

FAQ for Former Victoria Gold Workers re WEPP

1. What does WEPP Cover?

The following amounts are considered eligible wages under the WEPP:

- wages (salaries, commissions, compensation for services rendered, gratuities accounted for by the former employer, production bonuses and shift premiums) that were earned during the eligibility period
- disbursements of a travelling salesperson properly incurred in and about the business of the former employer earned during the eligibility period
- vacation pay earned during the eligibility period
- amounts owed were earned during the eligibility period or, in the case of termination pay or severance pay, your employment was terminated either during the eligibility period or prior to the discharge of the trustee/receiver

More information can be found online with [Employment & Social Development Canada](#).

2. How will WEPP affect my EI payments?

WEPP can have an impact on the calculation of employment insurance benefits because WEPP is considered an income. A WEPP recipient who is or has been in receipt of EI benefits is required to report any payment that they receive from WEPP, as it is considered earnings under the Employment Insurance Regulations.

If you have any questions about how a WEPP payment could affect an EI claim, please contact the Employment Insurance Information Service:

Toll-Free: 1-800-206-7218 (TTY: 1-800-529-3742) - The hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm local time.

[WEPP Link for more Info](#)

2. The Receiver says, "There are no actions currently required for any employees with respect to WEPP claims" and they are still calculating amounts for Proof of Claim. What should I do?

From PWC: <https://www.pwc.com/ca/en/services/insolvency-assignments/victoriagold.html> The Receiver has sought and obtained an extension from Service Canada to comply with WEPPA regulations by October 31, 2024. As such all-former eligible employees are automatically granted an extension up to December 26, 2024 to submit their applications under WEPPA to Service Canada (the "WEPP Application"). **-updated October 3, 2024.**

From Service Canada, WEPP: Former employees do not have to wait for guidance from the Receiver to apply. They can go [online](#) at any time to submit their application but will need specific information such as names, address, contact for previous employer, Receiver, and an Estate ID. That being said, in order to receive a WEPP payment, the former employees also need to sign and return their proofs of claim to the Trustees/Receivers.

Trustees/Receivers usually send information packages to the former employees advising them to:

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- Sign and return the Proof of Claim (POC)
- Apply for the Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP)

These information packages usually include (POC) as well as instruction on how to apply for WEPP. It can take some time to prepare and send out this information, especially for larger estates like Victoria Gold Corp.

- The Receiver has requested an extension until October 31, 2024 to submit information to Service Canada. The extension is beneficial because:
 - It allows the Receiver more time to compile and send out the necessary information to Service Canada and former employees.
 - It prolongs the timeframe for which clients have to apply.

6. How does the extension granted to the Trustee to October 31st affect me?

As mentioned above, the extension is beneficial because:

- It allows the Receiver more time to compile and send out the necessary information.
- It prolongs the timeframe for which clients have to apply. (Dec 26)

3. If I miss the October 9th deadline, what can I do?

As mentioned above, the trustee has requested an extension until October 31, 2024; therefore, this also extends the deadline for employees to apply (Dec 26). It is important to note that the online system will not recognize the extension, and former employees will still be prompted to provide a reason for delay. In this situation they can input “the Receiver requested an extension”, or they are “working in a mine and did not have access to WEPP application”, or any other reason for which they could not apply on time.

4. What is the required information that I need to fill out the WEPP? (ie. The first page requires an Estate ID)

Everything needed to apply for WEPP should be included in the information package that will be sent out by the Receiver.

- The estate ID for VICTORIA GOLD CORP. is 31-459977, and the Receivership date is 2024-08-14. (note when entering Estate ID on WEPP application, just enter the numbers).
- Applicants will also need to provide personal information such as their social insurance number, date of birth, address, direct deposit information etc.
- The name of the Receiver/Trustee is PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, the phone number is 416-941-8383. They will also need to fill in the name and address information for the former employer, as in the [Notice of Receivership](#).

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5. If WEPP does not cover all that I am owed, how do I get the rest of my severance or other compensation owed?

- The worker should contact the Receiver to seek answers this question.
- Eligible WEPP applicants can receive a one-time payment of up to \$8,507.66 for 2024 (equivalent to 7 times the maximum weekly insurable earnings under the Employment Insurance Act).

Workers can also file a wage complaint with Yukon Employment Standards within 6 months from when the wages were owed, being the day the lay off ended.

- **Example:** An employee received a temporary layoff June 24, 2024, then the layoff expired on September 23, 2024, this is the date that wages were owed to the employee. The employee now has until March 23, 2025, to file a Wage Complaint with Employment Standards.
- The Employment Standards Office can help address amounts owed exceeding \$8,500 but still cannot guarantee the amount will be recoverable in full because it is considered an unsecured claim when the company is bankrupt or in receivership.

Employment Standards Office

307 Black Street, 1st floor, Whitehorse, Yukon

Phone [867-667-5944](tel:867-667-5944), or Toll-free in the Yukon: [1-800-661-0408](tel:1-800-661-0408), or by email at eso@yukon.ca.

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