



# USW Guide to Benefits During COVID-19 NOVA SCOTIA

## ● LAID OFF DUE TO WORKPLACE CLOSURE?

### Apply for Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits.

- Payment is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings
- Max of \$573 per week less applicable taxes
- Paid for 14-45 weeks based on unemployment rate in your region
- To be eligible, you will need to have worked the following number of hours in the last 52 weeks:
  - Eastern Nova Scotia: 420
  - Western Nova Scotia: 630
  - Halifax: 665
- If you are unsure which EI region you are in, you can input your postal code here and find out: [https://srv129.services.gc.ca/eiregions/eng/postalcode\\_search.aspx](https://srv129.services.gc.ca/eiregions/eng/postalcode_search.aspx)
- You will need a Record of Employment (ROE) saying you have been laid off from your employer.
- There is a one-week waiting period after you are approved; you will not be paid for that week.
- You do not qualify if you are unemployed because you are directly participating in a strike.
- You must apply online. You can do so [here](#).

## ● UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SELF-QUARANTINE OR SICK DUE TO COVID-19?

### Apply for EI sickness benefits.

- Payment is 55% of average insurable weekly earnings
- Paid for 15 weeks.
- You need to have worked 600 hours in the last 52 weeks.
- Once you have applied [here](#) you need to call 1-833-381-2725 to notify that you would like to have the one-week waiting period waived. This line is only for those who are sick or quarantined and affected by COVID-19.
- Apply online here: [canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply](https://canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/apply)

## ● LAID OFF BUT INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

## ● UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE?

## ● SELF-QUARANTINED AND INELIGIBLE FOR EI?

## ● EMPLOYED BUT NOT CURRENTLY PAID BECAUSE THERE IS INSUFFICIENT WORK AND EMPLOYER HAS ASKED YOU NOT TO COME TO WORK?

### Apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB).

- The government will provide a taxable benefit of \$2,000 for up to 4 months backdated to March 15th
- The CERB will be accessible through a secure web portal on April 6th.
- You will also be able to apply via:
  - Your CRA My Account secure portal
  - Your My Service Canada Account; or
  - an automated telephone line via toll-free number
- You should start receiving your benefits 10 days after you submit your application form. The earliest you can receive benefits through direct deposit is April 16th.

## ● IS THE PROVINCE DOING ANYTHING?

- Every individual and family member on income assistance will receive an additional \$50
- \$1 million to Feed Nova Scotia to purchase food and hire staff
- \$230,000 emergency funding to help vulnerable older adults
- All government loans repayments deferred until June 30th
- Student loans repayments suspended until September 30th
- Small businesses that do business with the government will be paid within 5 days instead of standard 30 days