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## **EI Benefits for Self-Employed Individuals**

- EI Special Benefits are available for self-employed people
  - Sole Proprietors / Partners, or non-arm's length employees of corporations (own more than 40% of voting shares)
  - You must also either be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada
- There are six (6) types:
  - Maternity (mothers who give birth – up to 15 weeks)
  - Parental (Standard 55% – 35 weeks, Extended 33% – 61 weeks, can be shared between parents)
  - Sickness (cannot work due to injury, illness, or quarantine, up to 15 weeks)
  - Compassionate care (26 weeks, can share between family)
  - Family caregiver for children (up to 35 weeks, can share)
  - Family caregiver for adults (up to 15 weeks, can share)

### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Must register to be eligible
  - Waiting period of one (1) year after registration
  - Can cancel registration after 60 days
- Must pay premiums
  - Premiums are \$1.66 per \$100 in earnings to a maximum (2018 - \$858.22, 2017 - \$836.19)
  - No premiums payable if registration cancelled within 60 days of registration

### **CONDITIONS FOR PAYMENT**

- Registration is still valid (not terminated)
- Time devoted to business must be reduced by at least 40% for maternal, parental, or family caregiver reasons
- Must have earned a minimum specified amount of self-employed earnings during the preceding year
  - For claims filed in 2018, minimum 2017 income of \$6,947

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Self-Employed Individuals have to register online with the Canada Employment Insurance Commission to participate in the EI program. If you choose to register, you must do the following:

- a) If you have already signed up for My Service Canada Account, simply log in and register for EI special benefits for self-employed people.

**OR**

- a) Visit Service Canada and sign up for My Service Canada Account if you do not already have one. This service is accessible online from home, at any Service Canada Centre using one of the many Internet kiosks available. After you register, you will be mailed a personal access code within 10 days.
- b) Once you have your personal access code, use it to log back into My Service Canada Account and register for EI special benefits for self-employed people.

Your involvement in the EI program will last for the entire duration of your self-employed career, regardless of any change in the nature of your self-employment.