

Government of  
Northwest Territories

May 30, 2023

JACKIE JACOBSON  
MLA, NUNAKPUT**Oral Question 1492-19(2) Income Assistance**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on March 29, 2023, regarding the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) recoveries. During our exchange, I committed to identify what we can do to stop recoveries for CERB.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has advised that in March 2020, they took steps to exempt the CERB payments from benefit computation for Income Assistance (IA) applicants. In October 2020, Canada transferred CERB applicants to the Employment Insurance (EI) program, and introduced Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB), Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), and Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB).

I understand that ECE followed up with communication to all IA clients informing them that CRB, CRCB, CRSB and CWLB would be included in assessments and must be declared upon application for IA. While there are some residents who did not declare income under these categories, their files are being reviewed per IA Regulations Section 16 (1) (d1).

I have been informed that ECE is carefully analyzing each case and making every effort not to deny applications for failure to declare income; however, this is appreciating that decisions must factor in compliance with the IA Regulations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Cochrane".

Caroline Cochrane

Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs