Fix Employment Insurance Now

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:

WHEREAS
a healthy unemployment insurance system is the most powerful of all economic stabilizers. In the recessions of the early '80s and '90s, UI prevented deeper, longer downturns and reduced the shock of job and GDP losses;

WHEREAS
we've entered this new economic crisis with a much weaker EI system. It provides only half the coverage it did in the last recession. Now only 42% of the unemployed receive EI at any given time - because fewer workers qualify and benefit weeks are reduced;

WHEREAS
the government stopped contributing to EI and diverted EI premiums to other spending ($54 Billion between 1994 -2007)… instead of improving EI benefits;

WHEREAS
Even the US government has shown leadership with major improvements in the duration of UI benefits and a benefit top-up as part of a stimulus package to deal with the crisis;

WHEREAS
EI belongs to workers. We fund it and we expect it to be there when we need it. All workers who lose their job should get EI.

We urgently petition Parliament to introduce these changes to Employment Insurance

1. **360 hours to qualify for EI benefits in all regions of Canada**

2. **Increase benefit duration to 50 weeks for all workers in all regions, and**

    - **Provide an additional year of "Special Extension" benefits if national unemployment exceeds 6.5% - paid from federal general revenues.**

    - **Extend EI Part 1 benefits while a worker is in approved training.**

3. **Increase benefits to <u>at least</u> 60% of normal earnings, using workers' 12 best weeks, and raise the maximum. Suspend the allocation of severance pay. Eliminate the 2 week waiting period.**

Name (Print)	*Address (Print)*	*Postal Code*	*Signature*
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			
5. _____			

If you present this petition to your federal Member of Parliament with a minimum 25 signatures, the MP is required to read it in the House of Commons. For MP info, type in your postal code at www.parl.gc.ca.

Return to: 15 Gervais Drive #407, Toronto, M3C 1Y8   416 441-3663   goodjobsforall.ca   cope343