

Commissioner's Communiqué

May 2016



Dear Colleagues,

Things are happening very quickly these days:

HUMA Review of Temporary Foreign Worker Program

HUMA Committee of Parliament starts today, May 16, with witnesses on its review of the TFWP. The committee heard first from officials on May 11, first Paul Thompson, Sr. ADM Skills and Employment Branch, ESDC and then David Manicom, Assoc. ADM and Robert Judge, Director from Citizenship and Immigration: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Committees/en/HUMA/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=8845433>

Clerk of the Committee is Julie Geoffrion 613-996-1542

Consultation Launched on EI Service Quality Review

Ministers Duclos and Mihychuk have tasked their Parliamentary Secretaries Terry Duguid and Rodger Cuzner, as well as MP Remi Masse with leading a nationwide consultation process with key stakeholders and the public on improving EI services through call centres, online and Service Canada offices. The review is focused on three areas: 1. Streamlining applications, 2. Reducing wait times, 3. Reducing administrative burden for employers. Commissioners are taking part, sitting in on consultations and offering advice and input to the Review. Please let me know if you have input pertinent to the consultation and for my direct attention.

CEIC Starting EI Rate-Setting for 2017

The change this year is that the CEIC is setting the EI rate, as well as the annual maximum insurable earnings and the premium reductions. The Chief Actuary engaged by CEIC will be working with the new seven-year break-even, smoothing mechanism. Outside of rate-setting, but important to it, is the question of applicable tax credits. As the work proceeds throughout the summer, to the announcement in mid-September, your Commissioner will appreciate having the benefit of your views. Please indicate your interest in participating in a meeting concerning the state of EI finances and rate-setting.

HUMA Review of Previous EI Changes

Returning to the review it started in March, the Committee heard from more witnesses, including your Commissioner.

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=e&Mode=1&Parl=42&Ses=1&DocId=8251276>

Employer Forum

Our next Forum is on the drawing board for September. Stay tuned.

As always, our office is glad to receive your questions and comments.

Kind regards,

Judith

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Commissioner (Employers)*

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