



Social Security
Tribunal of Canada

Tribunal de la sécurité
sociale du Canada

[TRANSLATION]

Citation: *A. M. v. Canada Employment Insurance Commission*, 2016 SSTADEI 197

Tribunal File Number: AD-16-467

BETWEEN:

A. M.

Applicant

and

Canada Employment Insurance Commission

Respondent

SOCIAL SECURITY TRIBUNAL DECISION
Appeal Division – Leave to Appeal Decision

DECISION BY:: Pierre Lafontaine

DATE OF DECISION April 11, 2016

REASONS AND DECISION

DECISION

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

INTRODUCTION

[2] On February 24, 2016, the Tribunal's General Division found that:

- The Applicant had not accumulated a sufficient number of hours of insurable employment to qualify for Employment Insurance benefits under section 7 of the *Employment Insurance Act* (Act).

[3] The Applicant filed an application for leave to appeal to the Appeal Division on March 23, 2016.

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 states 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 following are the only grounds of appeal:

- (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 hurdle for the Applicant to meet, but it is lower 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 her case.

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

[10] This means that the Tribunal must be in a position to determine, in accordance with subsection 58(1) of the *Department of Employment and Social Development Act*, whether there is a question of law, fact, or jurisdiction to which the response might justify setting aside the decision under review.

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

[12] In her application for leave to appeal, the Applicant submits that the General Division erred in finding that insurable hours consist only of hours worked, whereas the Respondent itself states on its Web site that each hour of paid sick leave is an hour of

insurable employment. The General Division overlooked the fact that the hours accepted by the Respondent were hours accumulated during the Applicant's sick leave.

[13] Upon review of 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 relating to the General Division's interpretation and application of section 7 of the Act, the answer to which may lead to the setting aside of the decision challenged.

CONCLUSION

[14] Leave to appeal is granted.

Pierre Lafontaine

Member, Appeal Division