

# UPDATE: Q&A REGARDING **EI ASSISTANCE AND THE NEW CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT**

## **What is this new \$2,000 per month Canada Emergency Response Benefit that Trudeau just announced?**

The Federal Government has taken the two planned emergency benefits and collapsed them into a single "Canada Emergency Relief Benefit." This benefit is worth \$2,000 per month for up to 4 months.

## **Who is eligible?**

Anyone who made \$5,000 in the last year and has been off for 14 days. It doesn't matter if you are eligible for EI or not.

## **When will I have access to this program?**

The Government announced that they will start taking applications on April 6th and they say the benefit will be delivered within 10 days.



## **So I get \$2,000 per month in addition to my EI?**

NO! You can either collect EI at 55% of your income OR you can collect this new benefit of \$2,000 per month. You CANNOT collect both.

## **What if EI is getting me more money than \$2,000 per month?**

Then you should continue to stay on EI and NOT collect the new benefit.

## **My Employer says I need to take my vacation time because they're laying me off. Is that true?**

NO! Taking your vacation time before you collect EI or not is your choice. If you take vacation time, it will delay your EI payment. For example, if you take 1 week of vacation pay, then you will not be eligible for EI until 7 days after your vacation pay has run out.

NOTE: Be wary of texts that appear to be coming from the federal government offering cash. The government will NOT be sending texts out about the Emergency Response Benefit.