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.