

Self-Employed EI Benefits

Heading Bar

Beginning in January 2011, self-employed Canadians will be able to access Employment Insurance (EI) **special benefits**. There are four types of EI special benefits:

- [maternity](#) benefits
- [parental](#) benefits
- [sickness](#) benefits
- [compassionate care](#) benefits

Eligibility information

You may be eligible to access EI special benefits beginning in January 2011 if you:

- are a self-employed person; **and**
- are a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada; **and**
- have entered into an agreement with the Canada Employment Insurance Commission through Service Canada.

Application information

As a self-employed person, you will be able to enter into an agreement with the Commission through Service Canada.

To enter into an agreement with the Commission, you will have to register online using [My Service Canada Account](#) anywhere you can access the Internet, including at a [Service Canada Centre](#) near you. Please note that if you have previously used My Service Canada Account, you can register using your existing user code and password. By entering into this agreement, you will confirm your interest in participating in this measure and in paying EI premiums on your self-employment income.

Dates and deadlines

If you enter into an agreement between January 31, 2010 and April 1, 2010, you will be able to make a claim for EI special benefits as early as January 2011. However, if you enter into an agreement with the Canada Employment Insurance Commission after April 1, 2010, you will have to wait 12 months before you will be able to make a claim for EI special benefits.

Additional information

For more information, visit the Web site at www.servicecanada.gc.ca or call our EI Telephone Information Service at 1 800 206-7218.