may need help with the cost of a funeral for a family member. An application may be made to the Department of Social Development for help with this expense.

To apply

An application for the Social Development funeral benefit must be made no later than two weeks after a death occurs.

The assessment for eligibility is based on:

- The financial situation of the deceased.
- The financial situation of the immediate family (spouse/common law partner, father, mother, daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, grandfathers and grandmothers).

Income can be earnings, allowances, pensions, revenue from business, income from property, income from investments, etc.

Social Development will look at the family's income and living expenses including funeral costs to determine if the individual's estate or family unit has the ability to pay.

Families will be asked for a contribution toward the cost of the funeral.

Required documents

Information and documentation required at time of application:

- Name, date of birth, social insurance number, Medicare number and last address of the deceased
- Verification of income; last deposit for deceased will be required
- Bank information – trust accounts, insurance, all assets (homes, vehicles) and individual(s) who will acquire them upon death
- Eligibility to the CPP death benefit – must be signed to the department
- Copy of the will if one exist
- Copy of the obituary
- Coverage under veteran's affairs – last post fund if eligible
- Detail of funeral arrangements with funeral home and proof of death (to be faxed to the Social Development office by the funeral home)

- Names, addresses and phone numbers of all immediate family members
- Proof of income for all immediate family members (copy of income tax notice of assessment or pay stubs)

Application process

The application involves a two step process:

1. **Screening** – a telephone call where a representative does a preliminary assessment. This can take from 15 to 30 minutes.
2. **Registration** – An in person meeting where information is gathered and the application forms are signed.

Once all required documentation is provided by the family, the application can then be processed for approval or refusal. All documentation should be provided to Social Development within 15 days.

Please note:

- *Requests for assistance with funerals are assessed on a case-by-case basis.*
- *Social Development will only cover the cost for a basic funeral.*
- *For unpaid prearranged funerals, Social Development will only consider the difference between the deposited amounts and the maximum amount available under Funeral Benefit.*
- *Financial information provided to Social Development will be verified.*

Where to apply

To make an application for financial assistance with funeral expenditures, contact the nearest Social Development office:

1-833-SDDStel (1-833-733-7835)

www.gnb.ca/socialdevelopment