

Employment Insurance Rate Increase

December 17, 2010

The federal government has announced it will increase the annual maximum insurable earnings to \$44,200 from \$43,200, effective January 1, 2011.

This will result in an increase of \$11 per week to the Employment Insurance (EI) weekly maximum benefit. Beginning January 1, 2011, the EI weekly maximum benefit will increase to \$468 per week.

This increase to the EI maximum insurable earnings/benefits for 2011 means Weekly Indemnity (WI) plans that are linked to EI benefits/earnings will see benefit and premium adjustments. For example, a WI plan that specifies a maximum benefit of \$457 in order to match the maximum weekly EI benefit will increase to \$468.

Claimants who are currently receiving WI benefits will not be affected. Their weekly benefit will remain at \$457 as this was the maximum benefit at their time of claim. Claimants from groups that use the EI maximum as their maximum WI benefit amount will see an increase to the new \$468 maximum for claims having a date of disability on or after January 1, 2011.