



NLTA Update for Substitute Teachers: Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) Extended

June 17, 2020

The purpose of this message is to make substitute teachers, including part-time teachers who substitute, aware of a recent announcement from the federal government regarding changes to CERB payments. While this news provides welcome relief for some members, the Association recognizes that it will not fully address the concerns of all. The NLTA continues to lobby and advocate at both the federal and provincial levels for additional financial support for teachers who substitute. In addition, the Association has issued a [Call To Action](#) asking all members to email their respective [MHAs](#) and [MPs](#) in support of financial aid for our substitute teachers. Member participation in this action is essential.

The CERB currently provides taxable payments of \$2000 per month, for up to 4 months (16 weeks). With the extension, those payments will be available for an additional 2 months (8 weeks) for those who continue to meet the eligibility criteria. At this time, the [Eligibility Criteria](#) appear to be unchanged however, applicants will be required to sign an attestation, expected to be available by July 5th, acknowledging that the government is encouraging CERB recipients to look for work. A job search limited to K-12 teaching opportunities during a non-teaching period (such as the summer months) would disqualify a member for regular EI benefits during “normal” times. Likewise, members in receipt of CERB payments during the summer non-teaching period should be prepared to extend their job search to areas outside of K-12 teaching during that time.

These changes should assist CERB eligible NLTA members whose benefits would have otherwise ended as early as the start of July and which may now continue until the end of August (or later depending on when an individual started receiving CERB benefits). The Association understands the uncertainty and concerns around what September will look like for substitute teachers. Proposals for further supports have been brought forward to the federal and provincial governments and, as noted above, advocacy efforts are ongoing. The recent [Call To Action](#) asks all members to engage their [MHAs](#) and [MPs](#) in seeking measures to ensure financial security for substitute teachers and to protect access to the essential support they provide for the public education system.

Members with specific questions regarding their individual circumstances should contact an NLTA Administrative Officer at mail@nlta.nl.ca.