

UPDATE: Canada Emergency Response Benefit to Replace Emergency Care Benefit and/or the Emergency Support Benefit:

Last week the Government of Canada announced that it was creating two benefits for those who are not otherwise eligible for EI to access: the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit. Today, the Government has announced that it has proposed legislation to establish the **Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** This benefit combines the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

The Government of Canada's press release regarding the CERB can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

This taxable benefit provides \$2000 per month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It would apply to wage earners, contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for EI. It would also apply for workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income as a result of a disruption to their work situation due to COVID-19.

At this time, we are not certain how one would apply for these benefits, but the Government has indicated that the portal for accessing the CERB is expected to be available in early April and it is expected that Canadians would begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. The payments would be made every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

The Union maintains its commitment to keep you up-to-date on any developments and will update this information when we have more details.