

[TRANSLATION]

Citation: *Canada Employment Insurance Commission v. E. L.*, 2015 SSTAD 187

Appeal No. AD-14-484

BETWEEN:

Canada Employment Insurance Commission

Applicant

and

E. L.

Respondent

SOCIAL SECURITY TRIBUNAL DECISION
Appeal Division – Application for Leave to Appeal

SOCIAL SECURITY TRIBUNAL MEMBER: Pierre Lafontaine

DATE OF DECISION: February 10, 2015

DECISION

[1] The Tribunal grants leave to appeal to the Appeal Division of the Social Security Tribunal.

INTRODUCTION

[2] On August 19, 2014, the Tribunal's General Division found that:

- The Respondent had not voluntarily left his employment without just cause within the meaning of sections 29 and 30 of the *Employment Insurance Act* ("the Act").

[3] The Applicant filed an application for leave to appeal to the Appeal Division on September 8, 2014.

ISSUE

[4] The Tribunal must determine whether the appeal has a reasonable chance of success.

THE LAW

[5] As stated in subsections 56(1) and 58(3) of the *Department of Employment and Social Development Act*, "[a]n appeal to the Appeal Division may only be brought if leave to appeal is granted" and the Appeal Division "must either grant or refuse leave to appeal".

[6] Subsection 58(2) of the *Department of Employment and Social Development Act* provides that "[l]eave to appeal is refused if the Appeal Division is satisfied that the appeal has no reasonable chance of success".

ANALYSIS

[7] Under subsection 58(1) of the *Department of Employment and Social Development Act*, the only grounds of appeal are that:

- (a) the General Division failed to observe a principle of natural justice or otherwise acted beyond or refused to exercise its jurisdiction;

- (b) the General Division erred in law in making its decision or order, whether or not the error appears on the face of the record; or
- (c) the General Division based its decision or order on an erroneous finding of fact that it made in a perverse or capricious manner or without regard for the material before it.

[8] An application for leave to appeal is a preliminary step to a hearing on the merits. It is a first, and lower, hurdle for the Applicant to meet than the one that must be met on the hearing of the appeal on the merits. At the application for leave to appeal stage, the Applicant does not have to prove its case.

[9] The Tribunal will grant leave to appeal if the Applicant shows that any of the above grounds of appeal has a reasonable chance of success.

[10] To do so, the Tribunal must, in accordance with subsection 58(1) of the *Department of Employment and Social Development Act*, be able to see a question of law, fact or jurisdiction the answer to which may lead to the setting aside of the decision attacked.

[11] In light of the foregoing, does the Applicant's appeal have a reasonable chance of success?

[12] In its application for leave to appeal, the Applicant submits that the General Division erroneously found that the Respondent should not be disqualified from receiving benefits under sections 29 and 30 of the *Act*.

[13] The Applicant submits that, even though the claimant's driver's licence was suspended because of an offence committed before he began his employment as a driver, the loss of his employment is attributable to his own actions.

[14] The Applicant argues that it does not matter whether the claimant lost his employment because of misconduct or left without just cause if the disqualification is justified in either situation results in a disqualification.

[15] After reviewing the appeal file, the General Division's decision and the arguments in support of the application for leave to appeal, the Tribunal finds that the appeal has a reasonable chance of success. The Applicant is raising a question of fact and law the answer to which may lead to the setting aside of the decision challenged.

CONCLUSION

[16] The Tribunal grants leave to appeal to the Appeal Division of the Social Security Tribunal.

Pierre Lafontaine

Member, Appeal Division