

Subject: Albertans with EI Eligibility and Training

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BACKGROUND:

The type of assistance that can be claimed under the Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) depends on an individual's contributions to the Employment Insurance (EI) program. Section 58 of the *EI Act* sets the definition for eligible participants in LMDA funded training programs.

INTENT:

Recently, federal legislation was passed to change the definition of an "insured participant" in the *EI Act*. In addition to individuals currently receiving regular EI, and those who have had a claim in the previous 60 months (5 years), a new category has been added.

The new category of "premium payers" includes unemployed individuals who have paid EI premiums into the EI Account for 5 of the last 10 calendar years that did not entitle them to a refund. If an individual made less than \$2000 income in a year, any EI premiums that were paid would be reimbursed as part of their income tax refund. This change in policy broadens the eligibility for individuals requesting to attend approved training programs. Individuals, in the new category, will need to be verified to ensure sufficient evidence is available through the federal government system. All individuals who have paid less than 5 years of EI premiums will be identified as "Non EI clients".

POLICY:

To align with the new definition the [Albertans with EI Eligibility and Training](#) policy has been updated to include the new category.

In light of the change to the policy, the following Employment Insurance business process documents have been updated:

- [I01. Preliminary Employment Insurance Verification](#)
- [I02. Potential Employment Insurance Status Verification](#)
- [I03. EI Status Screen – Review Results](#)