

Important Message for Employers

Subject: Employment Insurance waiting period will drop from two weeks to one week

Effective January 1, 2017, the waiting period for Employment Insurance claims will drop from two weeks to one week. The modification is based on legislative changes to the *Employment Insurance Act*, following the *Budget Implementation Act, 2016, No. 1*, which received royal assent on June 22, 2016. Changes to the *Employment Insurance Regulations* are also expected as a result of this legislative change.

Due to the change to the duration of the waiting period for EI claims, a proposal has been made to amend the waiting period requirement for payment of short-term disability benefits for participants in the Premium Reduction Program, to a maximum of seven days.

If the proposal is approved, qualifying plans with a waiting period of more than seven days would be affected. To lessen the potential impact on employers, the Government is exploring transitional measures that would give employers time to adjust their qualifying plans.

If these changes are made and you have a qualifying plan with a waiting period that is more than seven days, a representative from the Premium Reduction Program will send you a letter in January 2017 to explain the transitional measures.

Any changes to the Premium Reduction Program in 2017 will appear online at Canada.ca/EI-premium-reduction.