



Colin Carrie MP
Oshawa

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada helping former IQT employees

Oshawa, Ontario, July 20, 2011—Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament for Oshawa and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, spoke out on IQT's decision to close its call centre in Oshawa.

“Last Friday, I was extremely disappointed and shocked about IQT's sudden closure,” stated MP Carrie. “My heart goes out to all the employees and family members affected by this. Losing a job is one of the hardest things a person can go through.”

Since the announcement, Colin and his staff have been in close contact with the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) Dianne Finley, Minister of Labour Lisa Raitt and Minister of Industry Christian Paradis as well as Service Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Labour, the Office of the Superintendent for Bankruptcy Canada and with other local MPs and MPPs.

“We are doing everything we can to minimize the impact of this tragic event on these hard-working Canadians,” stated HRSDC Minister Diane Finley. “I encourage former IQT employees to apply for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits immediately in order to avoid any possible loss of benefits.”

Individuals can apply for their EI benefits as soon as they lose their job without having a copy of their Record of Employment (ROE). It is important that they apply quickly. In instances where the employer has failed to provide a Record of Employment, or in situations of mass lay-offs, Service Canada will make every attempt to contact and work with the employer.

Service Canada will monitor the local situation on an ongoing basis. It will provide immediate response to the affected employees and workers, ensuring timely access to federal and, where possible, provincial programs and services. For more information about the EI Program, please visit servicecanada.gc.ca or call 1-800-206-7218.

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt stated. “MP Carrie has kept me abreast of the situation and will continue to ensure those affected receive any assistance the Government may provide.”

Currently, there is no indication that IQT has officially filed for bankruptcy. Until such time as that occurs, there is no eligibility for payment under the Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP). Should the official filing take place then employees are eligible to apply to WEPP to recover lost wages. Should IQT officially file for bankruptcy, information will be immediately released so employees can file for WEPP.

“Since the announcement on Friday, my office has dealt with numerous calls, walk-ins and emails from laid off employees,” stated MP Carrie. “I want to let all affected employees know that my staff and I are here to assist you in any way we can. My office number is 905-440-4868. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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