

UNIFOR

LOCAL 199

Frequently Asked Questions (E.I.)

When is the return to work date?

This is an unprecedented situation; GM has not provided a return to work date; the length of the layoff is unknown.

Who should apply for E.I.?

All members who are laid off **MUST** apply for employment Insurance. GM has sent an e-mail to all TPT's with E.I. application Instructions. Any TPT that did not receive the e mail should check the junk/spam mail box. If you need help call us at the Union Hall. We have also posted detailed instructions on our Website.

Where can I apply for E.I.?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are asking members to apply for E.I. benefits in the safety and comfort of your own home. You can use a computer, laptop tablet or smartphone or at a Service Canada Office. If you need assistance call the Union Hall.

Who Qualifies for E.I.?

In our economic region you need 700 insurable hours to begin a new claim for E.I. regular benefits. New hires who do not have 700 hours at GM will need to input the hours worked for previous employers to qualify.

How long is the waiting period for E.I.?

If you have not served a waiting period in the last 52 weeks you will have to serve one during the first week of your E.I. claim. Members who were laid off in the past 52 weeks have already served their waiting week. The one week waiting period has been waived for EI Sick Benefit only and only if you have been exposed to COVID-19

When will I receive E.I. Payments?

Service Canada can take up to 28 days to make a decision and process your claim. There are many factors that can cause delays with your application. The most common being incorrect spelling on your application, or entering incorrect information. Service Canada may call you if

there is a discrepancy. Because of the high volume of applications due to the COVID-19 pandemic we expect payment delays, payment should be made within 3-6 weeks.

How much is the E.I. benefit?

The maximum E.I. payment is \$573 per week; how much you actually qualify for and collect is dependent on qualifying hours and rate of pay. Please note, E.I. is a taxable benefit so income taxes are deducted.

When do E.I. payments get paid?

Employment insurance uses a bi-weekly reporting and payment schedule; meaning you will report online every two weeks and receive payment by direct deposit for those two weeks on Tuesday of the following week.

What can I do to speed up my E.I. payment?

Make sure you apply for E.I. as soon as you can, report on time, answer all the questions correctly and sign up for direct deposit.

Service Canada asked for a Record of Employment (ROE) where do I get it?

Your Record of Employment (ROE) for General Motors is sent to Service Canada electronically.

Once I have applied, what do I do next?

After applying for E.I., you will receive an access code in the mail, log on to the Service Canada website and do a report. If you are too early you will be given a date and time to report. You must report income and hours worked in the period. You will be required to login and report every two weeks.

Is the E.I. Benefit Clawed Back based on earning?

If you make over \$67,750 in 2020 and you have collected E.I. in the last 10 years there will be a 30% repayment (claw back) of E.I. benefits next year when you do your 2020 tax return.

I can't get past the question Job Title?

When doing your application and asked for your current job title, enter Automotive then click Search Job Title. A variety of jobs come up, Select (Automotive Engine assembler) or similar from the list. You can also enter a skilled trade they are listed as well.

I am collecting CPP benefits, do I have to declare this income?

When asked for information on Pensions, are you now or will be receiving pension within the next 52 weeks? say yes if you are collecting any CPP. Enter when you started and the monthly payment.

Where can I get help with my E.I. application?

The Union Office in the Plant and Union Hall are both closed. However, you can call either Greg Brady 905-682-2611 x 225 or Steve McMullen 905-682-2611 x 227 at the Union hall for assistance.

We expect a high volume of calls. If your call is pushed to voice mail, please leave your name, number and we will call you back in the order the messages are received.

These questions & answers will be updated periodically.

Next Document will cover SUB benefits.

21st March 2020