



PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
chartered professional accountants

## CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

**MARCH 25, 2020 – DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE NEWS RELEASE**

### Summary

In order to support workers and help businesses keep their employees, the government has proposed the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

This benefit will provide up to \$2,000 per month to individuals who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic for a period of up to 4 months. This program has been announced to **replace** the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

The program was announced as the current EI system was not designed to process the high volume of applications received, and to encourage businesses to keep their employees even if there is a stoppage of work, in order to resume operations as soon as it becomes possible. This program was also designed as a way to get eligible individuals money faster than the traditional EI system, regardless of if they are eligible for EI or not.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The CERB would cover Canadians who

- a) have lost their job,
- b) are sick,
- c) are quarantined,
- d) must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school or daycare closures, or
- e) are still employed but not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19

This program is available to

- a) Wage earners (employees)
- b) Contract workers, and
- c) Self employed individuals

Who would not otherwise be eligible for EI.

### CANADIANS RECEIVING EI

Canadians already receiving EI regular benefits and sickness benefits should not apply to CERB – if their EI benefits end before October 3, 2020, they could apply for CERB at that point if still unable to return to work due to COVID-19.



PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
chartered professional accountants

## **CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)**

### **CANADIANS WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR EI**

Canadians who have applied for EI, and their application has not been processed do not need to reapply. Canadians who are eligible for EI regular and sickness benefits will still have access to their EI benefits, if still unemployed, after the 16-week period covered by the CERB.

### **WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE?**

The applications for accessing CERB will be available early April 2020. For any Canadians who have lost their job, they can continue to apply for EI benefits.

### **HOW DO CANADIANS APPLY?**

Canadians can apply for these benefits, once the applications are available, through their CRA MyAccount, or their Service Canada Account online. Alternatively, there will also be a toll-free number, and an automated telephone line that Canadians can call to apply. The number of these lines are not yet available.

### **WHEN WILL CANADIANS RECEIVE BENEFITS?**

Canadians who have applied and are eligible will receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. The CERB will be paid every four weeks. The benefit program will cover the period from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020. Each eligible individual will be able to receive these benefits for a period of 4 months.

### **Full News Release Available at:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>

### **Full List of Support Programs for Individuals:**

[https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#new\\_canada\\_emergency\\_response\\_benefit](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-individuals.html#new_canada_emergency_response_benefit)

### **Canada's Economic Response Plan:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>