



# **Update for Employers Amid COVID-19 URGENCY**

**Presentation to  
Business Liaison Group  
BY WEBINAR**

**April 1, 2020**

**Judith Andrew  
Commissioner (Employers), CEIC**

# Agenda

**1. Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and related issues**

**2. EI role in COVID-19, including Work-Sharing**

**3. Questions**



# Canada Emergency Response Benefit

- CERB replaces the previously announced Emergency Care and Emergency Support Benefits
- Temporary income support to workers who are without employment or self-employment income related to COVID-19
- For workers residing in Canada (EI eligible or not), at least age 15, who earned at least \$5,000 in 2019 from employment, self-employment, EI maternity and parental and/or similar in Quebec (QPIP)



# Canada Emergency Response Benefit (2)

- Must be without employment or self-employment for at least 14 consecutive days in a four-week period for COVID reasons
- Reasons include if temporarily stopped working, lost job, sick or in quarantine, or caring for a child or a family member
- Legislation excludes 'voluntary quits'
- Benefit will provide a flat amount of \$2,000 a month, paid in four week instalments, for up to 16 weeks
- Benefit is available until October 3 and retroactive to March 15, 2020



# Role of Employment Insurance (EI)

- EI claims 'in pay' continue as usual
- EI Work-sharing vastly streamlined to assist
- Legislation gives the Minister powers to modify the EI system to handle large volume of claims; no need to leave EI system to take up the CERB through CRA
- For EI purposes (not CERB) it remains important that EI Records of Employment (ROEs) are correctly filled for the circumstances (e.g. quarantine/sickness, shortage of work, leave of absence)
- CPA bulletin covering ROE coding openly available:  
<https://payroll.ca/PDF/Resources/Payroll-and-Covid19-Infoline.aspx>



# EI Work-sharing (WS)

- EI WS helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer
- Program simplification aim to reduce application approval time by two-thirds, to about 10 days (simplified application, no 'recovery plan,' no individual signatures, employee representative)
- WS extension doubles to 76 weeks, no cooling off
- Employer WS Overview, also contact box  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus/employers-overview.html>



# Questions?

