

# UPDATE: Q&A REGARDING CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

## **Why did I receive two cheques?**

The Federal government paid out the CERB retroactive to March 15th, so you likely received a cheque for \$1,000 for the two weeks in March, and another cheque for \$2,000 for the month of April.

## **Can I collect EI and CERB at the same time?**

No. You can apply for both, but if you apply for EI, your application will automatically be moved to the CERB benefit. If for some reason you mistakenly receive both, you should assume that you will have to pay back EI at a later date.

## **Can I work part-time and collect CERB?**

No. Currently you must have ZERO income to qualify for CERB. The government announced on Monday that it's expanding CERB to cover those working 10 hours per week or less. This change has not happened yet.

## **How long does CERB last for?**

CERB will last for 16 weeks starting March 15th through July 5th currently. After you've exhausted CERB, you will be eligible to apply for EI for an additional period of time.

## **Why wasn't my CERB taxed?**

The government has deferred taxes on CERB so that you have more money in your pocket right now. But you will need to pay tax on it at the end of the year.

## **Do I have to fill out a report every 2 weeks like for EI?**

No. You will need to reapply for the CERB each month.

## **Do I need to report CERB income on my EI?**

No CERB will not be considered earnings for your EI.

## **I thought I was getting 75% of my income?**

The 75% wage subsidy announced by the government will be paid to your employer IF your employer returns you to the payroll. Your employer would then pay you 75% of your lost income up to a maximum of \$847 per week.

## **Is my employer participating in the 75% subsidy?**

Some employers are considering participating in the 75% subsidy but none have committed to do it yet.

