

## COVID-19: CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB) (March 26, 2020)

In an effort to help you understand the changes to current benefits or new support benefits introduced to address income loss as a result of COVID-19, we have prepared the following information.

This information is solely for informational purposes. Given all of the rapid changes happening in response to COVID-19, we will seek to update our resources on a regular basis, and urge you to consult with us if you have any specific legal questions about a client's situation.

### Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

In response to COVID-19, the federal government has introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). This benefit replaces the previously announced Emergency Support Benefit and Emergency Care Benefit.

**IMPORTANT:** You do not need to apply for the CERB if you have already applied for EI benefits and your application has not been processed. Your claim will be automatically moved over to the CERB and you will receive the 16-week benefit. If you are still out of work once your CERB is up, you will be switched over to EI regular benefits.

If you are already receiving EI regular benefits or sickness benefits of April 6, 2020, or EI parental/maternity leave benefits as of March 15, 2020, you do NOT need to apply for the CERB. However, if these benefits end before October 3, 2020, you may still apply for the CERB.

#### **Eligibility:**

Any resident of Canada who is 15 years old or older can apply for the CERB if:

- You are not already receiving EI regular or sickness benefits AND
- You are a wage earner, contract worker, or are self-employed AND
- You lost your job because of COVID-19 OR
- You are still employed, but are not earning wages because of COVID-19 OR
- You are caring for children because of school or daycare closures and are unable to earn wages OR
- You are sick with COVID-19, are quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19 AND
- In 2019, or in the 12-month period preceding the day on which you make an application, you had a total income of at least \$5,000 from employment, self-employment, or EI maternity or parental leave benefits.

The CERB is \$2,000 per month for up to four months, covering the period of March 15, 2020 to October 3, 2020.

Applications for the CERB will be accessible by April 6, 2020.

**Record of Employment (ROE):** We do not know yet if your employer is required to fill out a ROE for the CERB.

You can apply in one of three ways:

- By accessing your CRA MyAccount secure portal; or
- By accessing your secure My Service Canada Account; or
- By calling a toll-free number that is equipped with an automated application process.

Payments will begin within 10 days of your application (there is no one-week waiting period), and will be paid every four weeks by deposit.

Questions? Contact us at [gina@connectingottawa.com](mailto:gina@connectingottawa.com)