

## Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Canada Emergency Response benefit (CERB) is a benefit for **individuals**. It was initially rolled out for those who wouldn't be eligible for EI – such as those who are self-employed/have not worked the qualifying hours. But now, those who qualify for EI also qualify for this benefit – and those that have applied to EI following March 15, 2020 for COVID related reasons will be transferred over to CERB. In a nutshell, this is taxable benefit of \$2,000 every 4 weeks for up to four months for individuals who have stopped working due to COVID-19 reasons. The federal government committed to processing payments within 10 days of application.

The qualifications are:

- The individual had to have an income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or the 12 months preceding their application for the CERB
- The individual stopped working for reasons related to COVID-19; and
- The individual had no income for at least 14 consecutive days within the four-week period for which the CERB application is claimed

Each payment of the CERB covers a 4-week period, beginning March 15, 2020. When individuals apply, it is for a single payment for the 4-week period. If their situation continues, they can apply for an additional 4-week period, up to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods in total).

For the initial period, individuals should have **no income** for at least **14 consecutive days**. **For the subsequent periods, they must expect to have no employment income.**

CERB is taxable, but deductions will not be made at source. This means individuals will receive the entire \$2,000 every four weeks. Taxes will be collected when filing 2020 tax returns.