

# THE EDMONTON PIPE INDUSTRY

## HEALTH, WELFARE & PENSION TRUST FUNDS

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**To: All Plan Members  
The Edmonton Pipe Industry Benefit Plans**

**Re: Benefit Plan Changes**

Dear Plan Members,

The Board of Trustees wish to inform you of the following Benefit Plan changes:

### **PENSION BENEFIT IMPROVEMENTS**

The Board of Trustees has received permission from the Alberta Pension Regulator (Alberta Treasury Board & Finance) to make the following pension benefit improvements retroactive to January 1, 2015:

**Active Members:** Effective with hours worked on or after January 1, 2015, the pension accrual rate is increased to \$6.59 per month in pension for every 100 hours reported. This is a 3% increase from the former \$6.40 per month in pension for every 100 hours reported.

**Retired Members and Widows:** Effective January 1, 2015, for those who at that date were Members in Good Standing of UA Local 488, an increase of 3% is granted to your monthly pension in pay. Note that for those who elected to receive their pension under the Integrated Option, your pension increase will be granted on your base pension amount (ie: that amount of pension before you elected the optional integrated form of pension). *Your new monthly pension and the retroactive increase will be included with your monthly pension payment due March 1, 2016.*

### **HEALTH & WELFARE PLAN CHANGES**

#### **SUBMISSION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG CLAIMS**

Members were previously notified in the November 2015 edition of the Pipeline that effective with purchases on or after January 1, 2016 all claims for prescription drugs **MUST** be submitted electronically. This can be done at point of purchase at your pharmacy using your Green Shield Card

### **COMPRESSION (SUPPORT) STOCKINGS**

Effective January 1, 2016 all claims for compression (support) stockings **MUST** be submitted for electronic payment via your Green Shield Card. Providers of the compression (support) stockings must be approved by Green Shield as an approved provider. All Members are urged to contact either the Administration Office or Green Shield prior to purchasing these stockings to ensure that the provider is on the Approved List.

*Purchases made at a non-approved provider will result in your claim be denied.*

### **VISION CARE BENEFIT**

Effective January 1, 2016, all eligible Members and their Dependants are eligible for the new Vision Care Benefit of \$450.00 every two (2) calendar years. Note that the Vision Care Benefit is now all inclusive of lenses, frames and contact lenses. The benefit for laser eye surgery remains at the lifetime maximum of \$1,600.00 per person.

### **PSYCHOLOGIST AND SOCIAL WORKER**

Effective with services received on or after January 1, 2016, the maximum reimbursement for Psychologist is increased to 100% of the session cost with an annual maximum allowance of \$1,000.00 per person. Also effective January 1, 2016, the benefit for services of a Social Worker has been amended to cover 100% of the session cost with an annual maximum allowance of \$400.00 per person.

### **COVERAGE FOR NON RESIDENTS OF CANADA**

Please take note that, effective July 1, 2016, all Members and their Dependants **MUST** be covered by a Provincial Health Care Plan. The Administration Office will be conducting random audits for out of Canada claims requesting proof that Provincial Health Care insurance coverage is in effect. Failure to provide the requested proof of insurance coverage or the lack of such insurance coverage will result in the denial of any and all claims payments for Members and their Dependants.

### **FRAUDULENT CLAIM SUBMISSIONS**

The Administration Office and the Trustees have recently become aware of increasing instances of fraudulent claims being submitted by certain vision care and orthotic service providers.

The Trustees, in conjunction with the Edmonton Police, are in the midst of various investigations. These investigations may result in criminal charges being brought against those service providers found to have submitted fraudulent claims to the Benefit Plan on behalf of Members.

*Please take note that, in addition to the ongoing investigations of certain service providers, any Members who are found to have voluntarily participated in the commission of fraud against the Benefit Plan may have their benefit coverage permanently terminated.*

### **NEW BENEFIT PLAN BOOKLETS**

New Booklets have been prepared for both the Health & Welfare Plan and the Pension Plan. These Booklets will be posted to the Plan's website [www.epibenefitplans.com](http://www.epibenefitplans.com) in mid January 2016.

Should you have any questions with regard to the above, please contact the Administration Office.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Rick McAteer