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TO: Local 46 Membership
DATE: April 9, 2020
RE: COVID-19 Financial Assistance

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Local 46 continues to closely monitor the impact of COVID-19 and its impact on our membership. In an effort to ensure that all members have access to the financial assistance being made available by the Government of Canada, we provide the following update on the recently announced Canada Emergency Response Benefit ("CERB").

On March 25, 2020, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act* (the "CERA") received royal assent. Under CERA, Parliament introduced the CERB. The CERB replaced the previously announced Emergency Support Benefit and the Emergency Care Benefit.

The CERB is an income support benefit payable to workers who are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19, including but not limited to the following circumstances:

- You have been let go from your job or have been laid off from your job;
- You are in quarantine, or are sick due to COVID-19, or are caring for others who are in quarantine or are sick; and
- You are away from work caring for children or other dependents whose care facility is closed due to COVID-19

All applications for regular EI benefits filed on or after March 15, 2020 will automatically be processed as applications for the CERB. The CERB is payable for up to 16 weeks and pays a monthly benefit of \$2000. If, upon exhausting CERB, a worker meets the eligibility criteria for regular EI benefits, the work may then begin to receive regular EI benefits and receipt of the CERB does not impact EI entitlement.

In order to be eligible for CERB, a member must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Resident of Canada and be at least 15 years old;
- Stopped working because of COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits;

- Had income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and
- Are or expect to be without employment or self-employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period. For subsequent benefit periods, they expect to have no employment or self-employment income.

In order to apply for the CERB, go to the following website:

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

A member is not able to collect the CERB and receive “income from employment.” Although payments made from SUB plans to members in receipt of EI benefits are deemed not to be “income from employment”, there is no similar provision in respect of the CERB. As a result, a SUB payment (or a payment from any other fund) made to a member in receipt of the CERB may result in the Government of Canada clawing back the benefit from the member. Local 46 believes that this omission was an oversight and is actively lobbying the Government to address this issue and help support our members now when they need it most. Local 46 will provide further updates on this as they become available.

We encourage all members to take advantage of the financial assistance being made available by the Government of Canada. In addition, it is also important to create your personal Service Canada account online. This will enable you to access your Record of Employment(s) and for use when you apply for benefit.

As always, please contact us with any concerns or if you require any assistance accessing available benefits.

Fraternally,



Robert Brooker
Business Manager
United Association, Local 46

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