

who think they can cheat UI:

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be completely honest. They use UI as was intended—as a financial bridge between jobs.

And no one's picking on you. Anyone we find abusing Unemployment Insurance will be dealt with under the law.

If you're caught, money improperly claimed must be paid back in full. It could mean you pay an administrative penalty. Or you could face prosecution under the Unemployment Insurance Act, or the Criminal Code of Canada. Conviction means a criminal record.

UI employs almost 500 full-time trained claims investigators and, like any modern organization, we use new data-handling techniques to their best advantage. We match up Records of Employment with claim records to find the cheaters who don't report earnings while they're on UI.

We don't like to prosecute. We'd rather avoid that painful process by telling people that if they cheat, they'll probably be caught.

“I never really believed it was criminal.”

Some people's attitudes toward Unemployment Insurance have been hard to explain.

People who would never consider shoplifting or outright robbery have been willing to hide earnings from us to get more UI benefits than the law allows. Almost as if it were socially acceptable or even fun.

Everyone knows this goes on. No one knows better than we do.

Suppose you lose your job. If you've been paying into Unemployment Insurance and you qualify, you have a right to benefits. And we will respect that right as long as you remember your obligations, too.

Your obligation is to play it straight with us. And as long as you do that, we're proud to help you.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Department of Manpower and Immigration have become the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. For a time, you'll still see our local offices identified as Unemployment Insurance offices or Canada Manpower Centres. When they're together in one location, they'll be called Canada Employment Centres.

Canada's Unemployment Insurance Program

Working with people who want to work.



Employment and Immigration Canada

Emploi et Immigration Canada

Bud Cullen, Minister

Bud Cullen, Ministre