

Previously Announced New and Extended EI Measures Now in Force October 2026

In August of this year, the Government of Canada announced a suite of tariff related support for Canadian businesses and workers.¹ The announced new and extended Employment Insurance (“EI”) measures are now in force.²

Extended measures

- The one-week EI benefit waiting period will be waived for an additional year, to October 9, 2027.
- A worker’s “separation earnings” (e.g., severance pay, pay in lieu of notice) will not be deducted from EI benefits for an additional year, to October 9, 2027.
- The availability of an extra 20 weeks of EI benefits for a long-tenured worker will be extended by eight months, to June 12, 2027.

New measure re employee who voluntarily left previous job

Generally (with some exceptions), an employee who voluntarily leaves a job is not entitled to use the insurable hours they earned at that job to establish a claim for EI benefits. Once the employee obtains a new job, they must re-qualify for EI benefits by obtaining enough insurable hours in their new employment.

Now, an employee does not lose their previously earned insurable hours, if a subsequent job loss is through no fault of their own (e.g., a shortage of work), and the claim is for a benefit period that begins between **October 11, 2026 and October 9, 2027**.

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¹ See our August 2026 briefing note for more information: [Canada Responds to Massive U.S. Tariffs ~ Support Available for Canadian Businesses](#).

² [Regulations Amending the Employment Insurance Regulations \(Pilot Project No. 25\): SOR/2026-203](#).