

COVID-19 Pandemic Information Update

Changes to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Government of Canada continues to make changes to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). Last week, the Prime Minister announced the adjustment of the eligibility requirements to assist more Canadians financially. Now, anyone residing in Canada, currently employed but making \$1,000 or less per month (before taxes) due to COVID-19, is now eligible for the CERB. Additionally, members who have exhausted their EI regular benefits since January 1, 2020, and who have been unable to return to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are also eligible for the CERB.

Canada Emergency Relief Benefit Taxation

The CERB is a taxable benefit. Unlike EI payments, however, payments received through the CERB have not had taxes deducted. This means that members will have to declare these CERB earnings when filing their 2020 income tax returns.

Below is the latest set of criteria to be eligible for the CERB ([as per the CRA](#))

- You did not apply for, nor receive, CERB or EI benefits from Service Canada for the same eligibility period
- You did not quit your job voluntarily
- You reside in Canada
- You are 15 years old or more when you apply
- You earned a minimum of \$5,000 (before taxes) income in the last 12 months or in 2019 from one or more of the following sources:
 - employment income
 - self-employment income
 - provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave

... 2

AND

- You stopped or will stop working due to COVID-19, and:
 - **You are applying for the first time**
For at least 14 days in a row during the 4-week payment period, you do not expect to receive more than \$1,000 (before taxes) from employment and self-employment income
 - **You are re-applying for another period**
You do not expect your situation to change during this 4-week period and you do not expect to receive more than \$1,000 (before taxes) from employment and self-employment income

OR

- **You received regular EI benefits for at least 1 week since December 29, 2019**
You are no longer eligible for EI benefits

Members with specific questions about their EI claim or status should contact an EI representative at 1-800-206-7218. For specific questions on the CERB, members should use the COVID-19 EI helpline at 1-833-381-2725.

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues to unfold, OSSTF/FEESO will be issuing frequent updates to provide members with as much pertinent information as possible.

Please frequently check the *myOSSTF* section of the OSSTF/FEESO website for updated information.