



USW Guide to Benefits During COVID-19

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

● 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:
 - Charlottetown: 700
 - Prince Edward Island: 525

- 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
- 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

● 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).

Applies to:

- Workers who must stop working due to COVID 19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support
- Workers who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19
- Working parents who must stay at home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school/daycare closure
- Workers who still have employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and employer has asked them not to come into work
- Wage earners, self-employed individuals, including con-

tract workers, who would not otherwise be eligible for EI

- 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?

- \$25 million COVID-19 Emergency Fund to support workers and small businesses affected by COVID-19
- Temporary allowance of \$200 per week for employees who have a significant drop in their working hours
- \$2 million to support early-learning centers, maintain child-care spaces and ensure parents don't pay fees during period of closures
- Deferring repayments for provincial student loans for next six months

- A maximum of \$500 per week for self-employed individuals for period of March 16 to March 29, 2020
- Worker Assistance Program – temporary program aimed at providing financial support to employers to assist employed workers. \$250/per week for each employed worker that experiences at least 8 hours per week reduction for two-week period of March 16-29, 2020
- \$100 Sobeys gift card to any employee who has received a lay-off notice as a direct result of the impacts associated with COVID-19

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