

No benefit is payable during the first nine days of unemployment in a benefit year. After that a worker may draw one payment for every five contributions made in the previous five years, less one payment for every three benefit payments received in the previous three years. Under the Act the whole of the benefit is related to the employment history of the insured individual. In so far as a man's future benefits are reduced by his past claims, the worker might be likely to proceed more cautiously in applying for benefit. Moreover, he is made aware that the longer the period of employment and contribution, the greater the benefits in any period of unemployment, by reason of former regular contributions.

Insurance benefits are paid as a right on fulfilment of four statutory conditions:—

1. The payment of not less than 30 weekly (or 180 daily) contributions within two years, while in insured employment.
2. Proper presentation of the claim, and proof of unemployment.
3. Proof that the contributor is capable of, and available for, work.
4. Proof that the contributor has not refused to attend a course of instruction, if required.

Disqualifications for benefit include: loss of work due to misconduct or a labour dispute in which the contributor is involved; unwillingness to accept suitable employment; being an inmate of any prison or an institution supported out of public funds; the earning of less than 90 cents a day while in employment.

Prior to the commencement of the payment of contributions, the Commission, with the assistance of the Post Office Department, established 44 registration and distribution depots at various centres across Canada. These depots registered employers and their insured workers, and issued insurance books for insurable persons. Over two million insured wage-earners were covered by unemployment insurance.

Numerous questions have arisen regarding the scope of the Act, and as to whether certain employees were insurable or not. Most of the inquiries were dealt with by the Commission's officers at the registration depots; doubtful cases were referred to regional or head office coverage committees for administrative rulings.

Inspectors of insurance revenue made continuous inspections of employers' records to ensure that proper contributions were being made in respect of insurable employees. From July 1 to Mar. 31, 1942, over 35,515 audits and inspections were undertaken by these inspectors covering some 468,791 employed persons.

The first date on which claimants could qualify for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act was Jan. 27, 1942. Since that time there has been a moderate flow of claims for benefit. From Jan. 27 to Mar. 31, 1942, 3,539 claims filed at local offices were forwarded to the regional and district offices for adjudication. The insurance officers at these offices allowed claims that met the requirements of the Act and regulations. Doubtful claims and claims that failed to meet the necessary conditions were referred to Ottawa for review. Of the 387 claims received at Ottawa up to the end of the fiscal year, 71 were allowed, 65 not allowed, 246 disqualified and 5 returned to regional and district offices for disposal.

There were 21 requests by claimants up to the end of March, 1942, to have their claims referred to courts of referees and of the 21 cases referred, one was allowed, 8 were disqualified or not allowed, one was withdrawn and 11 were pending.

The total number of benefit cheques issued up to and including Mar. 31, 1942, was 3,232 and the total amount paid in unemployment insurance benefit from the fund was \$27,752.