



Information for First Nations on eligibility and applying for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit

April 2020

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is providing this Guide to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) so First Nations individuals can better understand if they are eligible for financial support from the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic. More information about the CERB and eligibility can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>

The CERB will provide a taxable benefit of \$500 per week – for up to 16 weeks – for individuals who are involuntarily without work because of COVID-19, regardless of whether they are eligible for EI regular or sickness benefits. Applications for the CERB are now open.

Eligibility periods are fixed in 4-week periods – this means you can only apply for four weeks on your first application for CERB. If your situation continues, you can re-apply for CERB for multiple 4-week periods, to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods).

Who can apply?

To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:



- You reside in Canada and have a Social Insurance Number
- You are 15 years old or more when you apply

For your first CERB application:

- You have stopped or will stop working due to reasons related to COVID-19
- For at least 14 days in a row for the period you are applying for, you will not receive:
 - o employment income
 - o self-employment income
 - o provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave



You will be informed on how to reapply for the CERB through the first application process. After you apply, you should get your payment in 3 business days, if you signed up for direct deposit. If you haven't, you should get it in about 10 business days.

How do I to apply?

There are two ways to apply:

You can apply online by signing in to your CRA My Account: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/account-individuals.html>



- If you do not have a CRA My Account, you can register for one. Here is a short video on how to register: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/e-services/e-services-individuals/account-individuals.html>

You can apply over the phone with an automated phone service by calling 1-800-959-2019 or 1-800-959-2041



- To verify your identity, you'll need:
 - o your social insurance number (SIN)
 - o postal code

Both of these services are available 21 hours a day, 7 days a week. Both services are closed from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. (Eastern) for maintenance.

Questions about applying for CERB with CRA?



- More information about the CERB and eligibility can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/apply-for-cerb-with-cra.html>
- Or find answers to common questions with this automated help line: 1-833-966-2099