

Accessing the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Canadian government has created the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to provide temporary income support to people who have stopped working due to COVID-19. The CERB provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

How to apply:

- To find out if you are eligible for the benefit, visit [the Government of Canada's CERB webpage](#) for up-to-date eligibility requirements.
- You can also call [1-800-622-6232](tel:1-800-622-6232) to find out if you are eligible, but wait times are longer than usual. Please be patient.
- **Remember:** The eligibility requirements change regularly, so you must check back often in case you no longer qualify, or in case you do qualify but did not before.

The CERB and taxes:

- You must pay taxes on your benefit, but taxes will not be deducted from your benefit when you receive it.
- You must report your benefit as income when you file your income tax return for the 2020 tax year.

If you apply but are NOT eligible:

- You will still receive the benefit, but you will need to repay the money you received from CERB.
- If you receive the benefit and are not eligible, you may also have your taxes audited and/or have to pay a financial penalty.
- To avoid receiving the benefit if you are not eligible, please review the eligibility **carefully** and **frequently**.

If you have questions, please visit the [Government of Canada's CERB webpage](#).