

ISSUE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 100 Years

SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

Canada Training Benefit

Background:

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce submitted comments to the Employer Commissioner regarding the Canada Training Benefit in July 2019.

Issue:

The SCC supports government incentives that help businesses and their employees improve their ability to compete in the rapidly evolving world of commerce. The EI Training Support Benefit has several deficiencies that could negate its aim to help workers cover living expenses while on training, and the incentive for business owners to approve leave for the training. The SCC feels that the tax credit amount of \$250 is too low to provide any meaningful assistance to workers. Additionally, the paid leave provision could result in employers paying for their employees to train for positions elsewhere. There is also irony in the fact that a training benefit intended to be employer or employment based is being paid as a personal tax credit.

Recommendations:

1. All access to EI paid leave should be approved by the employer and it should be stipulated that the employee takes training that enhances their value to that company.
2. The training program must be provided by a certified or accredited business trainer or public training institution.
3. The five days of paid leave should reflect travel time and any required homework so that the training program could be a 3 to 4-day course
4. De-Link the training credit with Employment Insurance training support programs to avoid confusion regarding which benefits do and do not apply.
5. For separate consideration we suggest you advocate for an improved database that publicizes the full spectrum of EI programs and promote these options

through Chambers of Commerce and Industry Associations.

History:

Letter to Employer Commissioner 2019