

COVID-19 Federal Economic Initiatives – 04/08/20

Prepared by Cathy McLeod
Member of Parliament, Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources: Forestry and Mining

New Loan Programs for Businesses

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

This program is designed for small businesses to have access to capital. It will be implemented by eligible financial institutions in cooperation with Export Development Canada (EDC).

This \$25 billion program will provide interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced, due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus.

Small businesses and not-for-profits should contact their financial institution to apply for these loans.

To qualify, these organizations will need to demonstrate they paid between \$50,000 to \$1 million in total payroll in 2019. Repaying the balance of the loan on or before December 31, 2022 will result in loan forgiveness of 25 percent (up to \$10,000).

Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP)

The federal government has established a Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to provide \$40 billion of additional support through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and Export Development Canada (EDC).

BDC and EDC are working with private sector lenders to coordinate on credit solutions for individual businesses, including in sectors such as oil and gas, air transportation, exports and tourism.

This program includes two elements, the *Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises*, and the *Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises*.

Loan Guarantee for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

EDC is working with financial institutions to issue new operating credit and cash flow term loans of up to \$6.25 million to SMEs.

Co-Lending Program for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

BDC is working with financial institutions to co-lend term loans to SMEs for their operational cash flow requirements.

Eligible businesses may obtain incremental credit amounts of up to \$6.25 million through the program.

These programs will roll out in **mid-April** and interested businesses **should work with their current financial institutions**.

New Business Subsidy Programs

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

The goal is to help businesses keep and return workers to their payroll through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This would provide a 75 per cent wage subsidy to eligible employers for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

Eligible Employers

Eligible employers would include individuals, taxable corporations, partnerships consisting of eligible employers, non-profit organizations and registered charities.

This subsidy would be available to eligible employers that see a drop of at least 15 per cent of their revenue in March 2020 and 30 per cent for the following months (see *Eligible Periods*). In applying for the subsidy, employers would be required to attest to the decline in revenue.

Calculating Revenues

An employer's revenue for this purpose would be its revenue in Canada earned from arm's-length sources. Revenue would be calculated using the employer's normal accounting method.

Employers would be allowed to calculate their revenues under the accrual method or the cash method, but not a combination of both. Employers would select an accounting method when first applying for the CEWS and would be required to use that method for the entire duration of the program.

For registered charities and non-profit organizations, the calculation will include most forms of revenue, excluding revenues from non-arm's length persons. These organizations would be allowed to choose whether or not to include revenue from government sources as part of the calculation. Once chosen, the same approach would have to apply throughout the program period.

Amount of Subsidy

The subsidy amount for a given employee on eligible remuneration paid for the period between March 15 and June 6, 2020 would be 75 per cent of the amount of remuneration paid, up to a maximum benefit of \$847 per week.

Employers will also be eligible for a subsidy of up to 75 per cent of salaries and wages paid to new employees.

Eligible remuneration may include salary, wages, and other remuneration like taxable benefits. However, it does not include severance pay, or items such as stock option benefits or the personal use of a corporate vehicle.

A special rule will apply to employees that do not deal at arm's length with the employer. The subsidy amount for such employees will be limited to the eligible remuneration paid in any pay period between March 15 and June 6, 2020, up to a maximum benefit of the lesser of \$847 per week and 75 per cent of the employee's pre-crisis weekly remuneration. The subsidy would only be available in respect of non-arm's length employees employed prior to March 15, 2020.

There would be no overall limit on the subsidy amount that an eligible employer may claim.

Emergency Wage Subsidy Example: Bruno and Tisha run a floral shop in Burnaby, British Columbia. They have four full-time employees, each earning \$800 per week, and 6 part-time employees, each earning \$400 per week, for a total weekly payroll of \$5,600. Bruno and Tisha have closed their shop and are only fulfilling online orders during this challenging period. They are keeping all of their employees on the payroll, paying them their full regular wages, despite their revenues being down by 30 per cent. Bruno and Tisha would be eligible for a weekly wage subsidy of \$4,200 (\$600 for each of their full-time employees and \$300 for each of their part-time employees).

Eligible Periods

Eligibility would generally be determined by the change in an eligible employer's monthly revenues, year-over-year, for the calendar month in which the period began.

For example, if revenues in March 2020 were down 50 per cent compared to March 2019, the employer would be allowed to claim the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy on remuneration paid between March 15-April 11, 2020.

The table below outlines each claiming period and the period in which it has a decline in revenue of 30 per cent or more.

Periods for CEWS Calculation			
	Claiming period	Required reduction in revenue	Reference period for eligibility
Period 1	March 15 to April 11	15%	March 2020 over: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2019 or • Average of January and February 2020
Period 2	April 12 to May 9	30%	April 2020 over: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2019 or • Average of January and February 2020
Period 3	May 10 to June 6	30%	May 2020 over: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 2019 or • Average of January and February 2020

Eligible employees

An eligible employee is an individual who is employed in Canada.

Eligibility for the CEWS of an employee's remuneration, will be limited to employees that have been without remuneration for more than 14 consecutive days in the eligibility period, i.e., from March 15-April 11, from April 12-May 9, and from May 10-June 6.

This rule replaces the previously announced restriction that an employer would not be eligible to claim the CEWS for remuneration paid to an employee in a week that falls within a 4-week period for which the employee is eligible for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit.

How to Apply

Eligible employers would be able to apply for the CEWS through the Canada Revenue Agency's *My Business Account* portal as well as a web-based application. Employers would have to keep records demonstrating their reduction in arm's-length revenues and remuneration paid to employees. More details about the application process will be made available shortly.

Interaction with 10% Wage Subsidy

On March 25, 2020, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act*, which included the implementation of a temporary 10 per cent wage subsidy, received Royal Assent. For employers that are eligible for both the CEWS and the 10 per cent wage subsidy for a period, any benefit from the 10 per cent wage subsidy for remuneration paid in a specific period would generally reduce the amount available to be claimed under the CEWS in that same period.

Comparison of the Two Wage Subsidy Programs

	The 10% Wage Subsidy	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy
Coverage period	90 days (March 18 to June 19)	12 weeks (March 15 to June 6)
Rate	10% of the wages of each employee	75% of the wages of each employee
Wages baseline	The 10% subsidy is calculated based on how much the employee receives in wages in the current period.	The 75% subsidy is calculated based on the amount “normally earned by employees”. Eligible remuneration may include salary, wages, and other remuneration like taxable benefits. These are amounts for which employers would generally be required to withhold or deduct amounts to remit to the Receiver General on account of the employee’s income tax obligation. However, it does not include severance pay, stock option benefits or the personal use of a corporate vehicle.
Maximum subsidy per employee	\$1,375	\$10,164
Maximum subsidy per employer	\$25,000	No limit
Eligible businesses	Businesses eligible for the Small Business Deduction Not-for-profit organizations Charities	Any employer, except the public sector Must see a drop of least 15 per cent of revenue in March 2020 and 30 per cent for the following months (see Eligible Periods). In applying for the subsidy, employers would be required to attest to the decline in revenue.
Top-up required?	Yes, legislation suggests that it would be.	No, but the employer will have to attest they are doing everything they can to try.
Mechanism	The subsidy is a deduction on the corporation’s remittances to the CRA.	Online CRA portal, soon to be launched

Interaction with the Work-Sharing Program

On March 18, 2020, the Prime Minister announced an extension of the maximum duration of the Work-Sharing program from 38 weeks to 76 weeks for employers affected by COVID-19. This measure will provide income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.

For employers and employees that are participating in a Work-Sharing program, EI benefits received by employees through the Work-Sharing program will reduce the benefit that their employer is entitled to receive under the CEWS.

Refund for Certain Payroll Contributions

The Government is proposing to expand the CEWS by introducing a new 100 per cent refund for certain employer-paid contributions to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan, the Quebec Pension Plan, and the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan. This refund would cover 100 per cent of employer-paid contributions for eligible employees for each week throughout which those employees are on leave with pay and for which the employer is eligible to claim for the CEWS for those employees.

In general, an employee will be considered to be on leave with pay throughout a week if that employee is remunerated by the employer for that week but does not perform any work for the employer in that week. This refund would not be available for eligible employees that are on leave with pay for only a portion of a week.

This refund would not be subject to the weekly maximum benefit per employee of \$847 that an eligible employer may claim in respect of the CEWS. There would be no overall limit on the refund amount that an eligible employer may claim.

For greater certainty, employers would be required to continue to collect and remit employer and employee contributions to each program as usual. Eligible employers would apply for a refund, as described above, at the same time that they apply for the CEWS.

New Programs for Individuals

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

If you stopped working because of COVID-19, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) may provide you with temporary income support. The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks. The government has indicated changes will be made soon to allow people to work a small number of hours while collecting CERB.

How to apply

Applications started April 6th through one of two ways:

- 1) Online through CRA MyAccount: If you set up direct deposit, CRA has said payment can be expected in 3 business days from the completion of your application. Payment by cheque can be expected to take up to 10 business days.
- 2) Telephone: 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041

Any EI applications after March 15 where the applicant is also eligible for CERB will be automatically moved over to CERB.

You will be required to re-attest once a month to continue receiving CERB. More information is available at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

Eligibility for CERB

The benefit will be available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 and have not voluntarily quit their job or are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits;
- Who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment or self-employment income.

For those receiving dividends, you are eligible to claim CERB as long as the dividends are non-eligible dividends (generally, those paid out of corporate income taxed at the small business rate).

An individual could count the aforementioned dividend income toward the \$5,000 income requirement to be eligible for CERB.

Day to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

If you were born in month of	Apply for CERB on	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	Friday, Saturday, Sunday	

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Find out more at
[canada.ca/en/department-finance/
economic-response-plan](https://canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan)

Who is eligible?

- 🍁 workers sick with COVID-19 and no access to paid leave
- 🍁 workers quarantined or caring for someone sick with COVID-19
- 🍁 working parents at home without pay because children are sick OR need care due to school/daycare closures
- 🍁 workers currently employed but not paid due to insufficient work/employer asked you not to work
- 🍁 contract workers or self-employed not eligible for EI

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

How to apply?

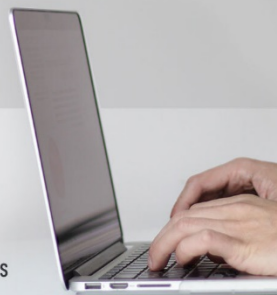
- 1 Visit CRA My Account or call 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041.
- 2 Select the period you want to apply for.
- 3 Declare that you qualify for the benefit.

Have the following info on hand:

- 🍁 SIN number
- 🍁 address, including postal code
- 🍁 direct deposit info

Apply by birth month:

- 🍁 Jan, Feb, Mar - Mondays
- 🍁 Apr, May, June - Tuesdays
- 🍁 July, Aug, Sept - Wednesdays
- 🍁 Oct, Nov, Dec - Thursdays
- 🍁 All months - Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays



canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application

CRA Deferrals - Income Tax Filing & Payment

Deferral of GST Sales Tax Remittance

Deferral of Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) remittances and customs duty payments to June 30, 2020.

CRA will extend until June 30, 2020 the time that:

- Monthly filers have to remit amounts collected for the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods;
- Quarterly filers have to remit amounts collected for the January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 reporting period; and
- Annual filers, whose GST/HST return or instalment are due in March, April or May 2020, have to remit amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and instalments of GST/HST in respect of the filer's current fiscal year.

Deferral of Customs Duty and Sales Tax for Importers

Imported goods by businesses are generally subject to the GST, at a rate of 5 per cent, as well as applicable customs duties, which vary by product and country of origin. While most imports enter Canada duty-free, some tariffs remain, especially on consumer goods.

Payment deadlines for statements of accounts for March, April, and May are being deferred to June 30, 2020.

Individuals – Due dates

Filing date for 2019 tax year	June 1, 2020 extended
Payment date for 2019 tax year	September 1, 2020 extended Includes the June 15, 2020, instalment payment for those who have to pay by instalments.

Self-employed and their spouse or common law partner – Due dates

Filing date for 2019 tax year	June 15, 2020 unchanged
Payment date for 2019 tax year	September 1, 2020 extended Includes the June 15, 2020, instalment payment for those who have to pay by instalments.

Corporations – Due dates

Filing date for current tax year	June 1, 2020 extended Applies to corporations that would otherwise have a filing due date after March 18 and before June 1, 2020.
Payment date for current tax year	September 1, 2020 extended Applies to balances and instalments under Part 1 of the Income Tax Act due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020.

Trusts – Due dates

Filing date for current tax year (including the associated T3 information return)	May 1, 2020 extended Applies to trusts with a tax year end date of December 31, 2019 June 1, 2020 extended Applies to trusts that would otherwise have a filing due date in April or May.
Payment date for current tax year	September 1, 2020 extended Applies to income tax balances and instalments due on or after March 18 and before September 1, 2020

Charities – Due dates

Filing date	December 31, 2020 extended Applies to charities with Form T3010 due between March 18, 2020 and December 31, 2020
Payment date	Not Applicable

Part XIII non-resident tax – Due dates

Filing date for the 2019 NR4 information return	May 1, 2020 extended
Payment date	The 15th of each month following an amount paid or credited by residents of Canada to non-resident persons. unchanged

Payroll remittances – Due dates

Payment date	See Payroll page for filing deadlines. unchanged
--------------	--

Information returns

Filing date for the 2019 T5013 Partnership Information Return	May 1, 2020 extended
Filing date for the 2019 NR4, Statement of Amounts Paid or Credited to Non-Residents of Canada information return	May 1, 2020 extended
Other information returns	June 1, 2020 extended Applies to other information returns that would otherwise be due after March 18, 2020, and before June 2020.

CRA Administrative Measures

In addition to remittance & payment deferrals, CRA has implemented other measures:

- Collections activities on new debts suspended until further notice, and flexible payment arrangements will be made available
- CRA will generally not contact SME businesses to initiate any post assessment GST/HST or income tax audits for the next 4 weeks, and interaction with taxpayers will be limited to high risk and exceptional cases
- Objections related to Canadians' entitlement to benefits and credits have been identified as a critical service and should not experience any delays
- For objections related to other tax matters filed by individuals and businesses, the CRA is currently holding these accounts in abeyance. No collection action will be taken with respect to these accounts at this time.
- For objections that are due March 18, 2020 or later, CRA is effectively extending the deadline to June 30, 2020.

- Appeals before the Tax Court of Canada have been ordered an extension of all timelines prescribed by the rules of that Court while it is closed for business until March 30, 2020. More information can be obtained from the TCC.
- Penalties and interest will not be charged if the deferred payment requirements are met by September 1, 2020.

Resources

COVID-19 Federal Program Information:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Wage Subsidy: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/additional-details-on-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

CRA Measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/covid-19-filing-payment-dates.html>

CERB Application: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

CERB FAQs: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>

Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/financial-sector-policy/business-credit-availability-program.html>

Contact Information

cathy.mcleod.c1@parl.gc.ca
250.851.4991