

To:

The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage (hon.steven.guilbeault@canada.ca)

The Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance (Bill.Morneau@canada.ca)

The Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion (Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca)

Re: I urge the federal government to make the CERB program more widely available

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a concerned Canadian struggling to cope with the added demands of life during a pandemic, I sympathize with workers who don't have a stable living wage.

The challenges are amplified for workers in the media industry, where precarious temporary and part-time workers now make up 25% of the workforce. One out of every four workers, including at the CBC, is in a temporary job, many struggling to make ends meet at the best of times. During this historic public health crisis, many are in dire financial need.

The random nature of the available work renders many precarious workers ineligible for the emergency relief offered by the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) program. I urge you to expand the program so that more media workers are able to benefit.

A small change to the eligibility criteria would bring much-needed relief and support to many talented, creative, hard-working media workers. A fair and easily adopted change to the eligibility policy would be to top-up salaries of applicants to the \$2,000 limit, regardless of how many hours they work.

I urge you to consider the positive impact this could have on one of Canada's essential industries, where workers continue risking their personal health and safety to keep Canadians abreast of critical news at this historic time.

Sincerely,