

# RECOVERY BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM

## CANADA RECOVERY BENEFITS

- On July 18, 2021 the government rolled back recovery benefits. Temporary EI pandemic provisions that increased accessibility ended. The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) was reduced by 40% from \$500 per week (\$450 after taxes) to \$300 per week (\$270 after taxes).
- All recovery benefits will expire October 23, 2021.
- Some of the most vulnerable workers – people with precarious immigration status, migrant workers, or workers without a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN) did not qualify for benefits.
- 63% of those who accessed the CRB earned \$20,000 or less.
- There has been consistent confusion with eligibility rules.

*Adequate and ongoing support for workers who need it the most is key to an inclusive recovery!*

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Ask candidates to support extending CERB repayment amnesty to all low-income people including the working poor, social assistance recipients, and seniors.

Ask candidates to support retroactively excluding CERB from GIS calculations so low-income seniors keep their benefits.

Ask candidates to commit to income supports to the end of the pandemic at an adequate rate.

## CANADA EMERGENCY RESPONSE BENEFIT (CERB)

- Some social assistance recipients were encouraged to apply for CERB by their caseworkers, even if they were ineligible.
- Social assistance recipients did not experience the full benefit of CERB (or the CRB) because of clawbacks.
- On February 19, 2021, the government announced that self-employed individuals who qualified based on gross income calculations would not have to repay CERB and that anyone with less than \$75,000 taxable income would have one year of interest relief.
- Low-income people, including those on social assistance and the working poor, did not receive repayment amnesty even though they experienced similar eligibility confusion.
- Eligibility for CERB changed several times, and some employers did not produce documentation to prove income for eligibility.
- In July 2021, some low-income seniors who accessed CERB unexpectedly lost or had their Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) reduced because of the temporary income increase from CERB.

*Asking people on low-incomes to repay up to \$14,000 of CERB or to lose other benefits will keep people in poverty for years to come.*

