

Business Start Up

Self-Employment Program

SUMMARY

The Self-employment benefit provides unemployed employment insurance eligible individuals with financial support, planning assistance and mentoring while they get their businesses up and running.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Eligible participants are those who, pursuant to the Employment Insurance Act, are unemployed individuals:
 - for whom an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
 - for whom a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which the individual remained out of the labour market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and is now seeking to re-enter the labour force.
- *Other criteria may apply.*

DESCRIPTION

Duration

- The maximum duration of support is 52 weeks.
- The maximum duration is 78 weeks for clients with a disability that will affect their ability to make the business sustainable in one year.

Financial Parameters

- Individuals currently on an active Employment Insurance (EI) claim may continue to receive their regular EI benefits until the end of their benefit period, and these may be "topped-up" to a locally determined flat rate.
- Persons no longer receiving EI benefits will have to negotiate a locally determined flat rate.
- EI eligible participants may also be eligible for personal supports, such as assistance for disabilities, transportation, dependant care, etc.

CONTACT

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
CONTACT your local Human Resource Centre of Canada
Listing of offices in BC:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/where_you_live/regions/offices/bc-yk.shtml
In the Greater Vancouver area, check: <http://www.beyourownboss.org/programs>