

# Trustees of The Plumbing and Pipefitting Workers' Benefit Plans United Association Local 67

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April 21, 2020

Dear Member:

**RE: Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)  
EI Emergency Response Benefit (EI-ERB)  
and Supplementary Unemployment Benefits (SUB)**

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As you are aware, the federal government established the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) to support workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CERB covers Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19. In addition, workers who are still employed but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19 also qualify for the CERB.

Whether you make your application for benefits through Service Canada for EI or through Canada Revenue Agency for CERB, the federal government will make the determination on which type of benefit payment you will receive. In other words, you may have made your application for EI Benefits, but the federal government may automatically convert your claim to CERB benefits.

How does this impact the SUB Plan?

Currently the CERB benefit and the EI-Emergency Response Benefit (EI-ERB) are not integrated with SUB Plans. As a result, there is no legislation that will permit any SUB Plan in Canada to top up CERB payments. The Board of Trustees is bound by the federal government's rules and failure to comply will result in the SUB Plan being de-registered by Service Canada and dissolved. When your CERB or EI-ERB claim reverts back to a regular unemployment or sick claim, you will be able to receive SUB Benefits, providing you meet all the normal eligibility requirements under the Plan.

There are many organizations lobbying on behalf of members who belong to a SUB Plan to hopefully persuade the federal government to change the current legislation that would allow SUB Plans like Local 67 to be able to pay SUB Benefits to its members who are receiving CERB / EI-ERB Benefits. Rest assured that the Board of Trustees is monitoring this closely on your behalf and if and when this is permissible, the SUB Plan will start making benefit payments on the CERB as soon as it is legally possible.

Yours truly,  
The Board of Trustees

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