

Subject: Extension of Employment Insurance Benefits

Number: IS-MEMO-2016-015

Date Issued: August 24, 2016

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Distribution: Human Services Employment and Financial Supports Division  
Human Services Common Service Access Division:  
Common Service Delivery

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**MESSAGE:**

In Budget 2016, the Federal Government announced they would be extending the duration of regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in economic regions that have experienced an increase in the unemployment rate without showing significant signs of recovery. As of May 2016, all four EI economic regions in Alberta were deemed eligible for extended EI benefits. The extension means that those who are eligible for EI as regular claimants can claim an additional 5 weeks of benefits, up to a maximum of 50 weeks. Long-tenured workers may be eligible for an additional 20 weeks of EI benefits, up to a maximum of 70 weeks.

The additional EI benefits are available for one year beginning July 3, 2016, and will apply retroactively to anyone who started a claim on or after January 4, 2015. These individuals are being contacted by Employment and Social Development Canada by letter.

Some of the individuals eligible for the EI extension may be Feepayers and may approach an Alberta Works office wanting their approved training to be entered into the Employment Insurance Business Information System (EIBIS) so that they can receive their extended EI benefit. In these cases, CECs can help the individual in the office by:

1. Reviewing the individuals' EI on the EIBIS system to confirm they are on EI and that it is a regular and active claim, and
2. Entering the Training Program Cluster onto Mobius.
3. It will take two business days before the information is uploaded onto the EIBIS system.

Signing an **INS 3113 Assignment of Benefits** form is mandatory for individuals who are applying for or in receipt of IS while waiting for their EI benefits to start, unless the EI amount is known and the client will require an ongoing supplement.