Changes to Employment Insurance

Just the facts

Recent changes to Employment Insurance (EI) have generated a lot of interest, **but not all of the information out there is correct**. Here are the facts.

1 What are the changes?

New definitions* of "suitable work" and "reasonable job search" provide **clear guidelines on the type of work claimants should consider** based on their past premium contributions and use of the EI program.

2 Are you forcing people to accept low-paying jobs?

No. These changes make sure that claimants are better off financially by accepting a job than by receiving EI alone. They will **help Canadians stay connected to the job market**, and **personal circumstances will always be considered** when determining if a job is suitable.

3 Is the need to look for work new?

No. EI regular and fishing claimants have always had to look for work and accept suitable employment when available. Those who do not look for work risk losing their EI benefits; however, claimants who disagree with a decision regarding their claim will always have the right to appeal.

4 If there are no jobs, will people lose their benefits?

No. As long as claimants make a reasonable effort to look for suitable work, **EI will continue to be there as it always has been**.

5 Will people be forced to move to find work?

No. **People will not have to move to find a job**. Claimants are expected to look for work within a one-hour commute from their home. Commuting time may be longer depending on a claimant's previous commuting history or the average commute time for the claimant's community. Personal circumstances, such as access to public transportation, will also be taken into account.

6 Is there help to find available jobs?

Yes! The **improved Job Alerts system** can help Canadians find out about local jobs. Subscribe at: **workingincanada.gc.ca/jobalerts**

* For more information, visit **servicecanada.gc.ca/eichanges**

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