



Important announcements ...

March 2024

Relief for Companies & Workers

Harmed by US Tariffs:

Work Sharing Program – SPECIAL MEASURES

In response to the threat posed by US tariffs the government has put in place special measures for the Work-Sharing Program.

These measures came into effect March 7th, 2025 and will remain in place until March 6th, 2026.

What is the Work-Sharing Program?

The Work-Sharing Program helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer. It works by bringing together an employer, their employees (and union, if applicable) and Service Canada in an agreement to share the available work among employees. Workers who are eligible for Employment Insurance (EI), work a temporarily reduced workweek while the employer recovers, and the employees receive EI benefits to partially replace lost income (up to 55% of average weekly insurable earnings) over the timeframe of the agreement.



What is the purpose of the special measures?

The special measures implemented provide additional support for affected businesses during a period of economic downturn, natural disaster or if a national emergency is declared.

The special measures provide targeted support for businesses impacted to recover and avoid layoffs for a specific period of time.

Who Can Participate in Work-Sharing?

To be eligible for a Work-Sharing agreement, employers must:

• Be a publicly held company, a private business or a not-for-profit organization (that generates revenue through business activity).

• Have been in business in Canada year-round for at least two years.

• Demonstrate a recent decrease in business activity of 10%.

• Demonstrate that the work shortage is temporary and beyond their control, and not a cyclical or recurring slowdown.

• Not be experiencing a reduction in business activity related to a labour dispute.

• Have the agreement of the union (if applicable) and employees; and,

• Submit & implement recovery measures designed to return the Work-Sharing unit(s) to normal working hours by the end of the Work-Sharing agreement

To be eligible for a Work-Sharing agreement, a minimum of two employees is required. Employees must:

• Be year-round “core employees” (permanent full-time or part-time employees who are required to carry out the everyday functions of normal business activity);

• Be eligible to receive EI benefits; and,

• Agree to a reduction of their normal working hours to share the available work.

For info, scan the QR code or go to:
www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/work-sharing.html

To access info about federal government services and benefits available to you, use your cell phone’s camera to scan the code