

April 3, 2020

HELP IS ON THE WAY

THE CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

Many of you have no doubt already heard of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) whereby the federal government will pay eligible out-of-work Canadians \$500 per week for a period up to 16 weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. We'd like now to highlight for you a few details regarding the CERB:

- It is available both to employees and the self-employed
- An employee does not have to be laid off to be eligible – workers who remain employed but who cannot work because they are sick or quarantined also qualify for the benefit
- Employees receive the full amount of the benefit regardless of what they may have been entitled to under the Employment Insurance program – therefore, an employee will receive \$500 per week from the CERB even if he/she would have received less than that amount in employment insurance
- If a person is sick or quarantined, no medical certificate will be required

Benefits will be retroactive to March 15th, and will start within 10 days of an application being submitted. Benefits will be paid through direct deposit or by cheque, however, you will be paid more quickly if you choose direct deposit. You will find all the details, all the answers to your questions, and the application itself by visiting www.canada.ca, and by clicking on “Get the support you need” near the top of the home page.

The online system for applying will open on April 6th, but whether you apply online or by phone, the government has set up specific days for everyone to apply, in order that the system not be overloaded and that applications may be processed efficiently. Please use the following guidelines:

Day to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit		
If you were born in the month of	Apply for CERB on	Your 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	Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays	

It is of course in your best interest to apply on the earliest suggested date possible.