



Employment Insurance

Employment Insurance is now being delivered by Service Canada – the Government of Canada’s new service delivery network that brings a range of federal services and benefits together to meet individual needs. For more information about Service Canada, or to locate our 320 Service Canada Centres, call 1 800 O-Canada or visit us on-line at servicecanada.gc.ca

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT (ROE)

In February 2005 three new Employment Insurance (EI) pilot projects were announced. These pilot projects aim to improve the EI Program for Canadians and will come into effect in the fall of this year.

One of the pilots, known as the Best 14 Weeks project, has particular significance for employers and is anticipated to be implemented on October 30, 2005. This proposed three-year pilot project will have an impact on employers with workers who live in specific economic regions. Subject to regulatory approval, the following areas are the proposed 23 EI economic regions:

Central Quebec	Northern British Columbia	Restigouche-Alberta
Chicoutimi – Jonquière	Northern Manitoba	St. John’s
Eastern Nova Scotia	Northern Ontario	Southern Coastal British Columbia (excluding Greater Vancouver)
Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	Northern Saskatchewan	Sudbury
Lower St. Lawrence and North Shore	Northwest Territories	Trois-Rivières
Madawaska-Charlotte	Northwestern Quebec	Western Nova Scotia
Newfoundland and Labrador	Nunavut	Yukon
Northern Alberta	Prince Edward Island	

Under the pilot project, EI benefit rates in these economic regions will be calculated using the highest 14 weeks of insurable earnings in the last 52 weeks. In order to facilitate this new benefit rate calculation, 53 weeks (52 plus one week extra) of payroll information will be needed instead of the 27 provided through the existing Record of Employment (ROE). Service Canada will try to obtain any additional necessary payroll information from claimants before contacting employers.

The easiest way for employers to adapt will be to use ROE Web, which is being modified to allow employers to submit 53 weeks of payroll data. ROE Web allows employers to complete one or hundreds of ROEs in minutes virtually at the touch of a button. Those employers who do not wish to or cannot access the web version can still use the paper version which will not be modified.

If your company uses one of the larger Payroll Service Providers (PSPs), you may have other options, such as sending your ROE’s through your PSP. In addition, Payroll Software Vendors will be including the 53 week earnings capacity in upcoming versions of their software packages.

For more information on ROE Web and the Best 14 Weeks pilot project, and to find out if your municipality is included among the pilot regions, please visit:

servicecanada.gc.ca

then click *Services for Canadian Business, Human Resources for Employers and Employment Insurance Information for Employers.*