

Updated: Tuesday 14 April

PLEASE NOTE: Information continues to change and be updated as new details are announced.

Covid-19 Finances - Where to Start:

This CRA website offers links for both individuals and businesses. The CRA site is worth bookmarking.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Understanding the Federal Government Support Options:

The Federal Government is supporting churches and individuals using many options.

Temporary Wage Subsidy: Churches can receive a 10% wage subsidy of up to \$1,375/employee to a maximum of \$25,000/employer between 18 March and 19 June. This is offered as a payroll tax credit to the employer and does not impact the employee. ALL CHURCHES SHOULD APPLY. (This subsidy can also be claimed at year end.)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/frequently-asked-questions-wage-subsidy-small-businesses.html#h1>

Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS): Federal government announced a new 75% wage subsidy between 15 March and 6 June The new CEWS can be used for 12 weeks to a maximum of \$847/week per employee. Revenue must drop 15% in March, or 30% in April or May periods compared to last year. (government pays 75% + up to 25% church = up to 100% salary)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>

Work-Sharing Program: This program is now extended to non-profits. It allows a reduction of employee hours to share hours with other employees to reduce layoffs. The work-share employees can receive up to 60% of their wage under EI in addition to their reduced wages. Minimum 6 weeks to maximum of 76 weeks. For example, two employees share one job working 50% each. Employer pays 50% wage and both employees will claim the other 50% from EI. Under EI, they will receive 55% of wages due. The net result is 77.5% of the normal salary.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus/employers-factsheet.html#15>

If you are considering layoffs:

Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan: If you plan to lay off staff, the church can top up the EI benefit to a maximum of 95% of salary. The ONMB has registered a SUB Plan on behalf of its Ontario churches. (government EI pays 55% + up to 40% church =up to 95% salary)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/ei/ei-list/reports/supplemental-unemployment-benefit/requirements.html>

Employment Insurance: Under EI, a person can receive 55% of their income. The maximum EI benefit is \$573/week (about \$2,292/month) for employees who made \$54,200/yr or more. If making more than \$47,272/yr, a person receives more from EI than from CERB (See below).

Also, IE benefits can last from 14-45 weeks depending on employment.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit.html>

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB): The government will offer \$500/week for up to 16 weeks to assist unemployed people who may or may not qualify for EI. People can claim CERB instead of EI for 4 months and then access EI after the 4 months.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application/questions.html>