*[Your business logo if applicable]*

*[Date]*

The Honourable Bill Morneau, MP

Minister of Finance

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent by email to: [Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Morneau,

I first want to acknowledge the extensive work being done at the Department of Finance in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

*[Paragraph 1- Insert your story]*

*As a dietitian, I (briefly describe your role and the clients you serve)*

*As a* (*briefly describe your situation as a small business owner or self-employed health professional)*

*[Paragraph 2 - Adapt to include your challenges with CERB]*

The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit** (CERB) is a much-needed initiative. However, the fact that self-employed health professionals, including dietitians, who have had more than $1000/month in revenue are not eligible is an issue. Although significant revenue for many dietitians has been lost, numerous dietitians still provide essential services to a limited number of vulnerable clients. In some provinces, regulatory bodies require dietitians to provide essential services virtually. It would be unethical to stop providing care to receive the CERB. Even though most of their revenue has been lost, many dietitians are making slightly more than the $1000/month, but significantly less than their usual income.

*[Paragraph 3 - Adapt to include your challenges with the Wage Subsidy]*

The **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** is also an important initiative. However, the subsidy is not available to contractors. Self-employed health professionals, including dietitians, owning small businesses have seen a reduction in revenue and those employing contractor dietitians cannot support them financially.

*[Paragraph 4 - Adapt to include your challenges with the CECRA and/or CEBA]*

On behalf of dietitians that own a business, I want to thank you for implementing the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance** for small businesses and for making the **Canada Emergency Business Account** available to small businesses with $20,000 or more in payroll. These are much needed supports.

*[Paragraph 5 - Adapt to include your recommendations]*

To better meet the needs of small business owners like myself, I would recommend:

* Make the CERB available to all self-employed health professionals, even if they still receive a small revenue, and provide them with the difference in revenue up to $2000/month;
* Make the CERB available to support staff that work with/for self-employed professionals (administrative assistants, HR staff, etc.); and
* Make the Wage Subsidy available to contractors.

I want to thank you again for all your efforts to accommodate self-employed health professionals that work hard to support the health of Canadians. We are key partners in keeping the population safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*[Your Name and Title]*

*[Your Address]*

cc *[Name,* Member of Parliament*, Constituency Name, Email Address] Find your Member of Parliament with your postal code at* [*https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search*](https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search)

Dietitians of Canada, Marie-Ève Guérette St-Amour, Federal Advocacy Lead at [marieeve.guerette@dietitians.ca](mailto:marieeve.guerette@dietitians.ca)