

The *COVID-19 Response Measures Act* Receives Royal Assent

Bill C-4, the *COVID-19 Response Measures Act*, received [Royal Assent](#) on October 2, 2020. This federal legislation provides for three temporary recovery benefits to support workers who are unable to work due to COVID-19 and will replace the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) payments that ended recently.

The three new temporary benefits are the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) and the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB). These benefits are in place for the period from September 27, 2020 until September 25, 2021. The Background to the legislation, with additional details on the three new temporary benefits, can be accessed [here](#).

It's important to note that none of the new benefits may be claimed in conjunction with the other, or with Employment Insurance.

❖ **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB)**

The new CRSB will provide \$500 per week, for up to two weeks total, for workers who are unable to work because they contracted COVID-19, are self-isolating for reasons related to COVID-19 or have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments, or have contracted other sicknesses that make them more susceptible to COVID-19.

Workers will not be required to have a medical certificate to qualify for the benefit. Workers may not claim the CRSB and receive other paid sick leave for the same benefit period.

Workers will apply after the one-week period in which they are seeking income support and attest that they meet the requirements. The benefit is taxable, with taxes removed at source to reduce the amount of tax owed at the end of the year.

❖ **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB)**

The new CRCB will provide \$500 per week for workers who are off work in order to care for a child (or family member requiring supervision) who is ill, quarantined or at high risk of developing serious illness due to COVID-19, or to care for a child or family member affected by closure of schools, day care centres, or care facilities because of COVID-19. Households can apply for up to 26 weeks, available in one-week periods.

A household is entitled to a maximum of 26 weeks of the CRCB. If two or more persons reside in the same household, the benefit can be shared among eligible workers but only one of them may be paid a CRCB for any particular week.

Workers may not claim the CRCB and receive other paid sick leave for the same benefit period.

Workers will apply after the one-week period in which they are seeking income support and attest that they meet the requirements. The benefit is taxable, with taxes removed at source to reduce the amount of tax owed at the end of the year.

❖ **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)**

The new CRB will provide a benefit amount of \$500 per week (available in two-week periods) for up to 26 weeks for those who have stopped working and who are not eligible for EI, or had their employment/self-employment income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19.

More Information and Questions

Please contact your [BCPSEA liaison](#) or visit the Government of Canada's [COVID-19 benefits and services website](#) for more information.