

UPDATE: Q&A REGARDING EI ASSISTANCE AND THE CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

Updated March 28, 2020 – visit www.uniteherelocal75.org to sign up for more text updates

What is this new \$2,000 per month Canada Emergency Response Benefit just announced?

The Federal Government has taken the two planned emergency benefits and collapsed them into a single “Canada Emergency Relief Benefit” or CERB. This benefit is worth \$2,000 ever 4 weeks for up to 4 months.

Who is eligible?

Anyone who made \$5,000 in the last year and has been off for 14 days. It doesn't matter if you are eligible for EI or not.

When will I have access to this program?

The Government announced that they will start taking applications on April 6th and they say the benefit will be delivered within 10 days.

So I get \$2,000 per month in addition to my EI?

No, you can either collect EI at 55% of your income OR you can collect this new

benefit of \$2,000 per month. You CANNOT collect both.

If you are already receiving EI payments, you will continue receiving EI and are not 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 already applied for EI but not gotten payments yet?

If you've already applied for EI you do not need to reapply for the CERB. All claims made after March 15th 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 you have exhausted CERB Benefits.

My Employer says I need to take my vacation time because they're laying me off. Is that true?

NO! Taking your vacation time before you collect EI or not is your choice. If you take vacation time, it will potentially delay your payment.

NOTE: Be wary of texts that appear to be coming from the federal government offering cash. The government will NOT be sending texts out about the Emergency Response Benefit.