

Memo #18

Date: January 20, 2021

To: Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Elementary Teachers

Re: **Changes to EI during Covid-19; Tax Credit – Working from Home; Update: Pink-List**

Changes to EI during Covid-19

As of **September 27, 2020**, there are some temporary changes to the EI program to help you access EI maternity and parental benefits. The following changes will be in effect for 1 year and could apply to you:

- **You only need 120 insured hours to qualify for benefits because you'll get a one-time credit of 480 insured hours to help you meet the required 600 insured hours of work**
- For maternity and standard parental benefits, you'll receive at least \$500 per week before taxes but you could receive more. For extended parental benefits, you'll receive at least \$300 per week before taxes but you could receive more
- If you received the CERB, the 52-week period to accumulate insured hours will be extended

Sections on this page impacted by these temporary changes are flagged as **Temporary COVID-19 relief**.

Link to Employment and Social Development Canada web

site: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-maternity-parental.html>

Tax Credit – Working from Home

The federal government has introduced a simplified process for claiming a deduction for home office expenses for workers who worked from home due to COVID-19. The temporary flat rate method allows you to claim up to \$400 per eligible individual.

Teachers and education workers may be eligible to claim this tax deduction. Further information about eligibility requirements, eligible expenses, and how to make a claim are available [HERE](#).

Northeastern CDSB Pink-Listing Lifted

Please be advised that as a result of the tentative agreement between the Northeastern elementary and secondary permanent teachers' bargaining unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and Northeastern Catholic District School Board, the pink-listing of the Northeastern CDSB issued on January 8, 2021 is lifted, effective immediately.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1 800 558 4815