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CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT

This week Prime Minister Trudeau has announced that the Canada Emergency Response Benefit has been extended for an additional 8 weeks, for a total benefit period of 24 weeks. Details may be found on the Government of Canada website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html> which notes that the benefit is available for workers who:

- Reside in Canada and are at least 15 years old
- Stopped working for reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits or have exhausted their EI regular benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3 2020.
- Have not quit their job voluntarily
- Had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application.

For the first claim submitted you cannot have earned more than \$1000 in employment and /or self-employment income for 14 or more consecutive days within the four-week benefit period of your claim.

For subsequent claims, you cannot have earned more than \$1000 in employment and/or self-employment income for the entire four-week period of your new claim.

New Contact Tracing App

Federal funding has been directed toward creation of a new cellphone app that will alert Canadians if they have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Ontario will start testing the app first but access will be available to everyone in coming weeks.