



**NLTA Update for Substitute Teachers**  
**Additional Information re: Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**  
**March 31, 2020**

As per the NLTA memo of March 26<sup>th</sup>, all Canadians who have ceased working due to COVID-19 response measures, whether they qualify for Employment Insurance (EI) or not, will be able to receive the CERB if they meet eligibility criteria. NLTA staff has been in contact with the EI Commissioner for Workers to seek clarity on a number of points. Some questions remain unanswered but, as regulations are finalized, we expect to have more information to share with members. The following update is a supplement to the March 26<sup>th</sup> memo and is based on new or additional information obtained since that date.

Individuals can qualify for the CERB if they had at least \$5,000 in employment income, self-employment income, or EI maternity or parental benefits during 2019 or in the 12-month period preceding their date of application. Also, at the time of application, the applicant must have no income from any of the referenced sources or any other income as prescribed by the regulations. *Unfortunately, this means that members in part-time contracts and/or who continue to receive some income from short term substituting contracts will not be eligible for the CERB.* Those teachers may still qualify for regular EI benefits if they have the required hours and their earnings do not exceed the usual EI threshold amount in any particular benefit week.

Members who qualify for regular EI benefits should apply for those EI benefits now and will be automatically assessed for the CERB, which may provide up to 16 weeks of financial support (it is not necessary to apply for CERB separately). If the member is still unemployed when CERB supports end, EI should take over automatically. In other words, members who are EI eligible only need to apply once through the normal EI application process. Also, the Commissioner noted that EI eligible applicants who submitted applications before March 15<sup>th</sup> will receive the usual EI benefit levels and will not be considered for the CERB.

The Association continues to lobby for enhanced financial relief for members who substitute, at both the provincial and federal levels, including advocating for enhanced EI benefits through:

- expanding the maximum weeks of eligibility for regular EI benefits;
- decreasing the number of insurable hours required for eligibility; and,
- increasing income thresholds for those who still have part-time employment income during the suspension of regular classes.

Further updates will be communicated as new information becomes available.

Substitute teachers with specific questions regarding their individual circumstances should contact an NLTA Administrative Officer via email at [mail@nlta.nl.ca](mailto:mail@nlta.nl.ca).