

Subject: Albertans with EI Eligibility and Training

Number: ETS-2017-002

Date Issued: February 6, 2017

Issuer: Deb Kaweski, Executive Director  
Policy, Evaluation and Collaboration Branch  
Labour

David Schneider, Executive Director  
Foundational Learning Supports  
Advanced Education

Distribution: **Labour**  
Workforce Strategies Division:  
Policy, Evaluation and Collaboration  
Regional Employment and Training  
**Community and Social Services**  
Employment and Financial Supports Division  
Common Service Access Division:  
Common Service Delivery  
**Advanced Education**  
Foundational Learning  
Student Aid Alberta  
**Training Providers**  
Subscribers to Alberta Works Updates Distribution list

---

**BACKGROUND:**

The type of assistance that can be claimed under the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) depends on an individual's current and past involvement with the Employment Insurance (EI) program. Section 58 of the *EI Act* sets the definition for participants in LMDA funded training programs. This definition has remained unchanged since Alberta signed the original LMDA.

**INTENT:**

Recently, federal legislation was passed to change the definition of an "insured participant" in the *EI Act*. With the signing of an amended LMDA, individuals who are currently receiving EI or who have had a claim in the previous 60 months (5 years) are considered to be insured participants, regardless of their previous claim type (regular, special). This is a change from the former definition that considered an insured participant as a current claimant or a previous claimant of regular benefits within the past 36 months (3 years) or special benefits within the past 60 months (5 years).

**POLICY:**

To align with the new definition, a number of modifications have been initiated to business tools including:

- The [Albertans with EI Eligibility and Training](#) policy,
- The questions on the Preliminary EI/Non-EI Profile screen in Mobius – to be implemented on February 6, 2017, and
- The Employment Insurance History section of the Learner Income Support Application (both on-line and paper) – to be posted on February 6, 2017.