

From: Kelly Train <ktrain@ryerson.ca>
Sent: April 6, 2020 9:13 PM
To: cupe3904u1@ryerson.ca
Subject: Information and Links for CERB and EI

Hi Everyone,

I have had a number of questions from Unit 1 members with regards to claiming **Employment Insurance (EI)** for spring summer or, if they are not eligible for EI, whether they are eligible to claim the **Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB)** in light of the COVID 19 crisis.

According to the Government of Canada website, if you have stopped working because of COVID-19, you should apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, whether or not you are eligible for Employment Insurance. The Benefit is available for the period from March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

Starting April 6, 2020, there will be a single portal to assist you with the application process. From this portal, you will then be guided through your responses to a few simple questions to complete the application best suited to you (i.e. eligibility for Employment Insurance benefits or not).

Canadians who are eligible for Employment Insurance and who have lost their job can continue to apply for Employment Insurance.

If you became eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits on March 15, 2020 or later, your claim will be automatically processed through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.

According to the Government of Canada, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19.

Those who are eligible include:

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

There are two ways to apply:

- Online through the following link:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>
- Over the phone with an automated phone service: 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041

Both of these services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern time) for maintenance.

Here is the link to apply for both the Canada Emergency Relief Benefit and Employment Insurance:

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

Here is the information link from the Government of Canada website that answers questions regarding CERB and EI:

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

There is no stigma in applying for these government programs.

The Government of Canada today announced that they are considering offering an additional program for those people who do not qualify for either CERB or EI, including workers in the gig economy, contractors and others, whose work has been reduced to ten hours or less a week in light of the COVID 19 crisis. Should this program materialize, I will send that information once it has been announced.

I hope that you and your family stay safe and well.

Kelly

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