

June 25, 2013

**Hon. Minister Diane Finley**

Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development  
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada  
Office of the Minister Human Resources and Skills Development  
140 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9

Dear Minister Finley:

I am writing to you today to urge you to extend EI coverage for all those affected by floods in Southern Alberta.

As you know, only about 22% of unemployed Albertans are eligible for EI and the waiting period is 2 weeks.

Given the severity of the situation and the impact on the provincial economy, the Alberta Federation of Labour is suggesting you undertake the following emergency measures:

- Waive all waiting periods for those who qualify for benefits.
- Extend EI benefits to small business owners affected by the flood. Many of the establishments under water in Inglewood/Mission, downtown Calgary, Bragg Creek, Medicine Hat, Banff/Canmore, Kananaskis and High River are in fact small businesses. Establish a special benefits class for small business owners whose businesses are not operational for up to (at least) four weeks and waive all waiting periods.
- Extend EI coverage to workers on commission and others – such as those who work for tips - who rarely qualify for EI. Many of the workers affected by the floods are employed by small business and work on commission or for tips. Extend EI coverage to those workers for their commission/tips income as reported to the CRA for the 2012 tax year.

The federal government should ensure no workers or small business owners are left out of reconstruction efforts. We believe the federal government has a responsibility to ensure livelihoods for all Alberta families and workers during this time.

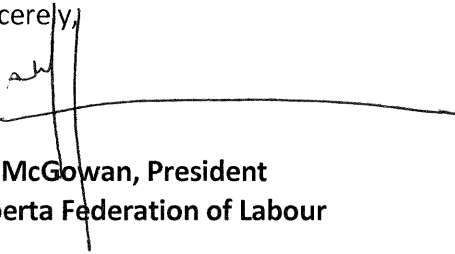
We're hoping the federal government recognizes that not all workers have access to EI benefits. Extending them in these circumstances is the right thing to do for the people of Southern Alberta.

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Hon. Minister Finley

Almost all of Alberta's first responders are union members and they are working hard to deal with the aftermath of the flood in health care and emergency services delivery, remediation and restoration. We're proud to do so, and look forward to working together to ensure the safety and well-being of all Albertans affected by these catastrophic events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gil McGowan', is written over a vertical line. A horizontal line extends from the middle of the vertical line to the right.

**Gil McGowan, President  
Alberta Federation of Labour**

cc: Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and MP for Calgary Southeast  
365 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

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