

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PARENTS IN QUEBEC

### AS OF JANUARY 1, 2006 CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MATERNITY AND PARENTAL BENEFITS

As of January 1, 2006, benefits with respect to the birth or adoption of a baby, which are currently paid by the federal Employment Insurance program (EI), will be paid by Quebec's Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity under the new Quebec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP).

The new QPIP will apply to parents in Quebec who submit a new benefit claim as of January 1, 2006 for a birth or an adoption that took place on or after January 1, 2006.

EI will continue to apply to parents in Quebec who submit a claim for maternity or parental benefits for a period prior to January 1, 2006 (even if the child is born after this date) and for all births and adoptions prior to January 1, 2006.

**If you are expecting your child between now and February 25, 2006, inclusively**, you may be in a position to choose which program you would like to receive benefits from, according to when you would like to begin receiving benefits. You may choose:

- **The federal EI program** if you would like to begin receiving benefits prior to January 1, 2006;
- **The Quebec Parental Insurance Program** if you would like to begin receiving benefits on or after January 1, 2006.

Therefore, if your child is born in 2005, the EI program is responsible for paying your benefits, regardless of when you would like your benefit period to begin.

You may choose between the two programs as of the tenth week preceding the week you expect to give birth. Parents should review their eligibility for each plan before making their choice.

If you begin receiving maternity and/or parental benefits under the EI program prior to January 1, 2006, you will continue receiving them under EI until the end of your benefit period. You will not be eligible for benefits under the Quebec program.

#### Parent-claimant's place of residence

Beginning January 1, 2006, Quebec residents will be eligible for the QPIP even if they work outside Quebec and have paid only EI premiums.

People who do not live in Quebec will not be eligible for the QPIP, even if they work in Quebec. They will continue receiving benefits under the EI program.

#### If one parent resides in Quebec and the other parent lives outside the province

The two parents will be covered by two different benefit programs if one parent resides in Quebec and the other parent lives outside the province when the first parent-claimant files his/her benefit claim.

- The parent who lives in Quebec must apply for QPIP benefits and the parent who lives outside the province must apply for federal EI benefits.
- Both parents could individually receive maternity or paternity benefits according to the regulations of their respective programs. However, if they both wish to receive parental or adoption benefits, they must come to an agreement about how they will share the number of weeks of benefits that are payable to them individually, according to their respective plans.

## If you move

Parents receiving EI maternity or parental benefits before moving to Quebec will continue to receive EI benefits. Similarly, parents receiving QPIP benefits before moving outside the province will continue to receive QPIP benefits. Parents will not be able to transfer from one program to the other.

## Other types of EI benefits

Workers eligible for other types of EI benefits will continue receiving them after January 1, 2006. However, they cannot receive both EI and QPIP benefits for the same period.

## Questions?

Please consult our Web site at [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call 1 800 206-7218. You may also visit your closest Service Canada Centre.

## Information regarding QPIP benefits

Please consult Quebec's Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity:

Internet: [http://www.rqap.gouv.qc.ca/index\\_en.asp](http://www.rqap.gouv.qc.ca/index_en.asp)

Telephone: 1 888 610-7727

## Benefit Program for Quebec residents

If you are claiming benefits for the <b>birth</b> of your child	Benefit program	Date of birth
For a period beginning in 2005	<b>EI</b>	If the child is born in 2005 <b>or</b> If you expect the child to be born February 25 at the latest
For a period beginning January 1 or later	<b>EI</b>	If the child is born in 2005
	<b>QPIP</b>	If the child is born in 2006
If you are claiming benefits for the <b>adoption</b> of your child	Benefit program	Date of placement with parents
For a period beginning in 2005	<b>EI</b>	If the child is placed in 2005
For a period beginning in 2006	<b>EI</b>	If the child is placed in 2005
	<b>QPIP</b>	If the child is placed in 2006

**Employment Insurance is now being delivered by Service Canada - the Government of Canada's new service delivery network that brings together a range of federal services and benefits to meet your individual needs. For more information about Service Canada, or to find the Service Canada Centre nearest you, visit us online at [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232).**