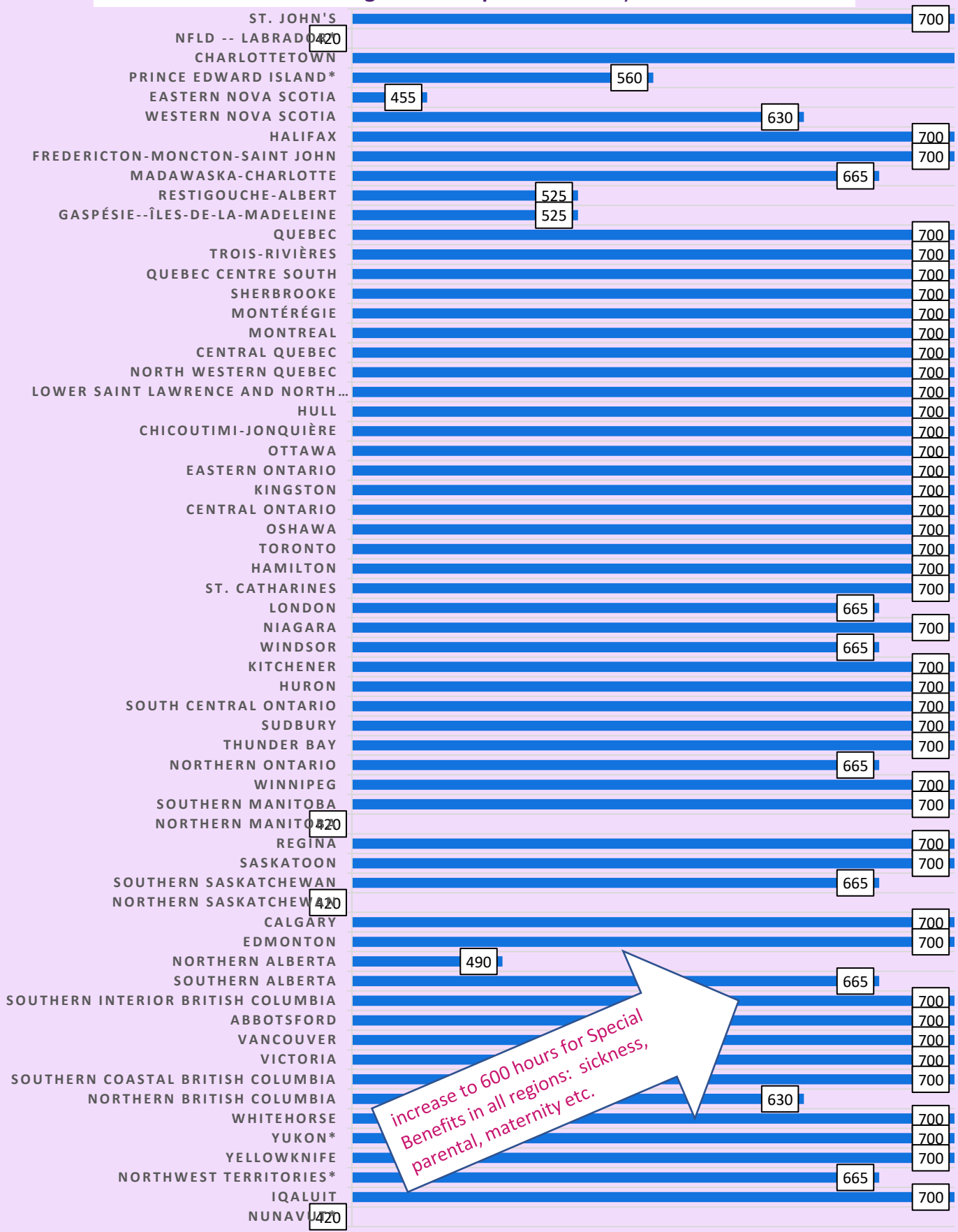


If we revert to the old EI rules on Sept 25 here's the expected increase in minimum qualifying hours (using regional rolling 3 month unemployment averages Aug 7 to Sept 10). **It's now 420 hours for Regular or Special EI anywhere in Canada.**



increase to 600 hours for Special Benefits in all regions: sickness, parental, maternity etc.

If the government does not provide an extension of Recovery EI Benefit rules, we'll revert to the old EI rules on Sept 25, 2022. There will be no bridge to help workers access EI until a 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 the requirements for EI claims starting Aug 7 to Sept 10 hold for Regular EI claims starting Sept 25:

- only 4 regions would still require the current 420 hours
 - **82% (51 of 62 regions) would take a big jump to 665 or 700 hours**
 - 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 would require 700 hours.
4. Even workers who qualify for EI **may find they get a shorter period of benefits**, depending on their qualifying hours. That's because, as of Sept. 25, benefit durations will also be determined by the regional 3-month rolling unemployment rates at the time of layoff.
 5. Changes to administrative flexibilities mean that **severance and vacation pay** would once again be allocated to the start of a claim, delaying EI benefits.

See StatsCan "*The Daily*", Aug 19, 2022, Table 14 "*Regional unemployment rates Used by the Employment Insurance program, three-month moving average, seasonally adjusted*" <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220805/t012a-eng.htm>

Good Jobs for All Coalition Aug 24, 2022