

Self-Employment is an employment program that provides financial assistance and entrepreneurial support to eligible individuals while they develop and implement their business plan.

Program Objective

Self-Employment assists unemployed eligible individuals who are creating jobs for themselves by starting a business.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for participation in Self Employment (SE), you must be an unemployed individual (“Employment Insurance (EI) Client”) as defined in the Canada – BC Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA). This means that you are an individual for whom:

- a. an unemployment benefit period has been established or has ended within the 36 months (3 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance; or
- b. a benefit period that included a maternity or parental claim has been established within the 60 months (5 years) prior to the date of requesting assistance, after which you remained out of the labour market in order to care for a newborn or newly adopted child and are now seeking to re-enter the labour force.

Other criteria may apply. For more information on which other criteria may apply for eligibility into this employment program, please contact Enquiry BC

Financial Benefits

Individuals currently in receipt of EI may continue to receive their EI benefits, or a regionally determined rate, whichever is higher. Eligible individuals not in receipt of EI benefits will receive the regionally determined rate. Individuals may also be eligible for personal supports, such as dependant care.

How can I get more information?

You can get more information on Employment and Labour Market Services through your local Employment Assistance Service (EAS) Provider, or through **Enquiry BC**.

Hours of Operation for Enquiry BC are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Victoria:	250 387-6121	<i>Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD)</i>
Vancouver:	604 660-2421	Vancouver: 604 775-0303
Elsewhere in BC:	1 800 663-7867	Elsewhere in BC: 1 800 661-8773

EAS locations and Employment and Labour Market Services information is also available by internet:

Employment and Labour Market Services website:

www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca