



ACORN Canada

Uniting communities for justice | acorncanada.org

ACORN Canada's Demands to Modernise the Employment Insurance (EI)

1) To pay our rent, put food on the table and purchase essentials, we are asking for EI to provide 90% of previous earnings or \$500/weekly (whichever is higher).

We know that temporary measures to EI set a minimum of \$400 / week. However, this is less than \$500 from CERB and not enough amount in several provinces. We need the government safety nets to provide recipients with livable income.

2) We want to see EI more accessible. Many workers in the past did not qualify because they didn't have enough hours. The government has put in a temporary measure for individuals to receive a one-time credit to meet 420 hours (need 120 actual hours). ACORN wants to see this brought down to 300 hours and made permanent.

3) In future EI reforms, we would like to see the duration extended to 50 weeks up from 45. Especially in this economic uncertainty, and many workplaces opening up at different times and potentially closing again if COVID peaks in our communities, workers need longer length of protection.

4) It's great to see steps taken with the Canada Recovery Benefit to include self-employed and work in gig economy, often very precarious work. The government needs to take permanent steps to ensure reformed EI includes these workers.

5) Lastly, we want to see the federal government take the lead and implement \$15 minimum wage for federal sector workers. The federal government must set an example for provincial governments.