

Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

The Federal Government announced wage subsidy of up to 75% for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. This wage subsidy will be available to large and small businesses who have lost significant revenue due to COVID-19. This will help businesses to keep and return employees to the payroll.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau said that they do not have all of the details at this point in time and details will follow in the near term. The following are the details that have been provided so far:

- Businesses should prepare to bring their employees back on staff
- It is important to keep your essential staff on your payroll - the most important resource we have are our people
- Businesses are eligible to apply for the program if they have seen a drop in revenue of 30 percent or more
- Details to follow in the near term regarding how businesses can show the decline in revenue
- Businesses can apply through an online portal that will be available in the next 3-6 weeks
- If approved, the federal government will cover 75% of employee salaries on the first \$58,700, which works out to \$847 per week
- Businesses should register now to set up direct deposit with CRA in order to receive the wage subsidy faster once it is up and running
- There will be severe consequences for businesses using the money for fraudulent purposes and punitive measures will be taken

Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

- More information is now available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html#start>
- The web page will be updated often with developing information
- Applications can start on Monday April 6th
- Whether you apply online or by phone, we want to provide the best service possible to everyone. To help manage this, we have set up specific days for you to apply. Please use the following guidelines:

If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your best day to apply
January, February or March	Mondays	April 6
April, May, or June	Tuesdays	April 7
July, August or September	Wednesdays	April 8
October, November, or December	Thursdays	April 9
Any month	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	

- The benefit is jointly administered by Service Canada and Canada Revenue Agency to ensure payments are processed quickly
- Direct deposit payments will be available within 3-5 business days of applying
- All those who are eligible should open an account with CRA or Service Canada if they have not already to ensure direct deposit
- For Canadians who have already applied for EI prior to April 6th, there is no need to apply for the CERB, they will already be transferred over to the CERB
- For those who do not have access to internet to apply for the CERB online, calling the Canada Revenue Agency is an option
- The only requirement in order to keep getting this benefit is to check in every month to say that you are still out of work

Source: www.canada.ca

Work-Share Program

Employers are now requested to submit their applications 10 calendar days prior to the requested start date.

IMPORTANT: Ministry of Labour Reporting Requirements

Employers must report all known positive test results for COVID-19, to:

- the ministry (in writing) within four days
- the joint health and safety representative
- a trade union (if applicable)

Source: www.ontario.ca

Resource Corner

COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-self-assessment>

Public Health Ontario
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) - Pandemics
<https://www.ccohs.ca/topics/hazards/health/pandemics/>

We recommend that employers provide the following resources to their employees:

- Telehealth 1-866-797-0000
- Phone number for your local Public Health Department
- Phone number for your local hospitals