



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From the Office of Karen Vecchio, MP, Elgin-Middlesex-London**

**MEDIA ADVISORY: Updated Information Regarding Economic Stability Measures for Individuals and Businesses**

**March 26, 2020**

**ST. THOMAS, ON** – Today, Karen Vecchio, MP for Elgin-Middlesex-London released the attached updated information regarding economic supports for individuals and businesses in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

In particular, she highlights details around the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit, as outlined below.

MP Vecchio welcomes any media inquiries or interview requests to further discuss the government's response to the outbreak.

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**Canada Emergency Response Benefit:**

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is a new taxable benefit that combines the Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

Applicants must have had \$5,000 in employment income, self-employment income, or maternity or parental leave benefits in 2019 or in the 12-month period proceeding the day you make the application.

It will provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic including:

- People sick with COVID-19 and those caring for people sick with COVID-19
- People who are in quarantine due to COVID-19
- Those who have lost their job due to COVID-19
- Working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures.
- Wage earners, contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for EI
- Workers who are still employed but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation due to COVID-19.

**The CERB will be accessible through a secure web portal starting in early April. Applicants will also be able to apply via an automated telephone line or via a toll-free number.**

Canadians who have already applied for EI they do not need to reapply for the CERB. Their claim will be automatically moved over to the CERB, and benefits will be paid from this program first.

Canadians must apply online through a CRA account ( <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html>) or Service Canada account ( <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/my-account.html>) Phone numbers for CERB-related support will be available soon.

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