



The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez
Government House Leader
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

September 3, 2020

Dear Minister Rodriguez,

I am writing to you regarding the recent changes your government has announced for Canadians transitioning from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit to Employment Insurance.

I understand that CERB will end on September 27, just days after the scheduled Speech from the Throne. As a consequence, it is almost certain that programs the government has promised to enact to provide much needed income supports to Canadians will not yet be in place when CERB ends.

Canadians are worried about paying their bills, a possible second wave of COVID-19, and the return to work and school. It is completely unacceptable to add to this uncertainty.


While this matter could well have been dealt with in August had the government not shut down Parliament by proroguing, there is still another path forward. To that end I am writing to request that Parliament be recalled early, with a Throne Speech, to allow

legislation to be put forward, debated, and ultimately put in place prior to the conclusion of CERB. Barring this, CERB should be extended until such a time as the programs aimed at replacing it are actually in place and those who rely on CERB can be assured the necessary time to access them.

Canadians shouldn't have to wait yet again.

I should also take this opportunity to remind you that while we welcomed some details of the changes that have been announced, such as progress on paid sick leave, we are very concerned that the measures are temporary. We were also disappointed to see a 20 per cent cut to support levels as a consequence of these changes. This cut will have a significant impact on people who are already struggling to get by in the pandemic.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Julian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and the last name "Julian" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Julian, M.P.
New Westminster - Burnaby
New Democratic Party House Leader

Cc:

Hon. Pablo Rodriguez, P.C., M.P.

G rard Deltell, M.P.

Alain Therrien, M.P.