

PANDEMIC RECOVERY FOR WORKERS

▶ PAID SICK DAYS

- 58% of workers do not have paid sick days in Canada.
- 70% of workers who make \$25,000 or less do not have paid sick days.
- Many of these workers are in low-wage, precarious employment.
- These jobs are disproportionately held by women, racialized workers, and workers with disabilities. These workers were among the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Workers need universal, accessible, and permanent employer-paid sick days.

▶ CANADA RECOVERY SICKNESS BENEFIT (CRSB)

- Undocumented and migrant workers without a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN) cannot access CRSB.
- People who earned less than \$5,000 cannot access it.
- It only provides partial income replacement and is inadequate.
- It only supports workers for longer periods of time, not for a day or two for testing and vaccination.

Workers should not have to choose between getting food on the table, meeting rent, or staying safe.

▶ EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (EI)

- Many workers cannot access EI including low-wage, precarious, and gig workers who are mostly women, racialized, Indigenous, people with disabilities, and migrant workers.
- The government is set to conduct a limited review of EI when a comprehensive review is needed.
- Qualifying hours are too high, benefits levels inadequate, disqualification “quit-fire” rules are unfair, and migrant workers are misclassified as independent contractors.
- Workers must wait one week before receiving benefits. This increases hardship during loss of job.

Workers need a fair and accessible EI system that provides adequate benefits for all.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Ask candidates if they will support seven days of paid sick leave under the Canada Labour Code and an additional 14 days during pandemics.

Ask candidates if they support fixing a broken EI system permanently.

Ask for a comprehensive review of EI, a cross-Canada 360 hour or 12 week qualifying rule, and a \$500 per week benefit floor based on a worker's 12 best weeks of earnings.