

UNEMPLOYMENT FACT SHEET

While everyone is doing their part to minimize the impact of COVID-19, we're bracing cutbacks and will be working hard to connect Union members to all available resources and benefits to weather this storm.

Who qualifies for unemployment? For most people at the Hotel, you qualify if you:

- El Regular benefits: If you are laid off due to lack of work. To qualify, you must have worked for 700 hours in the previous calendar year, and not scheduled for 7 consecutive days
- El Sickness benefits: If you are home due to quarantine or employer-mandated isolation due to coronavirus – you must have worked for 600 hours in the previous calendar year.

How do I apply?

- Call or email to notify HR that you'll be applying for unemployment. They will notify you when an ROE has been sent on your behalf to EI.
- Fill out application online: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>
You do not have to wait for the ROE to begin your application.
- If you do not have a computer, visit the nearest Service Ontario office to apply in person. Call 1-800-206-7218 with questions.

What if I'm only working only 1-2 days?

- The Union is working with Management to schedule in such a way to maximize the number of people who can qualify for unemployment.
- Once you are in the system, you can still work 1-2 days, you will just need to report that to the EI office.

Do I have to take my vacation or personal days before I qualify?

- You are not obligated by to take, any paid time off (vacation, personal days, etc) before enrolling in EI, but may do so if you choose. Check the policies of your individual property.

How much is the benefit?

- Most people receive 55% of their weekly income, up to \$573/week. As a Union, we are demanding that amount this be increased for all, especially those who earn a low minimum wage.

How long does EI last?

- The duration of EI payments depend on how many hours you worked in the previous year. In the GTA, you will get a minimum of 14 weeks if you worked 700 hours in the previous year, and a maximum of 36 weeks if you worked full time.

What if that's not enough or if it runs out?

- STAY TUNED – the Union will be working with Soben, the Training Center, and with partners and allies to coordinate access to other forms of assistance and relief, as well as push for expanded benefits from the government

What if I work more than one job?

- APPLY ANYWAY. If you work more than one jobs you are unlikely to get the full EI payment, but you are still potentially entitled to some benefit.
- Submit your application, and call [1-800-206-7218](tel:1-800-206-7218) to discuss the particulars of your case. Be prepared with the following information about each job: your employment status, regular hours during normal times, expected hours for the foreseeable future, and rate of pay.

Do I lose my benefits if I apply for EI?

- No. Over 90% of members already have enough banked hours that benefits will not be lost. The Union is demanding employers pay any gap in funding to ensure no one will lose benefits

I am over 65 – do I qualify?

- Yes - as long as you are still planning on being an active part of the workforce, your age does not disqualify you. Apply!

What if I do not qualify for EI?

- STAY TUNED – the Federal Government has announced an Emergency Support Benefit that will be similar to EI but will apply to those who currently do not qualify. The application for this will be likely launched by beginning of April.

