

CBTU Recommendations for Employment Insurance Reform

1. Eliminate the **delay for Apprentices**

EI applications for apprentices undertaking in-class training should be expedited, eliminating the economic barrier which will encourage more apprentices to complete the in-school portion of their training, and successfully complete their apprenticeship.



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2. EI Training Support Benefit

- Extend the EI Training Support Benefit from 4 weeks to 16 weeks.
- Increase the EI Training Support Benefit to 85 % of a workers wages (instead of 55%)
- Eliminate the one-week waiting period and permit workers to receive EI benefits from day one.



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3. Workers seeking **Re-Training or Skill Upgrading**

- Ensure newly unemployed workers can receive EI benefits while attending skills training or an educational program, without the requirement of being available for work or looking for work, especially as we look ahead to a post-pandemic recovery.



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4. End the **Misclassification of Workers**

- Crackdown on employer misclassification of workers who are often labeled as independent contractors or self-employed allowing employers to evade EI and other payroll deductions.



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5. Change the clawback of Separation Monies

- Permanently abolish the clawback of separation monies such as severance and vacation payments on EI payments.



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6. Update the **Canada Training Benefit**

- Remove the upper-age limit on eligibility and lower earnings eligibility threshold.
- Allow the Training Credit to apply to related expenses such as course materials and transportation.
- Make the Training Credit available in advance payments throughout the year.



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7. Restore Dedicated **EI Program Liaison Officers**

- Restore the EI Regional Liaison Officer network which was a valuable single point of contact for unions dealing with EI, particularly where there were multiple terminations or closures. CBTU recommends each of Canada's four regions have its own liaison who can understand specific issues pertaining to the region and the building trades.



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8. Re-establish a **Board of Appeal for EI**

- This will help make the EI process more transparent and accountable, and ensure the decision remains between workers and employers.



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