

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) gives **temporary financial support** to employed and self-employed Canadians who **have stopped working because of COVID-19**. The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

Only apply for the CERB through either Service Canada or the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)  
**NOT BOTH**

### Who can apply?

To be eligible, you must meet **ALL** the following conditions:

- You have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19 **or** are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits **or** have exhausted your Employment Insurance regular or fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020
- **You did not quit your job voluntarily**
- You reside in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- You earned a **minimum of \$5,000** (before taxes) **in the last 12 months, or in 2019**, from one or more of the following sources:
  - employment income **OR** self-employment income
  - provincial benefit payments related to maternity or parental leave

**Tax exempt income can be included in the \$5,000.**

The CERB is available to employees of band councils, employees of businesses owned by band councils, and employees of private businesses owned by First Nations individuals. There is no restriction in the eligibility criteria on the type of employer for which the employee worked.

### What are possible reasons for job or income loss?

- You have had to stop or will stop working because of COVID-19
- Your work hours have been reduced because of COVID-19 (e.g. quarantine or illness)
- You are taking care of children or other dependents because their care facility is closed due to COVID-19
- Your regular or fishing EI benefits have run out (any time between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020)

**Is it possible to earn some income and still receive CERB?**

**YES** - however, you cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for a period of 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of your claim.

When submitting subsequent claims, you cannot have earned more than \$1,000 in employment and/or self-employment income for the entire four-week benefit period of your new claim.

**Will the CERB be taxable if it's received by someone with status living on reserve?**

The CERB a person receives will be treated in the same way as the total income that entitled that person to the CERB.

- The CERB is tax-exempt if the total income that entitled a person to the CERB was tax-exempt under section 87 of the *Indian Act*.
- The CERB is taxable if the total income that entitled a person to the CERB was taxable.
- The CERB is partially tax-exempt if the total income that entitled a person to the CERB is partially exempt from tax. The CERB will be treated as exempt in the same proportion as the total income that was partially exempt.

**How can a person apply if they have never filed a tax return?**

- Indigenous workers who have never filed a tax return can still apply for the CERB as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. In this situation, the applicant will need to register their Social Insurance Number (SIN) with the CRA by calling 1-800-959-8281.

**Current Income Assistance (IA) clients should consult with their Band Administration Office before applying. There may be impacts on current or future IA benefits.**

**Claimants found to be ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit will be contacted to make arrangements to repay any applicable amounts.**