

Parental Benefits for Self-Employed Women



Recently I received an email from the Standing Committee of the Status of Women prepared for the House of Commons (dated October 24, 2005). The subject matter was: Parental Benefits for Self-Employed Workers. This has been a matter of great discussion for quite some time so I thought I would bring you up-to-date.

Having been a presenter for the Standing Committee of the Status of Women on Parliament Hill in Ottawa (2004) I found the questions asked by women who came from across Canada very interesting and I look forward to a positive outcome for all women entrepreneurs across our great country.

It is only with the continued efforts of self-employed working women who are keeping their local members of parliament informed, that we will assist the Government of Canada in considering updating the rulings for Parental Benefits.

The following is taken directly from the email I received from Parliamentary Information and Research Service:

PARENTAL BENEFITS FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS

In previous meetings on parental benefits for self-employed women, the Committee heard that interest in special benefits varies widely among different demographic groups of self-employed persons, and that a large proportion of self-employed women were low-income or moderate-income earners. The Committee has heard from the

Women Entrepreneurs of Canada, which represents, among others, professional women who are self-employed.

The Committee has invited witnesses from the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council to address the needs of self-employed child-care workers, who tend to be low-income and moderate-income earners."

The Sector Council sponsored a project about family child care providers that focused on improving the benefits and working conditions for these care providers. The study, *Making Family Child Care Work (January 2005)*, recognized that family child care providers do not usually have access to benefits and are not covered by laws that guarantee decent working conditions. The study's first recommendation is to make family child care providers eligible for Employment Insurance benefits, including maternity and parental benefits. The Council has also published data concerning the composition of the child care workforce.

BACKGROUND

Employment Insurance (EI) is a federal program, administered through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The Employment Insurance Act identifies two benefits programs – regular benefits for people who have lost their job and cannot find work, and special benefits including sickness, maternity, parental and compassionate care benefits. Maternity and parental benefits under EI are available in order to allow a claimant to remain at home to care for newborn or adopted children. With the exception of fishers, self-employed workers are not eligible for maternity and parental benefits.

For more information go to:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/committee/CommitteeHome.aspx?Lang=1&PARLSES=381&JNT=0&SELID=e17_&COM=8997

We fought and won the vote to recognize women as people over fifty years ago, now its time to be recognized for being more than 50% of the working force across Canada and for self employed working women entrepreneurs to receive "PARENTAL BENEFITS FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS".

I welcome your response.

*Lorraine Leslie
Founder/Publisher*

Nominated for  **ENTREPRENEUR 2005 Awards**

The feature women about whom I write, have traveled a long, winding road to success – each woman on her own journey; a journey that sometimes hasn't been smooth. These women open their hearts to inspire and motivate other women, of all ages, to follow their dreams and passions...