

Crisis Calls for Emergency E.I. Measures

Whereas: a healthy unemployment insurance system is the most powerful of all economic stabilizers. In the recessions of the early 80's and 90's, EI prevented deeper and longer downturns and reduced the shock of both job loss and GDP losses by up to 14%, and

Whereas: the government stopped contributing to EI but began diverting worker and employer EI premiums to other government spending (\$54 Billion between 1994 – 2007) ...instead of improving EI benefits, and

Whereas: we've entered this new economic crisis with a much weaker EI system. It provides only half the coverage it did in the last recession. Now only 42% of the unemployed receive EI at any given time – because fewer workers qualify and benefit weeks are reduced, and

Whereas: the house of commons has debated numerous bills that would improve workers' EI benefits including Bill C-269 which was supported by the bloc, NDP and liberals in the last parliament

Therefore we urgently petition Parliament; to introduce these emergency E.I. Measures;

1. 360 hours for entry level EI benefits in all regions of Canada
2. increase benefit duration to at least 50 weeks in all regions
3. eliminate the 2 week waiting period
4. provide benefits that are at least 60% of normal earnings, use workers' 12 best weeks, and suspend the allocation of severance pay
5. more flexible, innovative uses of E.I. work sharing to keep people at work

Respectfully Submitted by, CAW Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter