



Canadian Dance Assembly  
L'Assemblée canadienne de la danse

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### Highlights of the Speech from the Throne

The federal government highlighted its priorities for Canada's economic recovery plan through its Speech from the Throne last week. CDA was pleased to hear promises to support the performing arts, take new steps to support the artistic contributions of Black Canadians, invest in a national early learning and child care system and develop an Action Plan for Women in the Economy.

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be extended until summer 2021 and the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) will be expanded to help with fixed costs. More information about these programs will be available in an updated COVID-19 economic recovery plan expected in November.

### COVID-19 Emergency Benefits Move into Recovery

The Government of Canada has moved forward on its promise to create or modify their [COVID-19 benefits](#).

As reported last month, there will be a new benefit to replace CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit). The new **Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB)** will provide \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who are self-employed or are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and who still require income support. Of note, unlike the CERB program, the limits on allowable income have been changed. Recipients are allowed up to \$38,000 for 2020 or for 2021 after which recipients must repay 50 cents for every dollar of income earned in that year above \$38,000 up to the total amount of Canada recovery benefits received by them in the year. And, to clarify, income from self-employment is revenue from the self-employment less expenses incurred to earn that revenue (i.e. net income not gross). This program is expected to launch shortly once it passes all legislative hurdles this month.

The **Employment Insurance Program (EI)** has been simplified. Changes include lowering the qualifying hours of work to a minimum of 120 hours, a one-time insurable hours credit that can be made retroactive to March 15<sup>th</sup> for claimants who couldn't establish their EI claim due to insufficient hours, and a minimum benefit of \$500 before taxes.

For Canadians who cannot work because they need to provide care or support for a child, family member, or dependent, the **Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit** will provide \$500 per week, for up to 26 weeks per household over 1 year.

A new **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit** will be available for those unable to work because they are sick or have to self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19 in the amount of \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for one year.

More details will become available once the programs are passed by Parliament which is expected shortly.



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### **Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**

Several changes to this program were announced in July to make the program more inclusive. Beginning with the July 5 claim period, the 30% reduction threshold has been eliminated so that eligible employers who have experienced a reduction in revenue qualify for a base subsidy depending on the amount of the drop. And, employees who were unpaid for 14 or more days can now be included in the calculation. For more information about how to apply, [read HERE.](#)