

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Job Seekers*

#### 1.) **Are you still open right now? If I am looking for work, how can you help?**

Sault College Employment Solutions is still here to help during these challenging times. While our physical office is closed and we are no longer meeting clients face-to-face, **we are still open and providing ALL regular services through online and virtual methods.** You can contact us for a one-on-one phone meeting with an Employment Consultant to develop a personalized job search plan. Your consultant can also help you develop your resume and cover letters, prepare for interviews, and explore education and retraining opportunities. **Contact us at (705)945-0705** or by email at [webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca](mailto:webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca) to get started.

#### 2.) **How do I access Employment Insurance or other financial supports?**

The Government of Canada has several programs to support workers who have been laid off or are facing reduced hours due to the COVID-19 situation:

- Workers who have been laid off or lost their job and are Employment Insurance eligible can [apply for their EI benefit here](#).
- For persons who have lost income, are sick, or are unable to work due to COVID-19, the Government has announced a new [Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#). The benefit will provide up to \$2,000 a month for four months to individual recipients. CERB will be available to self-employed, freelance, and contract workers who ordinarily would not be eligible for EI. Applications for CERB will open in early April.

In addition to these benefits, several other support measures have been introduced. For a full listing, please visit the [Government of Canada's Economic Response Plan](#). For updates on COVID-19 from the Government of Ontario, please [click here](#).

#### 3.) **I am interested in going back to school or entering retraining. How can you help?**

Our Employment Consultants can help guide you towards local training and educational opportunities that fit with your career goals, including apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs. Additionally, if you have been laid off or lost a job due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for the [Second Career Program](#), which provides funding to Ontarians who wish to retrain for high-demand occupations. Contact us at **(705)945-0705** or [webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca](mailto:webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca) to request a virtual appointment with a consultant to discuss your interests and options.

#### 4.) Are any employers hiring right now?

As the Government of Ontario has mandated that essential services remain open, there are businesses that are continuing to hire right now. Other businesses that have temporarily closed or reduced their operations are also continuing with recruitment processes in preparation for an eventual return to normal operations. At Employment Solutions, our [job board](#) is continuing to be updated with new positions as they are posted. Other resources you can use to find active job postings include the [Service Canada Job Bank](#), job aggregator sites such as [Indeed](#) and [Wowjobs](#) and directly on the websites of major employers.

If you need help identifying job opportunities or applying online to jobs, contact us today at **(705)945-0705** or [webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca](mailto:webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca) to get connected with an Employment Consultant.

#### 5.) Does it even make sense to job search right now?

As mentioned earlier, even with the disruptions from COVID-19 some employers continue to hire or need to increase staffing levels. But even if it proves difficult to get a job, right now is a good time to start preparing for the opportunities that will arise once the job market begins returning to normal. Some of the areas we can assist with include:

- Discovering what jobs or fields are the best fit for you, given your personality, interests, and aptitudes
- Helping you identify job opportunities, including ones in the “hidden” job market
- Professional assistance with developing or polishing your resume, cover letters, and online job applications
- Providing information and referrals to training and educational programs.
- Assisting with applications or referrals to programs like Second Career and Youth Job Connection.

We’re living through an extraordinary time and it’s uncertain how long it will last, but eventually both the job market and daily life will start returning to normal. When it does, a lot of hiring will happen and a lot of job seekers will re-enter the job market in a short timeframe. Our team at Employment Solutions can help you stand out from the crowd and be in a position to succeed. Contact us today at **(705)945-0705** or [webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca](mailto:webinquiryssm@saultcollege.ca) to get started.