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Employment Standard Act

## Employment Insurance

- **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB), and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB).**

*NOTE: If you travelled internationally...*

The government has [announced proposed changes](#) to the eligibility criteria that may deny individuals who travelled internationally from claiming the CRB. The changes would apply to eligibility periods starting on or after January 3, 2021 (periods 8 to 26).

To ensure these important benefits provide the targeted support Canadians expect, the Government of Canada is taking immediate action to ensure all three benefits – the CRB, CRCB, and CRSB – do not incent people to disregard the clear public health advice against travelling abroad. As per The Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, retroactive to January 3, 2021, all international travellers who need to quarantine upon return to Canada, including people returning from vacation, visiting loved ones, and attending to real estate matters abroad, will not be eligible to receive support from any of the Canada Recovery Benefits for the period of their mandatory quarantine. Individuals who are exempt from the mandatory quarantine requirements under the *Quarantine Act*, such as health care workers who need to cross the border for work, will be eligible to apply following their return to the country.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will update the application process for the three recovery benefits on Monday, January 11. For claims covering a period beginning on or after January 3, 2021, applicants will need to indicate whether they were self-isolating or in quarantine due to international travel. Over the coming weeks, the CRA will delay processing claims for individuals who are self-isolating or in quarantine because of international travel until the legislative process is complete to ensure those who receive the benefit meet the latest eligibility criteria.

- [Government of Canada to ensure that international travellers cannot access recovery benefits during mandatory quarantine - Canada.ca](#)
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/01/placeholder.html>

- **Employment Insurance - Feds Waiving 1-Week Waiting Period** - The federal government is temporarily waiving a one-week waiting period for employment insurance benefits.

The decision essentially means that applicants will be able to start their claims and receive benefits immediately should they apply for aid **starting Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>**. The rules are set to be in place **until Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>** which is when a number of temporary EI measures and three recovery benefits are scheduled to expire.

In response to the increase in people needing support, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, announced Jan 29<sup>th</sup> EI regulations will be amended to temporarily waive the waiting period for EI claimants who establish a new claim between January 31, 2021 and September 25, 2021. This includes claimants of regular EI, fishing and special benefits like maternity and parental leave.

[Government of Canada temporarily waives the one-week waiting period for Employment Insurance claims - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/public/government-of-canada-temporarily-waives-the-one-week-waiting-period-for-employment-insurance-claims-2020-12-29)

- **CERB To EI & Recovery & Sickness Benefits...**

CERB ended and support evolved to a flexible and more accessible EI program, starting September 27, 2020, as originally announced on August 20, 2020.

The government had already waived the waiting period for EI sickness claims established on or after Sept. 27, 2020 for a period of one year.

As a result of these temporary measures, EI will now be available to more Canadians, including those who would not have qualified for EI in the past, supporting an additional 400,000 people through the program. Canadians receiving EI are eligible for a taxable benefit at a rate of at least \$500 per week, or \$300 per week for extended parental benefits. Canadians claiming EI benefits for job loss would be eligible for at least 26 weeks. Returning to the EI program will allow claimants to benefit from the Working While on Claim rules. These rules allow claimants to keep receiving part of their EI benefits and all their earnings from work. In addition, employers will once again be able to make use of registered Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) plans to provide support to employees.

The EI program will also allow Canadians with 120 hours of insurable work or more to qualify by providing a temporary, one-time credit of 300 insurable hours for those claiming EI regular and work-sharing benefits. Canadians claiming EI special benefits – including maternity, parental, sickness, compassionate care, and family caregiver – will be provided with a temporary, one-time credit of 480 insurable hours.

In light of the continuing pandemic, the waiting period will be waived for EI sickness benefit claimants to encourage compliance with public health measures. The requirement to provide a medical certificate will also be waived for all sickness claimants. Service Canada will retain the ability to request evidence of sickness for integrity purposes

[Flexible, more accessible EI system to help support Canadians through the next phase of the recovery - Canada.ca](#)

- **Q&A** [Questions and Answers about Canada Recovery Benefits - Canada.ca](#)