



Fair, safe and productive workplaces

## Wage Earner Protection Program

# A new program to protect workers' wages!

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## What is it?

The Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP) is a Government of Canada program that provides timely payment of eligible wages owing to workers who lost their job because their employer has gone bankrupt or became subject to receivership. Eligible wages under the Program include salaries, commissions, vacation pay, termination pay and severance pay.

## Who is eligible?

**Any worker who meets all of the following criteria can apply:**

- Your employment has ended;
- Your former employer is declared bankrupt or is subject to a receivership; and
- You are owed eligible wages for the six month period ending on the date of the bankruptcy or receivership.\*

When your former employer formally declares bankruptcy or becomes subject to receivership under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*, a licensed trustee or receiver will manage the bankruptcy or receivership.

## How does it work?

- The trustee or receiver assigned to manage the bankruptcy or receivership will provide you with information on the Program and on any amounts you are owed.
- You should file a proof of claim with the trustee or receiver as soon as possible. A proof of claim is a written statement that you submit indicating the amount you believe you are owed. The trustee or receiver can help you complete the proof of claim statement.

\* For termination and severance pay your employment must have ended in the 6 month period prior to the bankruptcy or receivership.

- You must then submit your application for payment to Service Canada by completing the application form found online at the following address: [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca). If you do not wish to apply online, you can obtain a paper application form at your nearest Service Canada Centre.

### Trustees and receivers have the responsibility to:

- Identify workers who are owed wages;
- Determine the amounts owed to workers;
- Inform workers of the existence of the WEPP; and
- Provide Service Canada and applicants with information necessary to establish eligibility for payment.

Applications must be submitted to Service Canada within 56 days of the date of bankruptcy or receivership. Extensions may be granted for good reason if supported by adequate written documentation.

## How much will I receive?

The maximum amount you can receive under the program is an amount equalling four weeks' maximum insurable earnings under the *Employment Insurance Act* (currently \$3,323), less amounts that are prescribed by WEPP regulations.

## How do I get more information?

For further information on the Wage Earner Protection Program or on the status of your application please call the Service Canada dedicated information line:  
Toll-free: **1-866-683-6516**  
(TTY: **1-800-926-9105**), or visit the Service Canada Web site [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) or the Labour Program Web site [www.labour.gc.ca](http://www.labour.gc.ca).

*When inquiring about the status of your application you will need to provide your Social Insurance Number.*