**DELIVERED VIA EMAIL**

To: Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca; Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca

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Dear Ministers,

While the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has provided much-needed support to millions of Canadians in a short amount of time, thousands of workers are facing a glaring loophole that is short-changing them from receiving additional income assistance from their employers.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in Canada have access to Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) payments when they are on layoff. These special, employer-paid benefit “top-ups” have already been negotiated and accessed during pre-pandemic layoff situations and can provide hundreds of dollars per week, to help offset a worker’s loss of income.

Unfortunately, CERB rules deny workers these SUB payments. Currently, workers may be able to earn an additional $1000 in income while on CERB, but this change does not help workers on disability or sick leave – people who are, arguably, even more vulnerable during these uncertain times.

Minister, there is a simple fix to this problem that will stop denying workers access to supplemental income plans:

1. Deem both the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and the EI Emergency Response Benefit as benefits for the purpose of section 37 of Employment Insurance Regulation (SOR/96-332); and
2. Confirm that Supplemental Unemployment Benefit plan payments are not considered earnings for the purpose of the EI Emergency Response Benefit.

I urge you to use the power of your office to make the necessary regulatory adjustments to unlock these critical SUB plan supports for workers. Many Canadian employers are imploring you to do the same.

I look forward to a positive response.

Sincerely,

*YOUR NAME HERE*