



Service  
Canada

Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0J9

OCT 29 2009

Ms. Melanie Filiatrault  
President  
British Columbia Federation of Foster Parents Associations  
200-7342 Winston Street  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5A 2H1

Dear Ms. Filiatrault:

On behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development with responsibility for Service Canada, I am writing in response to your letter of September 4, 2009, concerning Employment Insurance (EI) benefits with respect to foster parents.

Service Canada strives to serve all individuals fairly and appropriately, which includes respecting the rights of every client at all times. Departmental officials therefore make every effort to provide clients with the EI benefits and any other possible assistance that they need and are entitled to receive, in a timely manner. These officials are responsible, at the same time, for making claims-related decisions in full compliance with the legislation and based on the merits of each case.

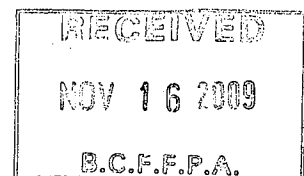
I am aware that foster parents do not receive a wage for providing care to foster children; rather they receive money that is meant to support the children placed in their care. These monies are not income nor are they considered earnings for EI purposes. However, this determination is made on an individual basis according to the information that is provided by the EI claimant to Service Canada. Nonetheless, please rest assured that the Service Canada Centres and Service Canada Call Centres have been contacted to ensure that the correct information is provided to claimants who receive these payments.

Should you have any further questions, I invite you to contact Mr. Tony Jochlin, Acting Senior Consultant, British Columbia, Alberta, and Territories Region, at 604-666-0051. Mr. Jochlin will be pleased to address any concerns that you may have.

I hope that this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Liliane Binette  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Operations Branch



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