

## EMPLOYMENT COVID-19 Information for Members

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic is impacting employment for an unprecedented number of people across the country. Below is a summary of available supports you may find helpful.

### El-Qualifying Layoff

Apply for EI as normal if you are laid-off for non-medical reasons

- Need 700 hours work in past year
- Record of Employment (ROE) required
- Pays up to \$573/week
- First 4 months, you will receive Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)
- If you are already receiving EI, benefits continue as before
- If you are receiving EI and benefits end before Oct 3, you can apply for CERB.

### All Other Work Disruptions

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is available if you:

- Don't qualify for EI
- Are self-isolating or have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Are caring for family due to their illness or school closures.

#### Canada Emergency Response Benefit

- \$2,000/month for 4 months
- Apply online, by birth month: January – March on Mondays, April – June on Tuesdays, July – September on Wednesdays, October – December on Thursdays. Any birth month can apply Fridays – Sundays.
- Work impacted from March 15 to October 3, 2020 qualifies
- Monthly payments received as early as 10 days after applying.

#### OEBP & COVID-19 Diagnosis

Whether you are laid-off or are taking time off work because you contract COVID-19, you apply for and will collect CERB as above. If you are not laid-off and are away from work due to a COVID-19 diagnosis (or any other health reason), you must also contact the Plan office to request the appropriate disability forms at **604-291-8831** or **1-800-486-3115** or by email at [iuoe@iuoe115.ca](mailto:iuoe@iuoe115.ca). If the forms are not filed within 30 days of leaving work for health reasons (date of disability), you risk your disability claim being denied. See the OEBP for full details.

#### Worksafe BC

- If you contracted COVID-19 at work, you may be able to make a claim through Worksafe BC. Call **1-888-967-5377** for more information.

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS COVID-19 Information for Members

### Supporting Your Mental Health

- Members can access 12, one-hour sessions with mental health or financial management professionals through your Employee and Family Member Benefits from Homewood Health. Contact **1-800-663-1142** or **homewoodhealth.com**.
- For the duration of the pandemic, your family can access up to \$2,000 in psychologist, counselling and psychiatric support through Pacific Blue Cross. Submit receipts as normal.

### Easing Cashflow Challenges

- Through Community Savings, members can access loans of up to \$2,500 interest free for six months, mortgage deferrals, and free monthly service fees
- Deadline to file income tax return extended to June 1 and payment deadline to September 1
- Many banks will allow you to defer mortgage payments by up to six months
- New BC Emergency Benefit of \$1,000 tax free for people whose employment is impacted
- BC Climate Change Tax Credit will be raised to up to \$218 per adult and \$64 per child, payable in July
- BC Hydro bills may be deferred up to six months
- Student loan payments are deferred until September 30, 2020
- ICBC monthly payments may be deferred up to 90 days without penalty. Visit **icbc.com** or call **604-661-2723** or **1-800-665-6442**. Note driver's license and auto insurance renewals can now be done online or by phone.
- BC has placed a moratorium on evictions and mandated a rent freeze until the provincial State of Emergency has been lifted.

### Supporting Seniors

- Seniors looking for someone to help with errands like grocery shopping can now call **211** to get matched with a volunteer in their area. Want to volunteer? Call **211** or visit **BC211.ca**.

### Beware of Scams

- Don't reveal personal or financial information in response to unsolicited calls, texts or emails
- Change passwords regularly
- Monitor bank accounts and credit cards for unusual activity
- Contact police if you think you've been targeted.