

QUICK TIPS ABOUT CANADIAN AND QUÉBEC COVID-19 FINANCIAL PROGRAMS!

**(prepared May 1, 2020—always check the
government websites for the most
accurate information!)**



GENERAL GUIDANCE

- You do not have to supply documents when applying for government support, you just have to attest you're eligible.
- Invigilator (or other worker) who has been laid off? Ask for your Record of Employment from your McGill unit's HR!
- Medical certificates are not required for Employment Insurance and many other government programs, as of March 15.



GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Government top-ups (like the IPREW and the CERB) can be taxed.
- When calculating taxable income, review everything to make sure you're reporting accurate info—this includes funding!
- When you file your taxes next year (Tax Year 2020), if it appears you weren't eligible, you may need to repay the aid.



GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Programs like the IPREW and CERB are not welfare, so will not be considered on a visa application (ie for permanent residency), but always consult a lawyer and/or a government official for the most accurate information



GENERAL GUIDANCE

- **ALWAYS** check government websites for the most accurate, up-to-date information!

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

<https://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/relief-measures-for-individuals-and-businesses/>



INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO RETAIN ESSENTIAL WORKERS (IPREW):

- The IPREW is a Québec program for those who must keep working (or still have their jobs) in essential sectors, but are working low-paying jobs.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO RETAIN ESSENTIAL WORKERS (IPREW):

General eligibility guidelines:

- You're not also receiving CERB for the same week
- You work in an essential service sector;
- You earn gross wages of \$550 or less per week and have an annual employment income of at least \$5,000 for 2020;
- You have a total annual income of no more than \$28,600 for 2020;
- You're at least 15 years old;
- You've been resident in Québec on December 31, 2019, and plan to reside in Québec throughout 2020.
- International students **are** eligible, but must meet the above criteria

INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO RETAIN ESSENTIAL WORKERS (IPREW):

Other things to know:

- Essential services include workers in online higher education, union activities, and many community support programs.
- Not sure if you're in essential services?
Check out:
<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/essential-services-commercial-activities-covid19/>
- Apply online through Revenu Québec's MyAccount starting May 19, 2020



INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO RETAIN ESSENTIAL WORKERS (IPREW):

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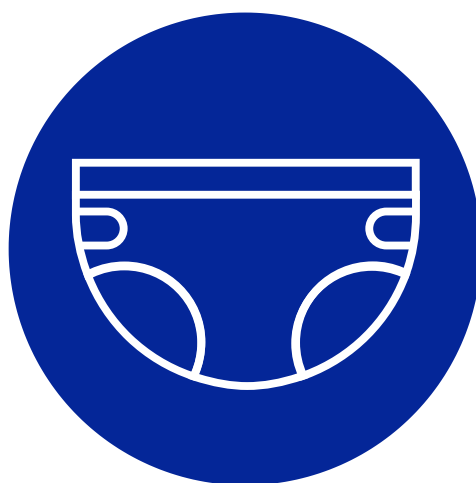
CERB

- The Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) is for those who have lost their jobs.
- CERB provides \$500/week for up to 16 weeks.
- You can apply for CERB either through Service Canada or the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)—either option is fine.

CERB:

General eligibility guidelines:

- You should be living in Canada
- You are at least 15 years old
- You have stopped working because of COVID-19 (who have not voluntarily quit your job)
- You had income of at least \$5,000 (earned inside or outside of Canada) in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- You earned less than \$1,000 for at least 14 consecutive days within the your 4-week claim
- International students are eligible, but must meet the above criteria



CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

- The Canadian government is adding increases to the Canada Child Benefit (\$300 more per child for 2019-2020)
- If you have already applied, great! You'll get that addition automatically.
- You can apply online through MyAccount (Federal Government)

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

Eligibility Guidelines:

- You live with a child who is under 18
- You are primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of the child
- You are a resident of Canada for tax purposes
- You are OR have a spouse/common-law partner that is ANY of the following: a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, a protected person, a temporary resident who has lived in Canada for the previous 18 months (and who has a valid permit in the 19th month) an Indigenous person who meets the definition of "Indian" under the Indian Act

CANADA CHILD BENEFIT

Important note about applying:

- When both a female and male parent live in the same home as a child, the female parent is usually considered to be primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of the child. She should be the one applying for the CCB. However, if the male parent is primarily responsible, he should apply and attach a signed letter from the female parent stating that he is the parent who is primarily responsible for all the children in the home.



RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

- A Record of Employment (RoE) is an official document issued by the employer that provides a history of your employment. It includes the length of time you worked and your total earnings.
- Since McGill is not automatically issuing RoEs to invigilators, we recommend that you ask your supervisor for one, even if you do not intend to apply for EI or an emergency benefit.



RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

- RoEs can be used to apply for Employment Insurance (EI).
- While many emergency support programs (like CERB) are prioritizing getting emergency funds out to applicants over checking eligibility, in the future applicants may need to provide additional proof of need (such as a RoE) if they are audited.

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

To request an RoE, contact local HR:

- For Enrolment Services, H el ene Fyfe
(helene.fyfe@mcgill.ca)
- For OSD, Willa Anderson,
(wila.anderson@mcgill.ca)
- For SPOT, Nursing, and the Faculty of
Medicine, Emilie Houle and Maryam Nabi
(hr.aec11@mcgill.ca)
- For Desautels Faculty of Management,
Yvonne Ng, yvonne.ng@mcgill.ca
- For the School of Continuing Studies,
Kathy-Ann Sendeck
(kathy-ann.sendeck@mcgill.ca)
- For the Schulich School of Music, Tracy
Roach (tracy.roach@mcgill.ca)

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

- If you are unsure of who to contact for your invigilator unit, you can always reach out directly to your invigilator supervisor for the name and email address of the HR advisor for their department.

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

Should I have a Record of Employment if I was appointed for final exams but didn't sign an employment contract and didn't work a shift?

- Yes. "Appointed", "selected", "assigned"—whatever word your hiring unit uses, what they mean is "hired". If you received notice that your application was successful, you have been hired. The contract is required by the CA to define the terms of working conditions, but it doesn't initiate employment.
- McGill is not automatically issuing Records of Employment to invigilators, but you must be given a Record of Employment if you request one.

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

Was I terminated as an Invigilator?

- Yes, all Invigilators have been collectively dismissed. When you request a Record of Employment, your status as an employee in McGill's system will reflect that your employment contract was terminated. It should note the reason for termination, and it should specify that it was related to COVID-19.

QUESTIONS?

Questions relating to your TA or Invigilator position? Reach out to us!

- **mail@agsem-aedem.ca**

General questions about government programs? Check the websites!

- **<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>**
- **<https://www.revenuquebec.ca/en/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/relief-measures-for-individuals-and-businesses/>**