

April 16, 2020

Office of the President & Managing Director
1908 Colonel Sam Drive
Oshawa, ON L1H 8P7

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development
and Disability Inclusion
Employment and Social Development Canada
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0J9

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

As we continue to work through this unprecedented time, your government has made some swift actions to support Canadians in the fight against COVID-19. The emergency income assistance programs launched have addressed the backlog in Employment Insurance (EI) claims; however we believe they have unintentionally negated a company's ability to pay Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) to certain affected employees who receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) instead of EI.

Currently, an employee must be in receipt of EI in order to be eligible for SUB benefit payments. Service Canada has advised that GM Canada should not pay any SUB top-up amount to GM Canada employees who have received CERB because it does not qualify as EI.

We would like to pay employees these SUB benefits and are therefore requesting that the new temporary income replacement programs, such as CERB, be considered equivalent to EI for the purposes of enabling SUB benefits to be paid.

We are open to further discussions and alternative approaches to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Scott Bell