



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Daniel Blaikie*

Member of Parliament  
Elmwood–Transcona

Honourable Carla Qualtrough  
Employment and Social Development Canada  
142 Prom. du Portage  
Gatineau, QC J8X 2K3

Honourable William Morneau  
Department of Finance Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Ministers Qualtrough and Morneau,

As you know, there are many public and private workplaces across Canada that have negotiated Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) plans. The normal 55% income replacement under Employment Insurance (EI) often leaves workers unable to cover their usual bills. SUB plans were set up to provide additional income replacement to workers in hard times. They also preserve the link between employers and employees during those times, in some cases preserving health and other supplementary benefits as well.

These plans are negotiated by workers as part of their wage package. These benefits are not a handout. They are a contractual obligation.

There is no question that these are hard times for many workers all over the country. It is a time when workers with SUB plans should be able to count on them to weather the storm, but policy decisions of your government are standing in the way.

In particular, we call on your government (1) to deem the CERB an Employment Insurance benefit in such a way as to satisfy the conditions of SUB plans, and (2) to confirm that SUB plan payments will not be considered earnings that would disqualify workers from receiving benefits that they would otherwise be entitled to.

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We know you are aware of this issue, as we have all raised it with you or your government in some way over the past several weeks. We have each, in turn, been reassured by various officials, right up to and including the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion herself, that we could expect a solution promptly.

The government already has the legislative authority required to make the change. It is now only a question of political will.

These people have already waited too long to receive the benefits they worked for. We look forward to hearing what day you will enact the changes necessary to allow these workers to access their benefits.

Yours Truly,



Daniel Blaikie, M.P.  
Elmwood–Transcona



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National Director for Canada  
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