INFORMATION FOR USW MEMBERS

Employment Insurance and Emergency Benefit (EI) and the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Federal Government has been updating information and processes for people who have lost work due to COVID on a very regular basis. This information is up to date as of May 14, 2020. Go to Canada.ca/coronavirus for the most up to date information.

On April 15th, the Federal Government expanded eligibility to include those whose incomes have dropped significantly. Retroactive to March 15th, anyone earning less than $1,000/month will be eligible, provided they meet the other requirements.

Note that additional changes may come in the following days and weeks. Double check Canada.ca/coronavirus to be sure you have the most up to date information.

Employment Insurance (EI) and the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) are two parallel programs for people who are out of work.

They have similar eligibility criteria and benefits. EI has temporarily suspended its Regular and Sickness Benefits.

Regular (basic) Employment Insurance (EI) becoming Emergency EI Benefit.

Applications for regular (basic) EI benefits or EI sickness benefits that were established before March 15 will continue as before. They can apply for CERB at conclusion of benefit period.

All EI claims established between March 15th and April 6th will be treated as an Emergency EI Benefit claim.

If someone was laid-off after April 6th, they are funneled to EI or CERB. Both programs are now paying the same benefit. They cannot be combined.

This information is up to date as of May 14, 2020. Please go to Canada.ca/coronavirus for the most up to date information.
## EI or CERB

### Eligibility (Same)
- Must have stopped working because of COVID-19.
- Laid-off or less than $1000 of income/month. No voluntary separation (quitting).
- Are sick, in quarantine or are in self-isolation.
- Caring for someone with COVID-19.
- Working parents who must stay home because children’s school or daycare is closed.
- Must have earned at least $5,000 of insurable earnings in 2019 or previous 12 months.
- Income from maternity/parental EI benefits will count.
- Must be a resident of Canada.
- Federal (ESDC) officials indicated on April 2, 2020, that temporary foreign workers who are in Canada and had to stop working due to COVID-19 will be eligible.
- No job search requirement.
- Workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.
- 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.

### Other Income (Same)
- Less than $1,000 per month.
- No formal employer supplemental payment plans. The top up being provided by the University of Toronto for the lesser of 80% of salary or $1000 per month is allowed.
- EI and CERB cannot be combined.
- Pension income, scholarships or provincial transfers permitted.

### EI or CERB

#### Benefit (Different)
- **EI**
  - $500 a week regardless of previous income (total $2,000/month).
  - Paid bi-weekly.

- **CERB**
  - $2,000/month.
  - Paid monthly.

#### Duration (Different)
- **EI**
  - Up to 16 weeks.
  - At the expiry of the 16-week period, if you are eligible for EI regular (basic) benefits you can begin a new claim without a reduction in entitlement period.

- **CERB**
  - Up to 16 weeks.

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EI or CERB
Application Process (Same)

You apply for either program from a single online portal (Canada.ca/coronavirus) which will stream you into the right program. You apply for either program from a single online portal (Canada.ca/coronavirus) which will stream you into the right program. With the CERB, it’s important to remember to you need to re-apply every 4 weeks. You are not automatically enrolled each period.

Apply at Canada.ca/coronavirus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EI Administration (Different)</th>
<th>CERB Administration (Different)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Administered by Service Canada.</td>
<td>• Administered by CRA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Will need to regularly attest that you are without income and do not expect income during the benefit period (bi-weekly).</td>
<td>• Will need to regularly attest that you are without income and do not expect income during the benefit period (monthly).</td>
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Screenshots Canada.ca/coronavirus

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Think you might have symptoms? Take a self-assessment

Current situation
• COVID-19 outbreak update
• Email updates
• Epidemiological summary
• Interactive case map and data summary
• Canada’s response
• Call out for medical supplies
• Seeking volunteers

Your health
• Symptoms and treatment
• Prevention
• Exposure locations
• Quarantine (self-isolate) and isolate
• Awareness posters and resources

Financial and economic support
• For individuals
• For businesses
• For Canadians abroad
• Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Travel
• Travel and quarantine
• Global travel advisory
• Cruise travellers
• Travel insurance
Canada Emergency Response Benefit

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

What is the Canada Emergency Response Benefit
If you have stopped working because of COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) may provide you with temporary income support. The CERB provides $500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

Who is eligible
The benefit will be available to workers:
- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 and have not voluntarily quit their job or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits;
- Who had income of at least $5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment or self-employment income.

How to apply
To deliver payments to Canadians in a fast and easy way, the CERB is being jointly delivered by Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency.

To begin the application process, please answer a few simple questions. The answers you provide will help us direct you to the service option that best fits your situation.

Please read these questions and answers for more details.

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