

## **The New Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB): March 25, 2020**

- Will replace/combine the two allowances announced last week - the Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit - in order to streamline the application process. These measures were supposed to be put in place in April, but will now be replaced with the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, announced today.
- Will provide \$2000 monthly for four months, for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.
- Accessible to those who have lost their job due to COVID-19, including wage earners, and including those who would not be eligible for EI, such as self-employed or contract workers.
- Accessible to those who are sick, quarantined, taking care of someone sick, or looking after children.
- Accessible to those who are still employed, but who are not receiving income due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Canadians who are currently receiving EI regular and sickness benefits as of today will continue to receive benefits, and should not apply to the CERB. If, before October 3, 2020 their benefits end, they could apply for the CERB once their benefits cease if they are still out of work due to COVID-19.
- Canadians who are eligible for EI regular and sickness benefits will still be able to access those benefits if still unemployed after the 16 weeks covered by the CERB.
- Will be paid every four weeks, and will be available from March 15 - October 3, 2020.

### **How to Apply?**

- Application portal will launch asap (by April 6) and people should receive money within 10 days of applying.
- Workers are being redeployed from other departments to deal with increased applications for financial support.