

Employment Insurance

Employment Insurance (EI) provides temporary financial assistance to unemployed Canadians who have lost their job through no fault of their own, while they look for work or upgrade their skills.

Canadians who are sick, pregnant, or caring for a newborn or adopted child, as well as those who must care for a family member who is seriously ill with a significant risk of death or who must provide care or support to their critically ill or injured child may also be assisted by Employment Insurance.

Temporary foreign workers must meet the same eligibility requirements as Canadian citizens and permanent residents.



Types of Benefits:

1. **Employment Insurance Regular Benefits** are available to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own (for example, due to shortage of work, seasonal layoffs, or mass layoffs) and who are available for and able to work, but cannot find a job.
2. **Employment Insurance Maternity and Parental Benefits** provide support to individuals who are pregnant, have recently given birth, are adopting a child, or are caring for a newborn.

3. **Employment Insurance Sickness Benefits** are for individuals who are unable to work because of sickness, injury, or quarantine.
4. **Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits** are available to people who have to be away from work temporarily to provide care or support to a family member who is gravely ill with a significant risk of death.
5. **Employment Insurance benefits for Parents of Critically Ill Children** are available to eligible parents who take leave from work to provide care or support their critically ill or injured child.

Am I eligible for EI regular benefits?

You may be entitled to receive EI regular benefits if you:

- have paid premiums into the EI Account
- lost your employment through no fault of your own
- have been without work and without pay for at least seven consecutive days in the last **52 weeks**
- have worked for the required number of insurable hours in the last 52 weeks or since the start of your last EI claim, whichever is shorter
- are ready, willing, and capable of working each day
- are actively looking for work (you must keep a written record of employers you contact, including when you contacted them)

You may **not** be entitled to receive EI regular benefits if you:

- voluntarily left your employment without just cause
- were dismissed for misconduct
- are unemployed because you are directly participating in a labour dispute (strike, lockout, or other type of dispute)

Are you eligible for EI maternity or parental benefits?

You may be eligible to receive EI maternity or parental benefits if:

- you have paid EI premiums
- you meet the specific criteria for receiving EI maternity or parental benefits
- your normal weekly earnings are reduced by more than **40%**
- you have accumulated at least **600 hours** of insurable employment during the qualifying period

Are you eligible for EI sickness benefits?

You may be entitled to receive EI sickness benefits if:

- you have paid EI premiums
- you meet the specific criteria for receiving EI sickness benefits
- your normal weekly earnings have been reduced by more than 40%
- you have accumulated at least **600 hours** of insurable employment during the qualifying period

Am I eligible for Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits?

You can receive compassionate care benefits for up to a maximum of six weeks if you have to be absent from work to provide care or support to a gravely ill family member at risk of dying within **26 weeks**. If you are unemployed and already receiving EI benefits, you can also apply for compassionate care benefits.

To be eligible for compassionate care benefits, you must be able to show that:

- your regular weekly earnings from work have decreased by more than 40 percent **and**
- you have accumulated 600 insured hours of work in the last **52 weeks**, or since the start of your last claim (this period is called the qualifying period)

Am I eligible for Employment Insurance benefits for Parents of Critically Ill Children?

You can receive **Employment Insurance (EI) special benefits for Parents of Critically Ill Children (PCIC)** for up to **35 weeks** if you have to be absent from work to provide care or support to your critically ill or injured child. If you are unemployed and already receiving EI benefits, you can also apply for the PCIC benefit.

To be eligible for the PCIC benefit, you must be able to show that:

- your regular weekly earnings from work have decreased by more than **40%** because you need to provide care or support to your critically ill or injured child
- you have accumulated **600** insured hours of work in the **52 weeks** prior to the start of your claim, or since the start of your last claim, whichever is shorter (this period is called the qualifying period)
- you are the parent of a child who is critically ill or injured
- your child is under **18 years of age** at the time the **52-week** window during which PCIC benefits can be paid opens (based on the date the specialist medical doctor states that your child became critically ill or injured)

You may file a claim for Employment Insurance benefits online. There is a two-week waiting period, during which no benefits are payable to you.

For more information:

- call the toll-free number **1-800-206-7218**
- go in person to your Service Canada Centre
- write to the following address:

**Service Canada Interstate Claim Unit
1 North Front Street
P.O. Box 4800
Belleville, ON K8N 5E2**

If you leave Canada while you are collecting regular or sickness benefits, you must advise Service Canada in writing at the address above or by calling 1-800-206-7218 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and press “0” to speak to a representative.

Frequently Asked Questions- General Information

http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/ei/faq/faq_general.shtml

