

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 8/20/2020 5:09:10 PM
Subject: Federal Government: CERB Announcement

Dear Mayor and Council,

This morning, the federal government announced changes to CERB AND EI programs. Please see below for a summary.

Best,
Sadhu

Canada Emergency Response Benefit Extended

The federal government is extending the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into September, before transitioning the millions of people who are still claiming CERB onto a revamped Employment Insurance program [starting Sept. 27](#).

- This extends the CERB program by an additional four weeks.

Employment Insurance Reforms

As of [Sept. 27](#), almost all CERB claimants who qualify for Employment Insurance (EI) will be transitioned.

EI reforms include opening up the criteria for the next year so Canadians with 120 insurable hours can receive a minimum payment of \$400 per week, and a maximum of \$573 per week, depending on past earnings.

- The reworked EI can be claimed for between 26 and 45 weeks, depending on time worked prior.
 - Government is offering a one-time top up to insurable hours to help more people qualify.

EI claimants can earn income, but will have their benefits adjusted, reducing their benefit by \$0.50 for each dollar of earnings.

The government is freezing the EI premium rate for two years, as typically it would be set to increase, raising costs for workers and employers.

New Temporary Employment Insurance Benefits

Canada Recovery Benefit available for 26 weeks to workers who are self-employed, gig or contract workers, or otherwise not EI eligible but still cannot return to work.

- Provides \$400-a-week and workers will need to repay \$0.50 of every dollar earned above an annual net income of \$38,000.

Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit for those who don't already have paid sick leave through their employer.

- \$500 per week for up to two weeks.

Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit providing help in the instances where someone needs to stay home to care for a family member.

- Provides \$500 a week for up to 26 weeks per household.
- Can only be used when facilities are closed and not because people “prefer” to keep their loved ones at home.

The EI reforms are able to be implemented through regulation using interim ministerial orders. The three new benefits are going to be delivered through legislation, which will have to wait to be tabled until after Parliament resumes [on Sept. 23](#) given the current prorogation.

In total, these new financial assistance plans are budgeted to cost at least \$37 billion over the next year.

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh peoples.