

## ***Canadian Emergency Response Bill (CERB Support) Passed***

March 25, 2020

Today, the House of Commons and Senate passed their ***Canadian Emergency Response Bill*** authorizing \$107 billion in emergency aid to support businesses, families, and individuals during the COVID crisis.

The full text of the BILL C-13: the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act can be viewed [HERE](#).

### **Key Highlights from the Minister's Press Conference on March 25:**

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- Prime Minister Trudeau noted that the **Canadian Emergency Response Benefit will give \$2,000 per month for four months to individuals who can't work due to the crisis, saying people would start to receive funding in the ten days following their request.**
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  - Please see more information on the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit is below.
- The Prime Minister also said the Minister of Heritage would announce measures to support the media today, explaining the media is highly strained and a crucial aspect of keeping Canadians informed during the crisis.

### **What is the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)?**

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- Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is a proposed legislation that will support Canadian workers and help businesses keep their employees.
- This taxable benefit **would provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months** for workers who lose their income as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The portal for accessing the CERB would be available in early April. However, eligible Canadians who have lost their job can continue to apply for EI.
- Canadians would begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application. The CERB would be **paid every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.**



## Who Would CERB Benefit?

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- The CERB would help Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures.
- **The CERB would apply to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).**
  - It would also support workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19 (temporarily business closures etc.)

For more updates and resources, please visit <https://convenienceindustry.ca/covid-19/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to CICC President & CEO, Anne Kothawala at [akothawala@convenienceindustry.ca](mailto:akothawala@convenienceindustry.ca).

