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## Federal Government introduces Canada Emergency Response Benefit to help workers and businesses

The full text of Bill C-13, An Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19, is now online.

- [Press release](#)
- [Legislation](#)

The Bill creates a new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) instead of the two separate benefits (one for EI-eligible workers and one for non EI-eligible workers) that were proposed last week.

Details of the CERB:

- A \$2000 income support payment for any four-week period falling within the period beginning on March 15, 2020 and ending on October 3, 2020, for people that:
  - Have lost their job or lost part or all of their income (in the case of self-employed people and contract workers) due to COVID-19;
  - Workers who are still employed, but not receiving payment due to disruption caused by COVID-19;
  - People who are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone in that position;
  - Parents who want to stay home without pay to care for their children due to school closures
- People can back-date their application to when they were first laid-off and business owners who have no current business can also apply
- A team of 14,3000 public servants is working to process claims.
- An online portal for applications will be available shortly and it will take up to 10 days for an application to be processed

The hope is that money will be flowing by April 6, 2020.