

Canada Emergency Response Benefit: Q&A

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The Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit have been merged into the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). The CERB has also been better integrated with Employment Insurance to allow workers to apply for benefits through a single window.

Who is covered by the Canada Emergency Response Benefit?

This new benefit will cover people who have lost their job, people who are sick or quarantined, and parents who must stay home without pay to care for children, the same as the two previously announced benefits. The new CERB also includes workers who have no income due to the COVID-19 slowdown, but who haven't yet been officially laid off. It will cover employees, contract workers, and self-employed workers. To qualify, applicants must have had \$5,000 in employment income, self-employment income, or maternity or parental leave benefits for 2019 or in the 12-month period preceding the day they make the application.

How much will I get?

The CERB will pay out \$2,000 per month for the next 4 months, backdated to March 15th.

Where can I apply?

The application form will be available on April 6. If you have already applied for EI, you do not need to also apply for this new benefit, your claim will be automatically moved over to the CERB and you will receive the 16-week benefit. If needed, you can use your hours to apply for benefits after October 3, 2020.

You can apply in one of these ways:

- by filing [an EI claim](#)
- by accessing it on your CRA MyAccount secure portal;
- by accessing it from your secure My Service Canada Account; or

- by calling a toll free number equipped with an automated application process.

What if I've already been laid off and applied for EI?

If you've already applied for EI you do not need to reapply for the CERB. Your claim will be automatically moved over to the CERB, and benefits paid from this program first. If needed, you can use your hours to apply for EI benefits after October 3, 2020.

What if I don't qualify for EI?

You can qualify for the CERB if you had \$5,000 in employment income, self-employment income, or maternity or parental leave benefits for 2019 or in the 12-month period preceding the day you make the application.

When will I get benefits?

The application is expected to be available April 6. Benefits should be delivered 10 days after you submit your application form. The earliest you could receive benefits through direct deposit is April 16th (or slightly later if by mail).

What if I'm already receiving EI Benefits?

You will continue to receive your EI benefits. If your EI benefits end before October 3rd, 2020, and you are still unable to return to work, you can apply to the CERB once your EI benefits run out.

What if I continue to be sick or unemployed after October 3, 2020?

If you have enough EI insurable hours, you will still be able to access your normal EI benefits after the 16-week period covered by the CERB.

What is your situation?

I am an employee with COVID-19 and/or in isolation:

- Your employer may have a short-term disability or sick leave program that you need to apply for before applying for EI Sickness Benefits. Check your collective agreement or contact your CUPE local.
- If you have worked more than 600 hours in the past year or since your last EI claim, you qualify for EI sickness benefits. For more information on EI Sickness Benefits, check out the section on EI below.
- If you have not worked more than 600 hours in the past year or since your last EI claim, the federal government is providing an Emergency Care Benefit, which will provide benefits comparable to EI for up to 15 weeks. More details will be forthcoming from the Federal government.
- Your job will be protected during this leave of absence by federal and provincial legislation.

I am an employee caring for a family member who is sick with COVID-19

- You may have "il dependent leave" or other provisions of your collective agreement which provide paid leave. Check your collective agreement or contact your CUPE local. If you have worked more than 600 hours in the past year or since your last EI claim, and your loved one is critically il , you qualify for EI Caregiver Benefits. For more information on EI Caregiver Benefits, check out the section on EI below.
- If you do not qualify for EI, the federal government is providing an Emergency Care Benefit, which will provide benefits comparable to EI for up to 15 weeks. More details will be forthcoming from the federal government.
- Your job will be protected during this leave of absence by federal and provincial legislation.

I am an employee who needs to stay home from work in order to provide care for my children due to school closures

- The federal government is providing an Emergency Care Benefit, which will provide benefits of up to \$450 a week for a period of 15 weeks.

- The federal government will also be increasing the Canada Child Benefit in the next few months with a top-up of up to \$300 per child. More details will be forthcoming from the federal government.

I am an employee whose employer has closed and/or limited service or production (permanently or temporarily)

- Check your collective agreement to see how much notice or compensation your employer is required to give you. In large scale layoffs, sometimes the notice provision is greater than for an individual employee. If you are unsure, check with your CUPE local.
- You may qualify for EI Regular Benefits if you have accumulated enough qualifying hours. For the number of qualifying hours, see the chart below (under Regular Benefits).
- If the shutdown is temporary and your employer can provide an estimated return-to-work date, you may be eligible for a top-up to EI from your employer. Check your collective agreement to see if your employer provides supplemental unemployment benefits (SUB). For assistance in interpreting your collective agreement, contact your CUPE local.
- If you do not qualify for EI, the federal government is providing an Emergency Support Benefit through the Canada Revenue Agency. More details will be forthcoming from the federal government.

I am a permanent employee whose employer has reduced production/hours due to the economic situation or public health concerns

- A reduction in hours is still considered a layoff so check your collective agreement to see how much notice or compensation your employer is required to give you. For assistance in interpreting your collective agreement, contact your CUPE local.
- If your employer believes the slowdown will continue for a period exceeding six weeks, your employer can apply for a Work-Sharing arrangement (if they are an eligible employer). Once your employer has submitted the required paperwork and been approved, employees on Work-Sharing can work part-time while receiving EI benefits part-time.
- If your employer is a small business (including not-for-profits and charities), your employer can qualify for a wage subsidy of up to 10 per cent of payroll for a period of

three months in order to keep employees on the payroll. More details will be forthcoming from the federal government.

I am a temporary employee whose employer has reduced production/hours due to the economic situation or public health concerns.

- You may have rights under your collective agreement. Contact your CUPE local.
- If you are a term or a contract employee who has maintained similar working hours to permanent part-time or full-time employees, you may be eligible for a Work-Sharing arrangement (if your employer is eligible). Once your employer has submitted the required paperwork and been approved, employees on Work-Sharing can work part-time while receiving EI benefits part-time. If you are a seasonal employee or you are a temporary employee or student who does not work typical hours, you are not eligible.
- If your employer is a small business (including not-for-profits and charities), your employer can qualify for a wage subsidy of up to 10 per cent of payroll for a period of three months in order to keep employees on the payroll. More details will be forthcoming from the federal government.