

Q&A ABOUT CHILD CARE

What if I still need to go to work but I can't because I need to stay home and watch my kids?

If you would like to keep working, you can first request a family status accommodation. If you know the specific hours you will be available for work, give that schedule to your manager. If your manager will not schedule you within that availability, contact your shop steward or union rep.

If you do not want to work, then you should explain that to your manager if they are seeking voluntary lay-offs and request to be laid off. Again, please contact your union committee member or Union rep with any issues.

If I can't work so that I can take care of my child, will I get paid?

YES! If the coronavirus has affected your childcare situation and therefore your ability to work, then you qualify for the new \$2,000 per month benefit through the government. This new "Canada Emergency Benefit" is available for working parents who must stay home without pay to care for sick children, sick elderly people, or children who are at home due to school closures.

- The amount will be up to \$2,000/month for 4 months.
- There will be an online application portal that will be available by April 6.
- The money should be available approximately 10 days after the application is filed.
- If you have already applied for EI but have not yet received funds, your application will automatically be transferred to a CERB application. You do not need to reapply.

Are there any other benefits I qualify for?

Yes! There are two:

- 1) The Province announced a one-time \$1,000 payment to people who have lost income because of the virus. Anyone eligible for federal EI or the new \$2,000/month benefit will qualify.
- 2) The Canada Childcare Benefit will be going up by \$300 per child. You do not need to reapply if you have applied in the past, but you must have filed a tax return for 2018. If you have not applied for the CCB before, you need to apply at <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-child-benefit-overview/canada-child-benefit-apply.html>

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If I don't have a Union at my job, is my job protected if I have to leave to take care of my child?

YES! The provincial government has amended the Employment Standards Act, ensuring that ALL workers can take unpaid, job-protected leave if they need to provide care to their minor child, a dependent adult who is their child, or a former foster child for reasons related to the virus. This includes school and daycare closures because of COVID-19. If you would like to speak confidentially to a Union Rep, please email updates@local40union.com or text 604-813-2105.

