

Employment Insurance Assignment of Benefit

When you apply for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, it may be several weeks before your first EI cheque arrives. If you need assistance with rent, food and other basic living expenses during this time, you may qualify for Ontario Works (OW).

When you apply for assistance through Ontario Works, you must sign at least two *Assignment of Benefit (AOB)* forms.

What is an Assignment of Benefit?

An Assignment of Benefit is a process to direct a portion of an EI claimant's benefits to the OW office when both EI and OW has been paid, or will be paid, for the same period.

Why do I have to agree to an Assignment of Benefit?

You are required to sign an AOB as a condition of eligibility. Signing these forms will allow EI to reimburse a portion of your EI benefits to OW until the amount is paid back in full.

Please Note: If for any reason the EI assignment is not honoured by EI and you received EI benefits for the same period, you are still obligated to repay the total amount to OW that was also paid for the same period.

How much do I have to repay?

The total amount that was issued by OW is to be repaid over a period of time less your EI 1 week waiting period. Your EI benefit would not go below you approved OW rate.

For example:

Weekly rate of OW	Weekly rate of EI	Amount sent to OW to Satisfy assignment
\$200/wk	\$250/wk	\$50/wk – until paid in full

*These figures will vary on a case by case basis and are used only to demonstrate how EI repays OW

What if I am found ineligible for EI benefits?

The assignments are only valid if you qualify for EI for the same period of time that you received Ontario Works assistance.