



FIX EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI)

Thousands of us across Canada have lost our jobs and rely on the Employment Insurance (EI) program to survive during hard economic times. But over the years the Federal government has weakened the EI program and made it harder for us to access. When we do receive EI we struggle to survive on low benefit rates. The EI program is failing workers and their families. We need to urge our government to fix the EI program now.

WE NEED MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EI PROGRAM

FACT Most unemployed workers are in crisis without any income
In Toronto, only 1 in 4 unemployed worker is receiving EI benefits at any given time. With a huge increase in temp, part-time and contract jobs, we need the protection of an EI program now more than ever.

FACT The government used our EI fund to pay off their debts
While our benefits were being cut, the EI fund banked \$57 billion. The government used this fund to pay off their debt and balance the budget instead of improving EI benefits. We need the EI fund to ensure those who need it – get it! It belongs to us!

FACT Women, newcomers and youth are hit hardest by gaps in EI
Women are less likely to qualify and receive EI benefits compared to men, and are more likely to receive lower benefit amounts than men. People new to the labour force need 910 hours to qualify. This is a huge barrier for youth and newcomers. As workers we all pay into the program equally - no one should be left out.

JOIN OUR FIGHT TO IMPROVE EI. WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER!



Organizations across the country have organized town hall meetings, met with MP's, signed petitions and held rallies to pressure our Federal government to fix the EI program. We need a real safety net to rely on when we lose our jobs. Find out how to get involved.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED?

QUALIFYING HOURS	MORE WEEKS ON EI	WE NEED A RAISE IN BENEFITS
<p>Workers should need only 360 hours to qualify for EI benefits in all regions of Canada.</p> <p>Many of us work part-time, contract or temporary jobs and find it hard to get enough hours to qualify for EI. The number of qualifying hours should be permanently lowered so more of us can access the EI fund.</p>	<p>Increase the number of weeks we can receive EI. All workers should receive at least 50 weeks of EI across Canada.</p> <p>And when the unemployment rate goes above 6.5%, we should get an additional year of benefits to help us survive.</p>	<p>Increase benefits! We need benefits we can survive on!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When times are hard our employer might reduce our hours first. Benefits should be calculated on our 12 best weeks of earnings (within the previous 52 week period), not our last 26 weeks.• When workers receive termination or severance pay our EI benefits should not be affected.• The 2- week waiting period should be eliminated – why force us further into financial crisis when we lose our employment?

TAKE ACTION WITH THE WORKERS' ACTION CENTRE!

Join our campaign

The Workers' Action Centre works to improve the wages and working conditions of low-paid workers in unstable jobs. This includes fighting for an EI program that allows us to survive with dignity when we are out of work. Call us to find out about upcoming events and actions at WAC.

Sign our petition

Add your signature and your voice to the thousands of others who are demanding improvements to our EI program. Download the petition at www.labourcouncil.ca/eipetition.pdf

Contact your MP

Call us to discuss how you can meet with your MP and what tools you might need to do this. www.elections.ca



Workers' Action Centre
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