

Minister
of Human Resources and
Skills Development



Ministre
des Ressources humaines et du
Développement des compétences

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

August 2012

Good day,

Recently, I had the chance to meet with many employers and employees across Atlantic Canada – and to discuss the recent changes to Employment Insurance (EI).

It was quickly clear how much confusion exists about the changes, partly because others have been spreading misinformation to scare people.

During my tour of Atlantic Canada, I promised to deliver information that will help clear up exactly what the changes are – and are not. Attached, you will find a page with the simple facts. I hope that you will send it to your employees, members and co-workers, and post it where it can be easily read.

As I stated many times in my talks, these changes are reasonable and are based on common sense. We understand how important seasonal industries are to the Canadian economy. Yet we also know that many sectors are facing very real labour and skills shortages. That is why we need to make sure that the EI system better helps Canadians find work and supports them while doing that.

If you have other questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Finley".

The Honourable Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.

Canada



Recent changes to the Employment Insurance Program

It's important that the EI system helps Canadians while they are looking for work.

The changes announced in May 2012 are reasonable and based on common sense.

There has been much misinformation and confusion since the announcements.

HERE ARE THE FACTS ON THE CHANGES:

- You will not be forced to move.
- You will not have to take a job for which you are not qualified.
- Maternity, parental, compassionate, and sick leave benefits are not changing.
- You will receive better information on what jobs are available in your area.
- You will now be able to keep more money if you accept a job while collecting EI.
- Personal circumstances will always be considered (for example: where you live, if you have a car, if you have childcare responsibilities)

ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

- The changes do not target seasonal workers. The federal government recognizes the importance of seasonal industries in Atlantic Canada and across the country.
- If suitable jobs that match your qualifications do not exist in your area, then EI will continue to be there for you, as it always has.
- It's important that every Canadian who is able and available to work, has the opportunity to do so. It's better for you, for your families and for your communities.