

2023-2028 Edition

Guide

to Parental Rights and the QPIP



For members of unions affiliated with the Fédération
du personnel de soutien de l'enseignement supérieur (FPSES-CSQ)





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IMPORTANT

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING SECTION FIRST

Foreword

The goal of this document is to provide a summary of the rights provided by the collective agreement, the Québec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) and the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST). It is available from your union or at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux. It is understood that the collective agreement and relevant laws remain the true source of these rights and that the document thus has no legal value.

While this document covers key aspects of the QPIP, we recommend you also visit rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en or read the QPIP information brochures.

It is important that you consult your union to ensure you are fully aware of all rights relating to your personal situation.

Who Should Read This

This document is intended for employees who are members of a union affiliated with the Fédération du personnel de soutien de l'enseignement supérieur (FPSES-CSQ) covered by the collective agreement of the public college network (C7 2023-2028). Employees who are students and employees who are members of a union in the university or service sector should see the *Guide pour les syndicats non visés par les conventions du secteur public à hors secteur public* (In French only) at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux.

Persons who live outside Québec should also talk to their union, since they will be covered by EI rather than by the QPIP.

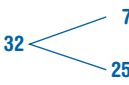
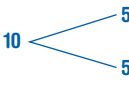
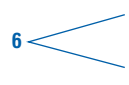

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A. The Québec Parental Insurance Plan (QPIP) at a Glance

1. Basic Plan and Special Plan – Summary Table for Biological and Adoptive Parents

Type of benefit	Basic Plan		Special Plan	
	Number of weeks of benefit	% of average weekly earnings	Number of weeks of benefit	% of average weekly earnings
Biological Parents				
Maternity (exclusive)	18	70%	15	75%
Paternity (exclusive)	5	70%	3	75%
Parental (shareable)	32 	70% 55%	25	75%
Parental (additional)	4 ⁱ	55%	3 ⁱⁱ	75%
Adoptive Parents				
Welcome and support (shareable)	13	70%	12	75%
Adoption (exclusive)	10 	70% 70%	6 	75% 75%
Adoption (shareable)	32 	70% 55%	25	75%
Adoption additional (shareable)	4 ⁱ	55%	3 ⁱⁱ	75%

Note: Both parents must choose the same plan (this choice is irreversible, with rare exceptions). The first parent to apply makes the choice.

i If each parent actually took 8 shareable benefit weeks first.

ii If each parent actually took 6 shareable benefit weeks first.

NEW BENEFITS (Bill 51 passed on October 9, 2020)

Adoption-Related Welcome and Support Benefits

New shareable welcome and support benefits are available to meet the specific needs of parents who adopt a child.

Adoption Benefits

The number of benefit weeks has increased, and each parent gets a certain number of non-shareable (exclusive) benefits.

Sharing Parental or Adoption Benefits

Additional benefits are available when both parents share a minimum number of parental or adoption benefit weeks. The parents can also share the additional benefit weeks.

Multiple Birth or Adoption Benefits

Each parent qualifies for additional exclusive parental or adoption benefit weeks. Under the basic plan, each parent gets another 5 benefit weeks at 70% of earnings, while under the special plan each parent gets another 3 benefit weeks at 75% of earnings.

Single Parent Benefits

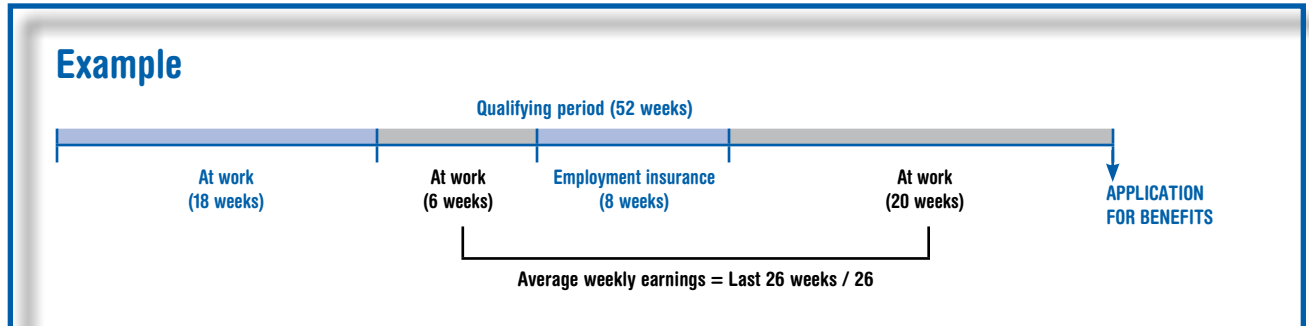
For births or adoptions where just one parent is named on the birth certificate (or equivalent document for an adoption), additional parental or adoption benefit weeks are granted. Under the basic plan, 5 benefit weeks at 70% of earnings are added. Under the special plan, 3 benefit weeks at 75% of earnings are added.

2. How Much?

Depending on the case, the benefit amount is set at 75%, 70% or 55% of the person's average weekly earnings (AWE) up to a maximum of \$1,808 in 2024 (or \$94,000 per year). **This is usually the average for the last 26 weeks** of the qualifying period (52 weeks) **in which the applicant had insurable earnings** (employment or business income, including vacation, paid leave, overtime, bonuses, etc.).

Weeks where no insurable earnings were received are not part of the count for these 26 weeks. This applies, for example, to weeks where a person might have had preventive leave benefits (CNESST), QPIP benefits for a previous child, EI benefits, or no income at all. These weeks have no effect on average weekly income.

However, each week where you have insurable earnings, **regardless of how little**, will be included in the 26 weeks used to determine your benefits. It is the 26 most **recent** weeks of insurable earnings that will be used, not the 26 best.



The minimum divisor to determine average weekly earnings is 16. That means if a person has **at least 16 weeks** in their qualifying period and an employment income fairly consistent with their usual earnings, they will be entitled to reasonably good benefits.

There are a number of exceptions whereby qualifying periods can be extended or modified to improve the benefit rate (preventive leave, closely spaced pregnancies, Employment Insurance [EI], etc.). These cases (sections 31.1, 31.2 and 32 of the Regulation under the Act respecting parental insurance, among others) make it possible to go back further than 52 weeks (maximum 104 weeks) to find more weeks with work income or to move or change the qualifying period (see page 17). In the case of closely spaced pregnancies, for example, Section 31.1 provides for the same benefit rate for the second child as for the first, but only if certain very strict conditions are met. It may also sometimes be helpful to file for benefits early (see page 18). **Talk to your union.**

QPIP benefits are calculated based on a person's **gross** income (**personal rather than family**) and subject to tax (federal and provincial), though these are the only deductions the QPIP will make. While these benefits have no other deductions (QPP, Employment Insurance, QPIP, RREGOP, union dues, etc.), the QPIP usually does not deduct enough taxes, often resulting in an onerous tax bill the following spring. To avoid this occurrence, when applying for benefits you can ask that the QPIP deduct more federal and provincial tax.

3. Who and When?

The first condition of eligibility for QPIP benefits is that you must have had at least \$2,000 in insurable earnings in the qualifying period (see previous item).

The second condition is that you must have stopped receiving pay. This is usually when a person starts maternity, paternity, or adoption leave (after the five-day paid leave, where applicable). Once this condition is met, you can start what is called a benefit period (that is, the period when benefits may be paid). The benefit period always begins on a Sunday, as the QPIP week runs from Sunday to Saturday.

The benefit period was extended as of January 1, 2021.

- Maternity benefits: From 16 weeks before the expected delivery date to 20 weeks after delivery
- Paternity and parental benefits: From the week of the birth to 78 weeks later
- Adoption or foster care and support benefits: From the week the child arrives into care (or five weeks before for international adoptions) to 78 weeks later

Within these guidelines, the QPIP allows a great deal of freedom. Both parents can get benefits at the same time or one after the other. In addition, parents can suspend and resume benefit payments as they choose.

Parents who suspend the payment of their benefits to go back to work, for a few weeks or a few months, may ask for a benefit rate recalculation that would take this new work income into account, if this proves more advantageous (Section 26 of the Regulation under the Act respecting parental insurance).

It is important to stress that the QPIP pays benefits but does not grant leaves of absence. It is your employer that grants the leaves of absence needed to collect these benefits under the terms of the collective agreement or, if not applicable, the Act respecting labour standards. This means you must get a leave of absence from your employer before applying for QPIP benefits. **Talk to your union.**

4. Which Plan Should I Choose?

For a mother who wants to take **46 weeks or more** off work, the Basic Plan is a better option because additional benefits from the employer are factored in. For an absence of **45 weeks or less**, the Special Plan is a better option overall even though you may have no income in the last weeks.

5. How?

It is best to apply for benefits on the QPIP website (rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en), which has all the information you need. Each parent must file their own application. As a general rule, you cannot apply before the Sunday of the week you want to start getting benefits (unless you are filing early – see page 18). **Talk to your union.** Records of employment¹ for the weeks preceding the claim, which are needed to process it, are usually sent electronically by the employer. We recommend you ask for a copy. If your employer is slow to issue a record of employment, file your application anyway.

6. Earning Income While You Receive Benefits

Gross employment earnings (including paid sick leave²) are normally viewed as concurrent income and may be deducted from QPIP benefits. However, the QPIP does not factor in additional benefits paid by the college during maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

A person who is entitled to concurrent income or earnings for a given week may call the QPIP Centre de service à la clientèle (1-888-610-7727) to ask that benefits be suspended for that week. However, they must do so **before** the benefits are paid. If applicable, the week(s) of suspension will only postpone, for a corresponding period, the moment when the benefit payments are made. Otherwise, they must declare the concurrent income, which will be deducted from their benefits. During the payment period for all benefit types, each dollar of concurrent income over and above the exemption is deductible. The exemption is calculated by subtracting the benefit amount from the average weekly earnings amount used to calculate QPIP benefits.

For example, if an employee has an average weekly income of \$1,000 and a QPIP benefit of \$700 (70%), the exemption will be \$300. If an employee gets employment earnings of \$400 and a QPIP benefit in the same week, the \$100 surplus is deducted from the benefit (\$400 earnings – \$300 exemption). Visit rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en to learn more.

¹ The same form is used for EI (normally called "termination of employment").

² The paid sick leave amount should be allocated in 2 equal portions over the 2-week pay period where it is provided. **Talk to your union.**

B. Pregnancy – Special Leave

Collective Agreement Provisions (Clauses 7-4.18 to 7-4.20)

1. a. Preventive leave or interim reassignment for workers who are pregnant or breast-feeding (Clause 7-4.18)³

If an employee's working conditions entail risks to herself, her unborn child or the child she is breast-feeding, she may be immediately reassigned to other duties. Employees wholly or partly reassigned will retain their regular salary and benefits.⁴

However, pregnant employees who cannot perform their job due to personal health issues may qualify for a leave of absence due to complications or risk of termination (see 1. b.).

If reassignment is not immediately possible, the employee may go on a preventive leave during which she gets an income replacement indemnity (IRI) from the CNESST. For employees who qualify for QPIP, CNESST IRI benefits end as of the fourth week before the expected delivery date, at which point the employee can begin their maternity leave and QPIP benefits.

Income during preventive leave is as follows:

First 5 working days	Regular salary is paid by the college
Next 14 calendar days	90% of net salary is paid by the college
Subsequent days	90% of net salary is paid by the CNESST ⁵

The QPIP treats the first 5 workdays as insurable earnings. However, the 90% salary paid by the CNESST (or by the college for the first 14 days) for preventive leave is not considered insurable earnings, though these weeks extend the qualifying period used to calculate benefit rates and average weekly earnings (see pages 5 and 18).

It is important to note that there are no CNESST benefits paid during the summer period. Nonetheless, employees may take weeks of vacation or request EI benefits if they have sufficient hours, excluding the period of preventive leave.

b. Complications or risk of termination (Clauses 7-4.19 a), 7-4.20 and 7-14.25)

In cases involving complications or risk of termination (high-risk pregnancy, placental abruption, anemia, gestational diabetes, back pain, etc.), the employee will qualify for special leave and salary insurance benefits (including sick leave, where applicable) for a period stated by the medical certificate but not extending past the day before the birth.

Note: The QPIP treats salary insurance benefits paid by the employer as insurable earnings. Thanks to the Centrale des syndicats du Québec's (CSQ) efforts, we have been able, since 2012, to use Section 31.2 of the Regulation under the Act respecting parental insurance to ensure these benefits do not reduce your QPIP benefits (see page 19). **Talk to your union.**

c. Termination of pregnancy prior to the start of the 20th week before the expected delivery date (Clauses 7-4.19 b), 7-4.20 and 7-14.25)

The employee qualifies for a leave of absence and salary insurance benefits (including sick leave, where applicable) for as long as stated by the medical certificate.

d. Pregnancy-related medical appointments (Clauses 7-4.19 c) and 7-4.20)

Five days with pay may be taken in half-days, at the employee's discretion. Sick days may be added to this.

³ To learn more about preventive leave for pregnant or breast-feeding workers, please see section [Retrait préventif](#) (Preventive Leave, in French only) on the CSQ website.

⁴ The same should apply when employees are removed from some of their duties but not reassigned. **Talk to your union.**

⁵ Maximum eligible earnings of \$94,000 in 2024.

2.
**Information
on All Types of
Special Leave
(Clauses
7-4.18 to
7-4.20)**

Employees who are reassigned or on preventive leave retain all the rights and privileges of their regular position.
Benefits retained while on special leave 1. b., 1. c. or 1. d. are the same as those retained on maternity leave (see page 9).

3.
**Pension Plan
(RREGOP)
Provisions**

For the duration of special leave 1. a., 1. b. or 1. c., the RREGOP will recognize exactly the same service as if the employee were still at work, without the employee having to pay contributions or take action of any kind.
The same applies to medical appointments (1.d.), except that the usual RREGOP contributions are deducted by the college.

4.
**What You
Need to Do**

a. Interim reassignment and preventive leave (1. a.)

Talk to your doctor, who will fill out the *Certificat visant le retrait préventif et l'affectation de la travailleuse enceinte ou qui allaite* (Certificate of Preventive Leave and Reassignment for Pregnant or Breast-Feeding Workers [French only]) and the form provided for this purpose after consulting the Direction de la santé publique (DSP) or CLSC.⁶

Give the college a copy of the certificate along with a copy of the DSP or CLSC report as soon as possible.

b. Special Leave 1. b., 1. c. and 1. d.

Notify the college as soon as possible and give them the relevant medical records.

Each pregnancy-related medical appointment must be confirmed by a medical certificate or a written report signed by a midwife

⁶ For biological risks, it is important to act from the start of your pregnancy. If your own doctor is unavailable, go to an emergency clinic.

C. Maternity Leave

Collective Agreement Provisions (Clauses 7-4.06 to 7-4.17)

1. To qualify for benefits paid by the college, the employee must have accumulated at least 20 weeks of service in the public or broader public sectors in the course of her career.⁷

a. Employees who qualify for QPIP benefits (Clauses 7-4.06 to 7-4.13)

An employee who qualifies for QPIP benefits is entitled to a leave of 21 weeks:

- With additional benefits paid by the college (difference between the QPIP and approximately 90% of salary)
- Taken consecutively (subject to Clauses 7-4.10 and 7-4.11 – see page 17)
- Allocated at the employee’s discretion but which must include the delivery date.

Benefits per pay period for the 21 weeks of leave are calculated as follows:

100% of the first gross \$225 of the basic weekly salary⁸
plus
88% of the amount in excess of the first \$225
minus
benefits paid or payable by the QPIP

Example

Basic weekly salary: \$1,000

QPIP benefits at 70%: \$700

\$225
+
88% x (\$1,000 - \$225)
-
\$700
= \$225 + \$682 - \$700 = \$207

In this example, the QPIP benefits of \$700 plus the college allowance of \$207 result in a total income of \$907, or 90% of the usual gross weekly salary. This percentage will range from 90% for higher wages to 100% for lower wages. In all cases, the employee will retain 100% of her net income during maternity leave.

The following benefits are retained during the 21-week maternity leave (Clause 7-4.52):

- Life insurance
- Health and other applicable insurance plans with copayment
- Vacation accrual or payment in lieu thereof
- Accumulated sick days
- Accumulation of seniority
- Accrual of experience (salary increment)
- Accumulation of continuous service for the purpose of acquiring tenure
- The right to apply for posted positions
- The right to defer up to 4 weeks of vacation

⁷ Employees who have not accumulated 20 weeks of service will be entitled only to unpaid leave.

⁸ For part-time employees, the basic weekly salary is the average salary for the 20 weeks preceding leave. If these 20 weeks include periods of salary, employment, or CNESST insurance, the reference salary used is considered, not the benefits received. In addition, periods of unpaid leave or contract interruption are excluded from the calculation. **Talk to your union.**

b. Employees not eligible for QPIP benefits⁹ (Clauses 7-4.06 to 7-4.12 and 7-4.16)

Employees not eligible for QPIP benefits are entitled to 20 weeks of leave; for 12 of those weeks, approximately 90% of their normal salary will be fully paid by the college.

The 12 weeks of benefits paid by the college are insurable earnings, which means that at the end of the 12 weeks, the employee will qualify for QPIP benefits. The employee must then ask the college for a record of employment.

Note: The situations of those ineligible for QPIP benefits are often complex and need to be reviewed case by case. **Talk to your union.**

2.

Linking the Collective Agreement with the QPIP

If we combine the rights provided by the collective agreement with those of the QPIP, we see that the mother can get income from the college or the QPIP over a 50- or 40-week period depending on the plan she has chosen (basic or special).

For the 21-week maternity leave under the collective agreement, the employee is paid about 90% of her normal salary which is jointly provided by the college and the QPIP.

The employee then qualifies for leave without pay as an extension of her maternity leave, during which she can get QPIP parental benefits for a 29- or 19-week period depending on which plan she has chosen (basic or special).

Example 1 – Basic Plan

Maternity Leave: (21 weeks)	Week 1 to 18	18 weeks of QPIP maternity benefits (70%) + benefits from the college = about 90% of regular salary
	Week 19 to 21	3 weeks of QPIP parental benefits (70%) + benefits from the college = about 90% of regular salary
Extension without pay (parental leave)	Week 22 to 25	4 weeks of QPIP parental benefits (70%)
	Week 26 to 50	25 weeks of QPIP parental benefits (55%)
	Total	(21 x about 90%) + (4 x 70%) + (25 x 55%) = an average of about 71% over a 50-week period

Example 2 – Special Plan

Maternity Leave: (21 weeks)	Week 1 to 15	15 weeks of QPIP maternity benefits (75%) + benefits from the college = about 90% of regular salary
	Week 16 to 21	6 weeks of QPIP parental benefits (75%) + benefits from the college = about 90% of regular salary
Extension without pay (parental leave)	Week 22 to 40	19 weeks of QPIP parental benefits (75%)
	Total	(21 x about 90%) + (19 x 75%) = an average of about 83% over a 40-week period

3.

Pension Plan (RREGOP) Provisions

For the duration of maternity leave (21 weeks), the RREGOP will recognize exactly the same service as if the employee were still at work, without her having to pay contributions or take action of any kind. To learn about extension without pay, see page 14.

4.

What You Need to Do

Give the college written notice of your pending maternity leave two weeks before your anticipated departure, along with a medical certificate or a report signed by a midwife attesting to the pregnancy and the expected delivery date (see “Modèle 1” or “Modèle 2”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

Apply for benefits on the QPIP website: rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en

Send the college proof of your QPIP eligibility (see “Modèle 3”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

Send the college a vacation deferral request, where applicable, at least two weeks before your leave ends (see “Modèle 9”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

⁹ Ineligible employees are those who have less than \$2,000 of insurable income in the 52 weeks before they apply for QPIP benefits, despite qualifying period extensions.

D. Paternity or Adoption Leave

1. **Paternity** leave (of five days and five weeks) is reserved exclusively for the father or a same-sex¹⁰ spouse officially designated as one of the child's mothers.

Collective Agreement Provisions (Clauses 7-4.21 to 7-4.40)

Adoption leave is reserved for parents who adopt a child.

a. Paternity or adoption leave (five working days paid at 100% by the College)¹¹ (Clause 7-4.21 or 7-4.30)

These days may be discontinuous.

Paternity leave starts when the mother goes into labour and ends 15 days after she or the child returns home.

Adoption leave must be taken between the time the child arrives into care (or five weeks earlier for international adoptions) and 15 days after.

One of the leave days may be taken for the child's christening or registration.

Benefits retained during this leave are the same as those retained for maternity leave, including deferred vacation (Clause 7-4.52, see page 9).

b. Paternity or adoption leave of up to five weeks with additional benefits (Clause 7-4.22 or 7-4.32)

To qualify for benefits paid by the college, the employee must have accumulated at least 20 weeks of service in the public or parapublic sectors in the course of his or her career.

The parent **eligible** for QPIP benefits is entitled to a five-week leave:

- With additional benefits paid by the college (difference between the QPIP and 100% of salary)
- Taken consecutively (subject to Clauses 7-4.24 and 7-4.25 or 7-4.34 and 7-4.35 – see page 16)
- Concurrent with QPIP exclusive paternity or adoption benefits
- Starting no earlier than the week of delivery and ending no later than 78 weeks after (**paternity**)
- Starting no earlier than the week the child arrives at home¹² or five weeks before for international adoption, and ending no later than 78 weeks after (**adoption**)

Benefits retained during this leave are the same as those retained for maternity leave, including deferred vacation (Clause 7-4.52, see page 9).

Note: A person must be receiving QPIP benefits to qualify for additional benefits from the college (paternity, parental or adoption). For example, a father who chose the Special Plan and would like a five-week leave must receive parental benefits after his three paternity benefits to qualify for further benefits in his last two weeks of leave (Clause 7-4.01).

2. a. Paternity Leave

Linking the Collective Agreement with the QPIP

Under the collective agreement, employees may take up to three separate but non-divisible leaves of absence that do not necessarily need to be consecutive.

First, during the five-day paid paternity leave (Clause 7-4.21), employees get their usual salary from the college.

Second, during the maximum five-week paternity leave (Clause 7-4.22), employees get the equivalent of 100% of their salary when QPIP benefits and college payments are included.

Third, employees may take unpaid leave as an extension of paternity leave (parental leave, Clause 7-4.41 b)), during which they can get paternity benefits (if any remain) or QPIP parental benefits **but will not have access to any supplement from the college.**

It is important to note that the paternity leave and the unpaid leave as an extension of paternity leave¹³ (parental leave) may be taken in no particular order (see Example 2).

¹⁰ Throughout this document, any mention of the father or paternity leave also applies to a same-sex spouse.

¹¹ These 5 days **are not** considered as concurrent income which would be deducted from QPIP benefits. In certain colleges, the employee can also supplement this leave with sick days, which may be useful if the child is born mid-week. **Talk to your union.**

¹² The moment the person assumes responsibility for the child "for adoption purposes" is deemed the starting point for the rights provided by both the QPIP and the collective agreement.

¹³ Despite its name, this leave can actually be taken **before** a paternity leave.

Example 1 – Two Separate Leaves (QPIP Basic Plan)

Leave 1	Week 1: March 9 to 13, 2026	Paid paternity leave: 5 days with 100% paid by the college
Leave 2	Weeks 2 to 6: March 16 to April 17, 2026	Up to 5 weeks of paternity leave: 5 weeks of paternity benefits with 70% paid by the QPIP + remaining 30% paid by the college = 100%

Example 2 – Three Separate Leaves (QPIP Basic Plan)

Leave 1	Week 1: March 9 to 13, 2026	Paid paternity leave: 5 days with 100% paid by the college
Leave 2	Weeks 2 to 9: May 4 to June 26, 2026	Unpaid leave as extension of paternity leave: 8 weeks of paternal benefits at 70% or 55% paid by the QPIP (no supplement from the college)
Leave 3	Weeks 10 to 14: January 4 to February 5, 2027	Up to 5 weeks of paternity leave: 5 weeks of paternity benefits with 70% paid by the QPIP + remaining 30% paid by the college = 100%

Example 2 is just one of many examples of the possibilities available to fathers when planning their leaves. In this case, the father may have wanted to first take the 8 weeks of paternal benefits required to have access to the 4 weeks of additional benefits available to parents who opt for the minimum shareable benefits (see page 4). We can also suppose that he chose to take his paternity leave and his paternity benefits once his spouse is back at work to ensure a longer presence with the child.

b. Adoption Leave

Combining collective agreement and QPIP rights and benefits will allow employees to receive college and QPIP income over a 51- or 41-week period depending on the chosen plan (basic or special).

During the five-day paid adoption leave under the collective agreement, employees are paid 100% of their regular salary by the college.

During the five-week adoption leave under the collective agreement, employees are paid 100% of their regular salary jointly by the college and the QPIP.

They then qualify for leave without pay as an extension of their adoption leave, after which they will get no more salary or benefits from the college but may keep receiving QPIP adoption benefits for up to 45 or 35 weeks depending on the chosen plan (basic or special).

Example 1 – Basic Plan

Week 1	5 days paid by the college = 100% of regular salary
Week 2 to 6	5 weeks of adoption or adoption-related welcome and support benefits paid by the QPIP (70%) + college benefits = 100% of regular salary
Week 7 to 26	20 weeks of QPIP adoption or adoption-related welcome and support benefits (70%)
Week 27 to 51	25 weeks of QPIP adoption or adoption-related welcome and support benefits (55%)
Total	$(6 \times 100\%) + (20 \times 70\%) + (25 \times 55\%)$ = an average of 66.2% over a 51-week period

Example 2 – Special Plan

Week 1	5 days paid by the college = 100% of regular salary
Week 2 to 6	5 weeks of adoption or adoption-related welcome and support benefits paid by the QPIP (75%) + college benefits = 100% of regular salary
Week 7 to 41	35 weeks of QPIP adoption or adoption-related welcome and support benefits (75%)
Total	$(6 \times 100\%) + (35 \times 75\%)$ = average of 78.7% over a 41-week period

3. Employees who adopt the child of their spouse are entitled to five workdays of leave where only the first two are paid. These leave days may be discontinuous but must be taken within 15 days after the adoption application is filed.

**Adopting the
Child of
a Spouse
(Clause 7-4.31)**

Persons who adopt the child of their spouse are fully entitled to QPIP adoption benefits (50 or 40 weeks, depending on the chosen plan). To benefit, simply ask the college for an unpaid extension of your five-day adoption leave.

Benefits retained during this leave are the same as those retained for maternity leave, including deferred vacation (Clause 7-4.52, see page 9).

4. During a five-day paid paternity or adoption leave, regular RREGOP contributions are deducted by the college.

**Pension Plan
(RREGOP)
Provisions**

Throughout the five-week paternity or adoption leave under the collective agreement, RREGOP contributions are deducted from regular salary as if the employee were working. There is therefore no loss of rights under the RREGOP and no action needs to be taken. To learn about extension without pay, see page 14.

5. For a paid (5 days) paternity or adoption leave, apply in writing to the college as soon as possible and include a medical certificate showing the date of birth or a document confirming the adoption request (see “Modèle 4”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

**What You
Need to Do**

For a paternity or adoption leave of up to five weeks, apply at least **three weeks** in advance (see “Modèle 5” or “Modèle 6”, depending on the case, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

Apply for paternity, adoption or adoption-related welcome and support benefits online on the QPIP website: rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en

Send the college proof of your QPIP eligibility (see “Modèle 3”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

E. Leave Without Pay to Extend Maternity, Paternity or Adoption Leave (“Parental Leave”)

1. There are two options for leave without pay.

Collective Agreement Provisions (Clauses 7-4.41 and 7-4.53)

Option “A”: Full-time leave without pay for at least 65 continuous weeks

- Starts at a time decided by the employee and may precede the paternity or adoption leave
- Ends no later than 85 weeks after the child is born or, in the case of an adoption, 85 weeks after the child is placed with the parent
- May be terminated early with 21 days’ notice

Option “B”: Full- or part-time unpaid leave for up to two years

- Option to change the selection (from full-time to part-time or vice versa) once during the leave
- May be terminated early with 21 days’ notice or 30 days’ notice if leave exceeds 65 weeks

The following benefits are maintained during leaves of absence without pay in extension of maternity, paternity or adoption leave (Clause 7-4.53):

- Health insurance (payment of copayments for the first 65 weeks and total premiums thereafter) and other applicable insurance plans
- Accumulation of seniority
- Accumulation of experience for first 65 weeks (salary increment)
- Maintenance of experience after first 65 weeks
- Vacation accrual or payment in lieu thereof¹⁴

Note: Any of these leaves may be terminated upon simple notice. However, to extend a leave of absence, you need the agreement of the college, which may refuse. To avoid unforeseen circumstances, it may be wise to initially opt for the longest leave (Option “B”) and terminate it at the appropriate time.

2.

Linking the Collective Agreement with the QPIP

During either of these extensions without pay, employees do not receive any salary or allowance from the college. However, they will get the number of weeks of paternity, parental, welcome and support, or adoption benefits for which they qualify under the QPIP based on the chosen plan and the sharing of benefits with their spouse, where applicable. Visit rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en to learn more.

Note: Any employee who wishes may take leave without pay for a period longer than the duration of QPIP benefits, in which case the weeks after the benefits end will be without income unless the employee returns to work part-time.

3.

Pension Plan (RREGOP) Provisions

Employees must request a buy-back if they want to be credited with service for their leave without pay.¹⁵ The cost of the buy-back will then be the same as the contributions that would have been deducted had the employee been at work,¹⁶ as long as the buy-back is requested within six months after leave without pay ends. The buy-back can still take place after six months, but the cost will be based on a percentage of salary that may vary depending on the employee’s age when the request is made. The cost will be greater in the latter case. In all cases, the buy-back may be paid for with RRSPs or to Retraite Québec through source deductions.

To apply for a RREGOP buyback, complete the *Application for a buy-back of one or more periods of absence* as soon as possible.

4.

What You Need to Do

Send a written notice to the college at least **three weeks** (or 30 days if part-time) before the end of the maternity, paternity or adoption leave (see “Modèle 10”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

To switch from full-time to part-time leave (or vice versa), make a request 30 days in advance (see “Modèle 11”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

You can apply for benefits on the QPIP website: rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en

Two weeks before your leave without pay ends, send a written notice confirming your return to work (see “Modèle 12”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

To end your leave early, send a written notice 21 days in advance (if leave is less than 65 weeks) or 30 days in advance (if leave is more than 65 weeks) (see “Modèle 13”, in French only, at securitesociale.lacsq.org/droits-parentaux).

Arrange to pay group insurance premiums with the college or the insurer.

To apply for a RREGOP buy-back, complete the *Application for a buy-back of one or more periods of absence* as soon as possible.

¹⁴ Only if the leave has a maximum duration of 12 weeks during the year (June 1 to May 31) and the employee receives QPIP benefits (Clause 7-6.11).

¹⁵ Employees can also choose to let the RREGOP’s “90-day bank” offset all or part of the leave. **Talk to your union.**

¹⁶ For part-time leave with more than 20% of a full workload, the buyback cost will be proportional to the percentage of time absent from work. If the leave is for 20% or less, the contribution will be as though the person were at work full-time.

F. Special Situations

Note: The collective agreement and the QPIP make provisions for a number of special situations. For each of the following, and for others not described below, **it is important that you talk to your union.**

1. Temporary layoff or end of contract

For employees on temporary layoff, the benefits provided for under the collective agreement are suspended during the layoff and resume when employees return to their regular position. The same applies during a period of interruption between two contracts.

Example

Maternity Leave:	May 18 to October 9, 2026
May 18 to June 5, 2026: start of maternity leave (3 weeks)	QPIP benefits + college benefits = around 90%
July 8 to August 14, 2026: layoff or break between 2 contracts (10 weeks)	QPIP benefits = 70%
August 17 to October 9, 2026: remainder of maternity leave (8 weeks)	QPIP benefits + college benefits = around 90%

In this example, it is important to understand that once maternity leave has begun, nothing can interrupt the 21-week countdown. This is why the leave will end on October 9 despite the temporary layoff or break between two contracts, with the result that the employee loses her right to ten weeks of additional benefits.

If the delivery date is in summer, a laid-off employee may also qualify for EI benefits until the week before she gives birth. **Talk to your union.**

In addition, when QPIP benefits end during spring, the employee may be unable to work enough hours to qualify for summer EI benefits. **Talk to your union.**

Note: When employees are on the priority list or are offered a position by virtue of this list, they may accept the position while continuing their leave (maternity, parental, preventive leave, complications, etc.) so they can keep accumulating all rights and benefits due to them (seniority, experience, sick and vacation days, group insurance maintenance, accumulated service, RREGOP buy-back rights, etc.).

2. Employees who become pregnant during leave without pay under the parental rights provisions or Section 7-10.00 (Clauses 7-4.06 and 7-10.06)

Employees are entitled to end their leave without pay and start a new maternity leave and associated benefits. In the case of a leave of absence provided for in Section 7-10.00, employees must provide two months' notice. If the unpaid leave is covered by another provision, other conditions may apply. QPIP eligibility or college benefits may also be affected by a long absence without pay or a part-time return to work. **Talk to your union.**

3. Closely spaced pregnancies (Section 31.1 of the Regulation under the Act respecting parental insurance)

Two pregnancies in quick succession can adversely affect QPIP eligibility or benefit amounts, especially for an employee who has taken preventive leave. However, there are ways to remedy such issues, which vary from one case to another. For example, for closely spaced pregnancies preceded by preventive leaves, Section 31.1 of the Regulation allows the person, under certain strict conditions, to use exactly the same qualifying period as that used for the previous child (if at least 89 weeks of CNESST or QPIP benefits were received in the 104 weeks prior to the second benefit application). **Talk to your union.**

4. Maternity or adoption during a sabbatical with deferred salary (Section 7-17.00 of the Collective Agreement)

Based on your specific circumstances, this situation can have various implications for both the collective agreement and the QPIP. **Talk to your union.**

5. Suspension, division or extension of maternity, paternity, adoption or unpaid leave

Employees **are entitled** to the suspension, division or extension of either of these leaves, on certain grounds and subject to certain conditions (when the child is hospitalized¹⁷ or when the employee has an accident or falls ill, for instance). The QPIP also provides for suspensions based on the same grounds. In the event of accident or illness, under certain conditions, employees may also be entitled to CNESST or EI disability benefits. **Talk to your union.**

In addition, it is also possible to request that a paternity, adoption or unpaid leave be divided into weeks without having to invoke the preceding grounds, **but only if the college agrees. Talk to your union.**

6. Termination of pregnancy as of the start of the 20th week before the expected delivery date (Clause 7-4.07)

The employee is entitled to 21-week maternity leave under the collective agreement and to QPIP maternity benefits but not to parental benefits.¹⁸

The father is entitled to five days of paid leave under the collective agreement but not to five weeks of paternity leave or to QPIP paternity or parental benefits.

7. Supplementary benefits for persons with more than one employer

If an employee has more than one employer, the college, when calculating additional benefits (maternity, paternity or adoption), must factor in only the portion of QPIP benefits generated by the salary it has paid. **Talk to your union.**

8. People with self-employment income (business income)

When employees have business income (self-employed workers), they can choose whether or not to factor it in the calculation of their QPIP benefits, in addition to their job earnings. The QPIP's Centre de service à la clientèle can do a "double calculation" to help you choose the best option. Visit rqap.gouv.qc.ca/en to learn more.

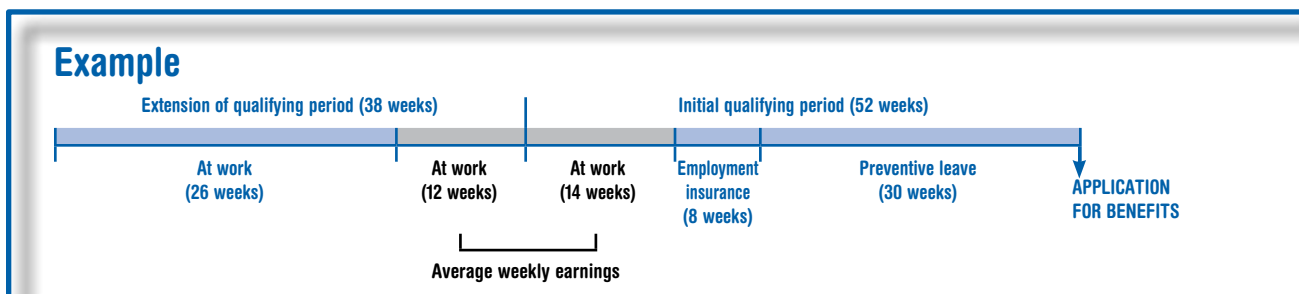
9. Parental obligation leave (Clause 7-4.43)

To look after a minor child whose affective disorders, disability or illness requires a parent's presence, employees will be granted unpaid leave on a part-time or full-time basis for up to one year.

To learn about retained rights and RREGOP buy-backs, see page 14.

10. Extending the qualifying period

When the qualifying period has less than 26 weeks of insurable earnings, it may be extended if reasons can be found in Section 32 of the Regulation under the Act respecting parental insurance (e.g. preventive leave, EI benefits, QPIP benefits for a previous child). Where applicable, the extension will be automatically applied by the QPIP up to a maximum of 104 weeks preceding the benefit claim.



¹⁷ If the child is critically ill or hospitalized, the employee may be entitled to EI benefits for a critically ill child (see [EI caregiving benefits](#)).

¹⁸ College benefits are payable only during the 18 weeks that QPIP maternity benefits are paid.

11. Decline in insurable earnings in the weeks preceding the benefit claim (“small weeks”) (Section 31.2 of the Regulation under the Act respecting parental insurance)

If there is a decline in insurable earnings in the weeks preceding a claim, Section 31.2 of the Regulation, under certain conditions, allows for the qualifying period to be moved so that it starts before the week with the most recent decline in earnings. One such condition is that you must have had a second type of income apart from your job (e.g. CNESST, QPIP, Employment Insurance). As of 2012, thanks to the efforts of the CSQ, this provision now also applies to salary insurance paid by the employer. **Talk to your union.**

12. Early start of benefit period

At times, it may be useful to start a benefit period several weeks before you want to start receiving the benefits. This option can help you search further back in time for weeks with insurable earnings or exclude undesirable weeks (“small weeks”) that might occur after you file the benefit claim (for example, if a good contract is followed by a poorer one in the weeks before you want to start receiving QPIP benefits). However, two conditions must be met: you must have had an interruption of earnings, and you must be within 16 weeks of the expected delivery date. **Talk to your union.**

PERSONAL TIMELINE – MATERNITY LEAVE REQUIRED NOTICES AND DEADLINES

Event	Deadline	Date
Written notice to college with medical certificate (“Modèle 1”, in French only)	2 weeks before start of leave	
Start of leave		
Application for QPIP benefits	As of the start of leave	
Submission of proof of eligibility for QPIP maternity benefits (“Modèle 3”, in French only)	Upon receipt	
Expected date of the birth		
Actual date of the birth		
Receipt of notice of return to work (from the college)	4 weeks before end of leave	
Notice of deferred vacation (“Modèle 9”, in French only)	2 weeks before end of leave	
Notice of extension without pay (“Modèle 10” or “Modèle 11”, in French only)	3 weeks before end of leave	
End of maternity leave (21 weeks)		
Deferred vacation (where applicable)		From _____ to _____
Start of extended leave without pay		
Receipt of notice of return to work (from the college)	4 weeks before end of leave	
Notice of return to work on predetermined date (“Modèle 12”, in French only)	2 weeks before returning	
Notice of return to work prior to predetermined date (see “Modèle 13”, in French only)	Advance notice of 21 days or 30 days	
End of extended leave without pay		
Buy-back of unpaid leave from Retraite Québec	No more than 6 months after end of leave	

