

81. April 15th - Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB): Applications
opened April 6th

- Will provide workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with **\$2,000** per month for the next four months. A maximum 16 weeks of benefits can be paid.
- Eligible workers can apply no later than December 2, 2020.
- Applicants who have requested **EI on March 15th or later**, won't need to register for the CERB.
- If applying online, with direct deposit requested, applicants can expect the payment **within three to five business days**.
- The CERB payment **cannot** be combined with the 75% wage subsidy for businesses.
- The Benefit is only available to individuals who have stopped work as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. Workers who have not stopped working because of COVID-19, are not eligible for the Benefit.
- Note - Workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19, also qualify for the CERB
- The CERB applies to **wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals** who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and are unable to work due to COVID-19.
- The new benefit combines the \$10-billion Emergency Care Benefit and the \$5-billion Emergency Support Benefit that were announced earlier.
- *Some examples workers eligible for the CERB include:*
 - I. Workers, including those who are self-employed, who must stop working due to COVID-19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support;
 - II. Workers who lost their employment, as well as workers who are sick, quarantined or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19;
 - III. Working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures; and
 - IV. Workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.

Revision Update: April 15th, 2020 @ 4:30PM

The CERB is available to workers who meet all of the **following conditions**:

- live in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits
- have not voluntarily quit their job
- had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.

To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, **the government is announcing changes to the eligibility rules** to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

These changes will be retroactive to March 15, 2020.

- For further details please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/backgrounder--canada-emergency-response-benefit.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

- The CERB would be paid every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.
- Application details will be available through [CRA MyAccount](#) and [My Service Canada Account](#) on **April 6th**. Those recently laid off or have reduced hours are encouraged to [apply for Employment Insurance Benefits](#)
- Canadians looking to get more information about the CERB or, who are unable to apply online, can call the **toll-free telephone line at 1-833-966-2099**.