

Canada's COVID-19 Support for Workplaces and Workers

- \$5 Billion Emergency Support Benefit for unemployed without EI Benefits
- \$900 biweekly for Emergency Care Benefits for up to 15 weeks.
- 10% wage subsidy for small businesses
- Deferred tax payments until after Aug 31,2020

Workplace Information

Government of Canada Programs – Employment and Social Development

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Work-Sharing Program

- Designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal business activity that is beyond the control of the employer

Important Update:

The program maximum duration has been extended from 38 weeks to 76 weeks for those businesses affected by the downturn in business due to COVID-19, and for forestry, steel and aluminum sectors (Note – at this point the oil and gas industry sector has not been included)

The application guide is available at:

https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/canada/employment-social-development/migration/documents/assets/portfolio/docs/en/work_sharing/Work_sharing_applicant_guide.pdf

Records of Employment – Employer ROE Information

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

If Employee is sick or quarantined, - use Code D (Illness or injury)

If Employee is no longer working due to shortage of work because the business has closed or decreased operations due to COVID-19 use code A (shortage of Work)

Employees

Employment Insurance Benefits

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

EI benefits up to 15 weeks of income replacement for claimants **unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine**. The one week waiting period usually in effect for EI sickness benefits will be waived for claimants who are quarantined so they can be paid for the first week of their claim.

Regular EI Benefits

Employment Insurance (EI) provides regular benefits to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own (for example, due to shortage of work, seasonal or mass lay-offs) and are available for and able to work but can't find a job.

The link to the EI information page is:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/ei/ei-list/reports/regular-checklist.html>

Programs for those without EI Eligibility

Government of Canada

These benefits require Parliamentary approval. April 1 is the targeted date for implementation with an expectation that it will take a couple of weeks before any funds will be available to applicants.

Emergency Care Benefits

- Emergency Care Benefit of up to \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks to provide income support to workers who must stay home and do not have access to paid sick leave. This measure could provide up to \$10 billion to Canadians, and includes:
- Workers, including the self-employed, who are sick, quarantined, or who have been directed to self-isolate but do not qualify for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits.
- Workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent or other dependents who are sick, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits.
- EI-eligible and non EI-eligible working parents who must stay home without pay because of children who are sick or who need additional care because of school closures.
- Introduce an Emergency Support Benefit delivered through the Canada Revenue Agency to provide up to \$5 billion in support to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment.

Full details of this support plan are available at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Alberta Government

For more information on Emergency Isolation Support Program please visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-supports-for-albertans.aspx>

Emergency Isolation Support

- This will be a temporary program for working adult Albertans who must self-isolate because they meet the Government of Alberta's published criteria for [self-isolation](#), including persons who are the sole care-giver for a dependent who must self-isolate because they meet the public health criteria, and who will not have another source of pay or compensation while they are self-isolated.
- A one-time payment of \$1,146 will be distributed to bridge the gap until the federal emergency payments begin in April.
- We expect the program to be available through a simple online application next week and that funds will be deposited in the accounts of eligible recipients beginning at that time.

14-day Job Protected Leave

(Please note – the source of funds for this program is pending)

<https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-support-for-employers.aspx#toc-2>

The Alberta Employment Standards Code will be amended to provide a 14-day paid, job-protected leave if: (i) an employee is required to self-isolate; or (ii) an employee is sick or is caring for a loved one who has contracted COVID-19. Unlike other job protected leaves under the Code, employees will not have to be employed for 90 days or be required to provide a medical note to be eligible for this leave. The leave is intended to cover the 14-day self-isolation period required by Alberta's chief medical officer for individuals returning from travel outside of Canada.

Alberta's Social Assistance

<https://www.alberta.ca/income-support.aspx>

There are several factors that affect your eligibility for income support. If you meet these criteria, you can apply for Income Support. The process typically takes 2 weeks.