

CNLA COVID-19 Updates for April 14, 2020

Please note that this information is changing almost daily and check the provided links for the most up to date information

Today's Breaking News

Government provides further flexibility for employers to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

75% wage subsidy bill approved

On Saturday, Parliament passed the wage subsidy Bill, paving the way for those retailers and other businesses who qualify for 75% of an employee's salary - up to a maximum benefit of \$847 per week - a chance to apply soon. The government now estimates the wage subsidy will be available in two to five weeks rather than the previously estimated three to six weeks.

The CEWS will enable employers to re-hire workers previously laid off, and to keep those who are already on payroll. Details on the subsidy announced included:

- That it would apply at a rate of 75 per cent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to \$847 per week. The program would be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020.
- Eligible employers who suffer a drop in gross revenues of at least 30 per cent in March, April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019, would be able to access the subsidy.
- Eligible employers would include employers of all sizes and across all sectors of the economy, with the exception of public sector entities.
- For non-profit organizations and registered charities similarly affected by a loss of revenue, the government will continue to work with the sector to ensure the definition of revenue is appropriate to their circumstances. The government is also considering additional support for non-profits and charities, particularly those involved in the front-line response to COVID-19. Further details will be announced in the near term.
- An eligible employer's entitlement to this wage subsidy will be based entirely on the salary or wages actually paid to employees. All employers would be expected to at least make best efforts to top up salaries to 100% of the maximum wages covered.

Eligible employers would be able to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy by applying through a Canada Revenue Agency online portal.

\$50M to help growers and processors bring in temporary foreign workers

<https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/04/keeping-canadians-and-workers-in-the-food-supply-chain-safe.html>

Employers who rely on experienced temporary workers to ensure Canadians have access to a variety of high quality foods are eligible for [\\$1,500 per foreign worker to help cover the costs of complying with a mandatory](#) two-week quarantine upon their arrival in Canada. Employers must provide accommodation for the employees during self-isolation and pay the workers during the 14-day period. The federal government said it will work with the provinces and territories to determine how the funding will be delivered.

Canada Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB) update

As of Monday April 6, 2020, you are now able to apply for the CERB. To help stem the amount of traffic to the system, applications will be allowed based on your birth month. (Please see below for details)

Updated resource page for all Federal programs and supports

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

The Canadian Government provided clarity on eligibility and the application process for the CERB program which can be found [here](#). Highlights included that Canadians will be able to begin applying for the CERB on April 6, 2020 and, if approved, should receive their first payment within 10 days. The CERB will provide approved applicants with \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks.

The benefit will be available to workers:

- Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old;
- Who have stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits;
- Who had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Who are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment income.

The Benefit is only available to individuals who stopped work as a result of reasons related to COVID-19. If you are looking for a job but haven't stopped working because of COVID-19, you are not eligible for the Benefit.

Applications for **The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)** are now being accepted via the Canada Revenue Agency's My CRA Account portal [here](#) or via telephone at 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041. *Please note, to manage the high volume of applications, your month of birth determines which day you can apply on:*

Where to Start?

To get the help you need:

1. **Visit the [website for businesses](#)** for information about supporting your employees and your business. It is constantly updated as the COVID-19 crisis evolves.
2. **Contact your local financial institution.** Since we know most small businesses have a relationship with their local financial institution already, we've worked with the financial sector to increase their lending capability to support you in in this challenging time. They are a good first place to start for help.
3. **Download the [Canada Business App](#)** to find tailored supports to address your needs in the face of COVID-19.
4. **Consult the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's [pandemic preparedness guide](#)** to help prepare you business in the days and weeks to come.

3 Key Steps to take NOW!

[Get setup on CRA My Business account](#) if you aren't already.

[Get setup on direct deposit](#), if you aren't already.

Get your accounting current and keep it current, will need real time info to evaluate eligibility

Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/minister-morneau-and-minister-ng-mark-the-launch-of-the-canada-emergency-business-account.html>

- \$40,000 government-guaranteed loan to help eligible businesses pay for operating expenses, payroll and other non-deferrable expenses which are critical to sustain business continuity.
- 25% of the January 1, 2021 outstanding balance can potentially be forgiven (in order to do so, the remaining 75% of the loan must be paid in full by December 31, 2022.)
- Loan is interest free until January 1, 2023.
- Applications are done online (only) with your primary financial institution. Contact your primary financial institution for assistance.

Financial Links

[The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html)<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy.html>

How to apply <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

FAQs on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>

Temporary Wage Subsidy <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html>

Health Links

Public Safety Canada - <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/crtcl-nfrstrctr/esf-sfe-en.aspx>

Work Safe BC - Construction

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/construction>

Work Safe BC – Agriculture

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/agriculture>

HR Downloads

More answers on what you may owe employees

https://blog.hrdownloads.com/covid-19-more-answers-about-what-you-may-owe-employees?utm_campaign=Blog&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85724309&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9JBtncItptVNoGexyOBKoYJ4_PnHBUWkSQMlunvFNUrkVXEm_heKQgcp9ap_pHqKEssE7BpxoAXGQZkZNfnr36LLTVIA&_hsmi=85724309