

Good afternoon Members of the IATSE Local 873,

In order to support workers, the Federal Government has passed Bill C-13. This legislation creates a new statute, the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit Act (CERB) which provides a \$2,000 monthly payment for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- be employed or self-employed workers 15 years of age or older
- be a resident of Canada
- have made at least \$5,000 in the last 12 months that were derived from employment, self-employment or EI benefits
- cease working because of COVID-19 for at least 14 consecutive days within each of the four-week periods that the CERB is being claimed and
- not be receiving any other form of income during the CERB claim period.

The Federal Government has also said that the CERB:

- is payable to those 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 have to stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures
- is payable to employees, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for EI benefits
- is payable to workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19
- is payable to all Canadians who have ceased working due to COVID-19, whether they are EI-eligible or not, in order to get money into workers' pockets sooner given the recent high volume of EI claims.

The Federal Government has also confirmed:

- Canadians who are already receiving EI regular and sickness benefits as of today will continue to receive their benefits and should not apply to the CERB
- Canadians whose EI benefits end before October 3, 2020, will be able to apply for the CERB once their EI benefits end, if they are unable to return to work due to COVID-19
- Canadians who are eligible for EI regular and sickness benefits will still be able to access their normal EI benefits, if still unemployed, after the 16-week period covered by the CERB and
- the CERB will be paid to claimants within ten (10) days of application.

Based on what the Federal Government has said, it is expected that the CERB application process will be administered by CRA and that the application process will be in place by April 6, 2020.

For more information on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, including eligibility requirements, please see Government introduces [Canada Emergency Response Benefit website](#).