



# Resident's Guide Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Updated April 1, 2020

**BE CAUTIOUS:** The Government of Canada is not sending texts or emails requesting your information related to the CERB. If you receive such a request, do not provide your personal or financial information. This is likely a scam message.

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is a taxable benefit of \$2,000 for up to 4 months, available to all Canadians who have lost their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB combines the previous Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit for a more streamlined process to get funds into the hands of Canadians.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The CERB is available even if you are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).

You are eligible for the CERB if you:

- Lost your job, are sick, under quarantine or are caring for someone who is sick with COVID-19 (including a child);
- Must stay home without pay due to school/daycare closures;
- Are a contract worker or are self-employed; and/or
- You are still employed but are not receiving income due to COVID-19.

**To qualify, you must be at least 15 years old and have total income of at least \$5,000 in income in 2019 or in the 12-months preceding your application for the CERB. Income can come from employment, self-employment, maternity or parental benefits.**

## WHAT IF I ALREADY RECEIVE EI OR OTHER BENEFITS?

If you are already receiving EI or other sickness/parental benefits, do not apply for the CERB. You will continue receiving your normal benefits. If your EI is set to end before October 3, 2020, you can apply for the CERB once you EI ends (if you still cannot work because of the COVID-19 pandemic).

If you have already applied for EI, but your application is being processed, you do NOT need to apply for the CERB. Your application will be transferred to the CERB automatically.

## HOW SOON WILL I RECEIVE THE CERB?

You will start receiving funds within 10-14 days of your application (3-5 days for direct deposit) and then every 4 weeks afterwards. Each month, you will be asked to confirm that you are still eligible for the CERB. Payments will cover the period from March 15th to October 3rd, 2020.

## Where to Apply

Beginning April 6th, 2020, you will be able to apply online via the CRA's MyAccount portal OR telephone. The portal link is available at [www.canada.ca/covid19](http://www.canada.ca/covid19) and you can begin registering April 1st. When applying, you can choose to receive payments via mail or direct deposit.

To avoid overloading the portal, the Government has asked that individuals apply based on their surname, in alphabetical order. For example, if your last name starts with "M", you should wait until April 8th to apply.

## 2 things to do **BEFORE** you apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit:

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### Sign up for My Account through the CRA.

This will speed up your application process **when applications open the week of April 6.**

②

### Sign up for direct deposit.

This will help get money in to your account faster once your application is processed.

