

[TRANSLATION]

Citation: *R. L. v. Canada Employment Insurance Commission*, 2015 SSTAD 721

Date: June 10, 2015

File number: AD-15-113

APPEAL DIVISION

Between:

R. L.

Applicant

and

Canada Employment Insurance Commission

Respondent

Decision by: Pierre Lafontaine, Member, Appeal Division

REASONS AND DECISION

DECISION

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

INTRODUCTION

[2] On February 11, 2015, the Tribunal's General Division found that:

- The Respondent was justified in reconsidering the claim for benefits under section 52 of the *Employment Insurance Act* ("the Act").

[3] The Applicant filed an application for leave to appeal to the Appeal Division on March 4, 2015. He wants to appeal only the General Division's decision upholding the time limit of 72 months for reconsidering his claim.

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 his 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 his application for leave to appeal, the Applicant states that the General Division did not consider the fact that the "false or misleading representation" issue originated with information provided by an officer of the Commission at the Cap-aux-Moules office, who told him to use his seasonal address on the Islands in his reports.

[13] He argues that he never made any "false or misleading representation" in his claims for benefits.

[14] The Tribunal finds that the Applicant is essentially challenging the General Division's finding that the Respondent had 72 months to reconsider his claim under subsection 52(5) of the *Act*.

[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 has raised 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