

**PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

Whereas:

- EI penalizes women with unfair access to benefits; and
- only 35.2% of unemployed women are eligible for regular EI benefits, compared to 52.5% of unemployed men.

**We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada, call on the Government of Canada to improve the current EI system to provide universal access by:**

- **lowering the eligibility threshold to 350 hours or 13 weeks** (instead of 420 to 700 hours);
- **providing a minimum 35 weeks of benefits** (instead of 14 weeks);
- **increasing the benefit rate to 70% of salary based on the best 12 weeks** (instead of 55%);
- **annually indexing the Family Supplement income levels (including a retroactive adjustment from 1997) based on individual, not family income;**
- **abolishing total exclusions in cases of voluntary leaving and misconduct; and**
- **amending the *Employment Insurance Act* to ensure that any absence related to pregnancy, maternity and parental responsibilities does not prevent access to regular EI benefits.**

FIRST & LAST NAMES (REQUIRED)	CITY OR TOWN (REQUIRED)	PROVINCE (REQUIRED)	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE (REQUIRED)

*Please send the signed petition to Brigitte Sansoucy, MP for Saint-Hyacinthe–Bagot, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6. (No stamp required to mail this petition to the above address.)*