

NEWS BULLETIN

Updates from the Commissioner for Employers

Announcements

1 [Team Canada Strong Youth Placements - contribution funding program - Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#)

This funding opportunity aims to provide youth aged 15-30 with paid, entry level construction and trades related work placements supporting pathways into apprenticeships. It will fund projects that help participants, including those facing barriers to employment, develop skills and gain exposure to construction and trades-related occupations, build professional networks, and advance toward long-term careers in the skilled trades.

2 [Business Support Expo - GC Business Insights](#)

Connect with experts, entrepreneurs and learn about programs and services available to help your business grow

3 [Analysis on planned use of artificial intelligence by businesses in Canada](#)

Proportion of businesses planning to use AI has more than doubled in the past two years. In the third quarter of 2026, 1 in 4 (25.2%) businesses in Canada reported they plan to use AI to produce goods or deliver services over the next 12 months, up from 14.5% in the third quarter of 2025 and 10.6% in the third quarter of 2024.

4 [Workforce Retention and Retraining Program \(WRRP\)](#) **Employer supports**

The Government of Canada has unveiled a suite of initiatives to support employers address the challenges created due to tariffs and to build Canada's work force to meet the demands of our evolving labour market.

Tariff relief supports

[Workforce Retention and Retraining Program \(WRRP\)](#)

[Work sharing](#) is an agreement between an employer, their employees and service Canada whereby instead of laying off workers due to a decrease in business or a business pivot the number of hours is reduced and the workers receive employment insurance benefits for their reduced hours. The agreement provides income support to employees eligible for Employment Insurance benefits who work a temporarily reduced work week while their employer recovers.

Let's say that a manufacturing plant has a decrease in sales of their widgets by 30% which causes them to reduce production by 30%. Instead of laying off 30% of their workers they enter into a work sharing agreement and reduce the manufacturing floors hours by 30% (i.e. from 40 – 28 hours). The employer will pay for the 28 hours, and the workers will get EI for the other 12 hours.

Work-Sharing Program

Work-Sharing Program Examples

HOTEL

Business situation:
This boutique hotel in Jasper employs 30 full-time staff, working 40 hours per week.
Hotel room sales are down by 20% this season. The owner needs to cut labour expenses by 20% to make up for the decrease in business activity.

Options:

Layoff:

- Layoff 20% of staff (12 full-time employees)
- Lose experienced workers, making it harder to recover

Work-Sharing:

- Cut work hours by 20%
- Workers will receive EI to make up for a reduced work schedule
- Business can retain experienced staff

WITH WORK-SHARING, ALL 30 WORKERS KEEP THEIR JOBS. EACH WORKER WORKS 32 HOURS PER WEEK, WITH 8 HOURS OF EI.*

RESTAURANT

Business situation:
This restaurant has 5 full-time staff, working 37.5 hours per week.
Restaurant sales are down by 40%. The owner needs to cut labour expenses by 40% to make up for the decrease in business activity.

Options:

Layoff:

- Layoff 40% of staff (2 full-time employees)
- Lose experienced workers, making it harder to recover

Work-Sharing:

- Cut work hours by 40%
- Workers will receive EI to make up for a reduced work schedule
- Business can retain experienced staff

WITH WORK-SHARING, ALL 5 WORKERS KEEP THEIR JOBS. EACH WORKER WORKS 22.5 HOURS PER WEEK, WITH 15 HOURS OF EI.*

RETAIL STORE

Business situation:
A gift shop has 3 staff, working 30 hours per week.
Sales are down by 30%. The owner needs to cut labour expenses by 30% to make up for the decrease in business activity.

Options:

Layoff:

- Layoff 30% of staff (1 full-time employee)
- Lose an experienced worker, making it harder to recover

Work-Sharing:

- Cut work hours by 30%
- Workers will receive EI to make up for a reduced work schedule
- Business can retain experienced staff

WITH WORK-SHARING, ALL 3 WORKERS KEEP THEIR JOBS. EACH WORKER WORKS 21 HOURS PER WEEK, WITH 9 HOURS OF EI.*

*Note - work hours can change week to week, depending on the decrease in business activity reported. The employer is responsible for reporting this information through their weekly EI/OSQ report.

Visit the [Work-Sharing Program website](#) for details on work-sharing agreements, eligibility, and how to apply.

Work sharing is available for small business and nonprofits and charitable organizations that have been operating in Canada for a minimum of 1 year and have a minimum of 2 EI eligible employees who agree to a reduction in hours and to share any available work. Seasonal employers are also eligible as are employees who are not year-round, permanent, full-time or part-time employees are also eligible.

Worker Retention Grant for Work-Sharing Employers

While the workers are on work sharing the employer may choose to provide training. As an additional incentive the employer will receive \$1000 for each worker on work sharing to encourage training. Training can be in formal peer to peer on the manufacturing plant floor, it does not have to take place at a formal academic institution.

To learn more about the Work Sharing program

General Program Inquiries - For questions about eligibility, training requirements, or Grant participation.

- EDSC.DGOP.DMPJ.PMERMO-WRRP.WDY.POB.ESDC@servicecanada.gc.ca

Regional Work Sharing Units - To submit amendments, or requests for additional information.

- Atlantic Provinces - esdc.tp-atl-ws-tp.edsc@servicecanada.gc.ca
- Quebec - qc-dpmtsd-lmsdpb-tp-ws-gd@servicecanada.gc.ca
- Ontario - esdc.on.ws-tp.on.edsc@servicecanada.gc.ca
- Western Canada & Territories - esdc.wt.ws-tp.edsc@servicecanada.gc.ca

Employer Contact Centre - For general Work-Sharing or Worker Retention Grant program support, technical issues, Data Gateway questions, and guidance.

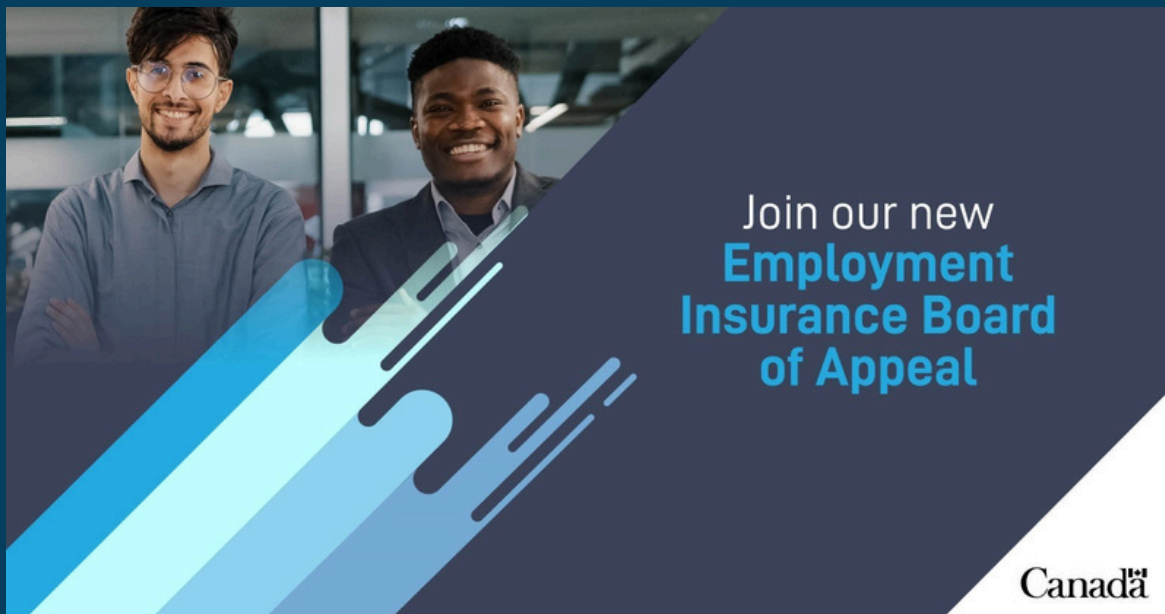
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5 Join the EI Board of Appeals

The EI Board of Appeals is seeking employer candidates in the following regions:

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- PEI
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

This board will be hearing and deciding on first-level EI appeals.



Apply [here](#)