






2015 Election *Employment Insurance: What's Needed? Who Promised What?*

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Good Jobs for All Coalition</h3>	 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Conservative</h3>	 <h3 style="text-align: center;">NDP</h3>	 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Liberal</h3>	 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Green</h3>
El Access	Reduce qualifying hours to 360 for all	No change	Reduce qualifying hours to 360 for all, including new/re-entrants	Eliminate 910 hour new/re-entrant penalty. Review access issues	Support better access. No specific commitment.
	Repeal 2012 changes (tougher job search rules, etc)	<i>(Responsible for punitive 2012 changes)</i>	Repeal 2012 changes	Repeal 2012 changes	No specific commitment
	Eliminate 2 week wait period	No change	No change	Reduce to 1 week	No change
	Improve access for migrant/ Temp Foreign Workers	<i>(Reduced migrant access to EI in 2012)</i>	No specific commitment	No specific commitment	No specific commitment
Benefits	At least 60% of normal pay, using worker's 12 best weeks	No change	No change in rate. Use 12 best weeks	No change	No change
	Increase maximum duration to 50 weeks; longer if unemployment over 6.5%	No change	5 extra weeks in high unemployment regions	No specific commitment	No change
	Parental and special EI - improve benefit rate, reduce qualifying hours, increase sick benefits, allow full EI regular claim before/after special EI	Option to spread EI over blocks of leave <i>(but this favours high-paid with good job security. Late campaign announcement after other parties.)</i>	Extra 5 weeks for 2nd or single parent. Regular EI if laid off after parental EI. Sick benefits increase to 45 weeks. Expand Compassionate Care EI	Option for longer leave with lower benefits or blocks of leave <i>(but this favours high-paid with good job security).</i> Compassionate Care EI to include seriously ill	No change
Appeals	Overhaul SST (Social Security Tribunal) & new rules. Restore labour/business balance	<i>(Dissolved Board of Referees in 2012; new appeal rules and SST)</i>	Review SST. Fix broken appeal system	Review SST. Faster processing	No change
Service	Improve service and staffing	<i>(Cut offices and staffing)</i>	Improve staffing	Improve staffing	Improve staffing
Oversight	Arms-length EI Account and governance	<i>(Dissolved separate EI financing board in 2013)</i>	Ensure premiums only for EI, not other spending. New independent board	Ensure premiums only for EI, not other spending	Goal to replace EI with Guaranteed Income <i>(But tax cost = \$17 Billion plus)</i>
EI Training	EI benefits as long as worker in approved training. Increase EI training transfers to provinces	No change	\$500 million more in EI Labour Market provincial transfers	\$500 million more in EI Labour Market provincial transfers	Training transfers should be from general revenues, not EI
Premiums	Sufficient premiums to improve workers' benefits now, and build savings for future downturns.	Premium cut to \$1.49 in 2017 <i>(But government grabs 2016 surplus. And no EI improvements).</i>	Freeze premiums at \$1.88 to help pay for benefit improvements.	Premium cut to \$1.65 in 2017. <i>(Undercuts review to improve EI access for precariously employed).</i>	New tax on unhealthy food & contaminants to cut EI premiums <i>(But EI is not funded by taxes).</i>