



## **I AM A RECIPIENT OF LAST RESORT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND I HAVE RECEIVED AN INHERITANCE**

Paul has been receiving last resort financial assistance (social assistance) for the past five years and receives benefits under the Social Solidarity Program because his capacity for employment is severely limited. Following the death of his great-grandmother, he learns that she has left him an amount of \$75,000.

Before collecting the amount, Paul wonders whether the inheritance will have an impact on his last resort financial assistance benefits.

Since he is receiving benefits under the Social Solidarity Program, the sums he would receive from the succession would be excluded from the calculation, up to a maximum of \$130,000,<sup>(1)</sup> and would therefore not affect his eligibility or the amount of his benefits. If Paul had to pay certain costs related to the succession (such as notary's fees), the amounts used for that purpose would not be considered in calculating the benefits.

In addition, if Paul were to use the sums received to purchase property, the exclusion would continue to apply.

However, if Paul had been receiving benefits solely under the Social Assistance Program, he would not be able to use the \$130,000 exclusion. Thus, all sums received from the succession that exceed the total debts and charges Paul might be required to assume with respect to the succession would not be excluded and would be taken into account in establishing the amount of his benefits.<sup>(2)</sup> In such a case, the general rule would apply and, as a single person, Paul would only be entitled to have a maximum of \$1,500 in liquid assets.<sup>(3)</sup>

Keep the following important tip in mind: In order to avoid a future claim, it is always preferable to declare to social assistance any monetary amounts received.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Section 164 of the *Individual and Family Assistance Regulation*, (CQLR, c. A-13.1.1, r. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> Section 138 of the *Individual and Family Assistance Regulation*, (CQLR, c. A-13.1.1, r. 1).

<sup>(3)</sup> Section 131 of the *Individual and Family Assistance Regulation*, (CQLR, c. A-13.1.1, r. 1).

Note: The text of this regulation is available by clicking on the following link:  
[Individual and Family Assistance Regulation](#).

\* The information set out in this document is not a legal interpretation.

The masculine is used to designate persons solely in order to simplify the text.