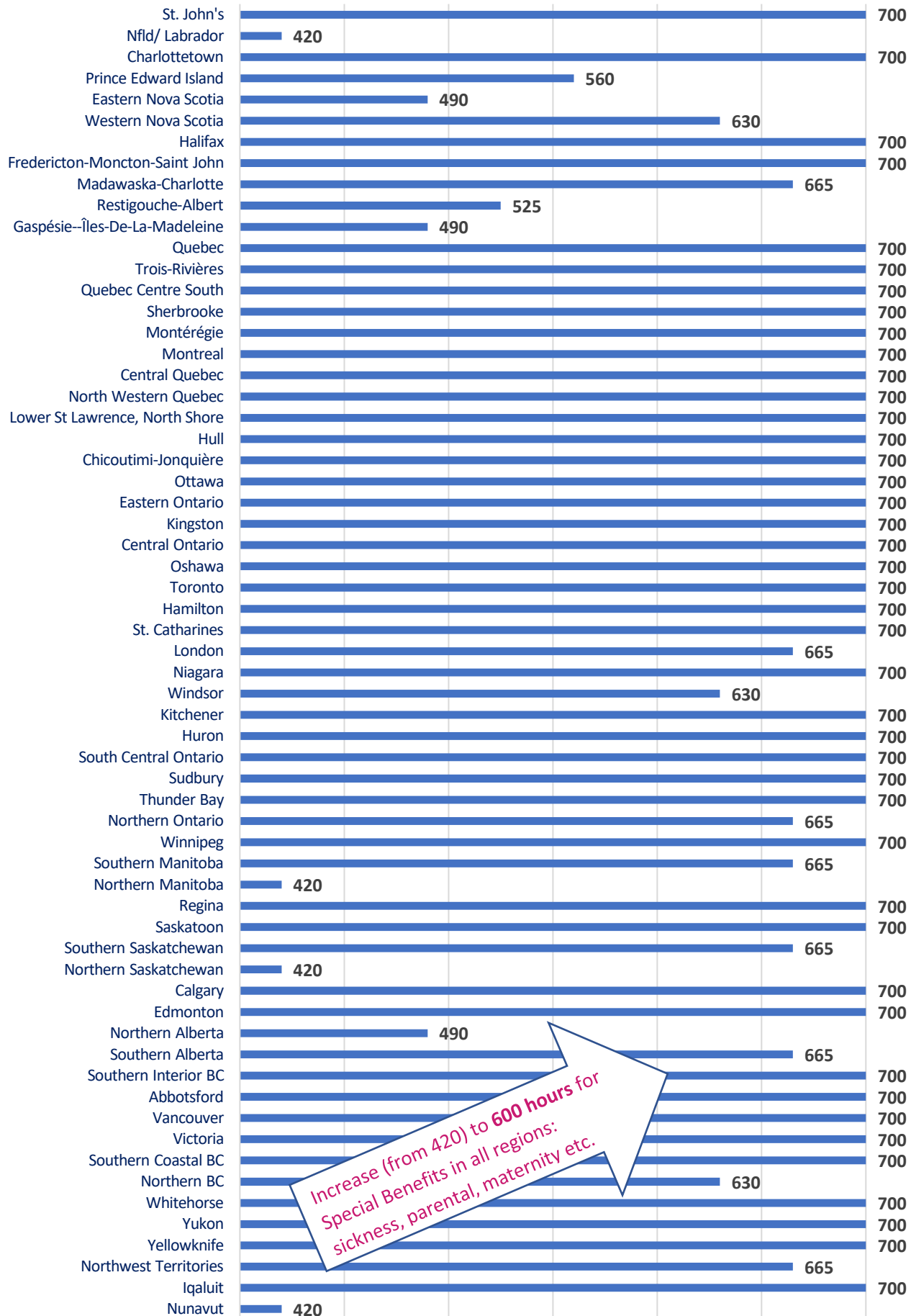


Instead of a Common 420 Hour Rule Canada-wide to Access EI...



If the government does not extend Recovery EI Benefit rules and we revert to the old EI rules on Sept 25, 2022, there will be no bridge to help workers access EI until the promised new EI program is in place.

It means, for example, that the current 420 hour qualifying rule which has been universally applied across Canada will no longer apply. New claimants will find it's harder to qualify for EI:

1. A worker who needs EI **Special Benefits for sickness, maternity, parental leave etc. will face a harsher qualifying requirement of 600 hours instead of 420.** This will have a huge impact on EI access for women, racialized workers and others in precarious jobs. The 600 hours will apply in all 62 EI regions.
2. A worker who needs EI **Regular Benefits for a layoff or other job separation will need a minimum of 420 to 700 hours** depending on where they live in Canada and depending on which month they applied for benefits. This will negatively impact those in temporary, part-time and precarious employment.
3. Regular Benefit requirements will be based on Statistics Canada's 3-month rolling average unemployment rate for each of 62 EI Regions.

The **attached hours chart** shows what happens if we go back to the old rules for new EI claims starting Sept 25. After that they'll vary by region and month.

- **only 4 regions will still require the current 420 hours**
 - **81% (50 of 62 regions) will take a big jump to 665 or 700 hours on Sept 25***
 - our 3 largest cities (Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver) would require 700 hours as would all large urban labour forces
 - St. John's, Halifax, Fredericton and Charlottetown will require 700 hours.
4. Even workers who qualify for EI **may get a shorter period of benefits**, depending on their qualifying hours. That's because benefit durations are also determined by the regional 3-month rolling unemployment rates at the time of layoff.
 5. The removal of administrative flexibilities mean **severance and vacation pay will again be allocated/clawed back** at the start of a claim, delaying EI benefits.

Meanwhile EI unemployment rates actually increased last month for almost half of the EI regions (29 of 62) and workers face rising prices, job market insecurity and lingering effects of a COVID economy. **We need a bridge to the promised new EI!**

* StatsCan "The Daily", Sept 9, 2022, Table 12 "Regional unemployment rates used by the Employment Insurance program, three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted" (Labour Force Survey, August 2022)
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220909/t012a-eng.htm>