

Contact

a newsletter for retirees of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Inside this edition

- Pension Plan continues to strengthen
- Pension and Benefit Board welcomes new board members
- HST – new tax name . . . same rate
- Enhancement of your osteopathic benefit coverage
- A new requirement when submitting your orthotics claims starting August 1, 2010
- Changes to how you will receive claim forms beginning January 1, 2001
- In memory of . . . we remember those we lost in 2009-2010

Contact information

Pension and Benefits Office
The Presbyterian
Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

www.presbyterian.ca
- follow the 'Quicklinks' button
for Pension and Benefits
pension@presbyterian.ca



Pension Plan continues to strengthen

Our pension plan continues to show signs of recovery; in fact, the value of the fund's investments has increased 12.76% in 2009 with much of the increase coming in the final quarter of the year.

However, we are not out of the woods yet. Although investment earnings were strong in the early months of 2010, indicators do not expect markets to grow at the same pace throughout the year.

At the March 2010 Pension and Benefits Board meeting, our actuaries reported that, despite significant gains by the end of 2009, the pension plan remains in a deficit position on both a solvency valuation and wind up valuation basis. This means that if our plan had ended on December 31, 2009, the total pensions earned by our members could not be paid out in full. The reason for the deficit is mostly due to the continued drop in long term interest rates to investments.

As such, the Pension and Benefits Board is not able to grant a cost of living increase to our pensioners this year.

The Pension and Benefits Board, together with the Trustee Board of the Presbyterian Church will continue to monitor the financial position of the pension plan and take the steps necessary to ensure a sustainable pension plan for our future.

The Pension and Benefits Board welcomes new board members

Two new board members were appointed by the 136th General Assembly each for a three year term. They are Mr. Eugene Craig of Woodstock, New Brunswick and Mr. James Hutchinson of Toronto, Ontario.

The General Assembly also confirmed the appointment of Mr. Thomas Fischer as new convener of the Pension and Benefits Board. Mr. Fischer has an HBA in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario and extensive corporate experience in business, finance and acquisitions. Mr. Fischer is an active member and elder of Armour Heights Presbyterian Church in Toronto, and representative elder to the Presbytery of East Toronto. He has served two terms on the boards of Evangel Hall and Portland Place Housing Corporation and joined the Pension and Benefits Board in 2009.

Important Benefit Updates

- **Osteopathic benefits**
- **Orthotic coverage**
- **Changes for Pre-printed Claim Forms**

Enhancement of your osteopathic benefit coverage

Effective April 1, 2010, Sun Life made changes to the osteopathic benefit coverage to include the services of practitioners who hold a Diploma in Osteopathic Manual Practice (DO(MP)).

Osteopathic practitioners generally have either of the following designations:

- **Doctor of Osteopathy (DO).** DOs are physicians (MDs) who have additional qualifications in osteopathy. They are regulated and certified by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Currently, services by these practitioners are eligible expenses under the Extended Health Plan.
- **Diploma in Osteopathic Manual Practice (DO(MP)).** DO(MP)s are not members of any regulatory agency recognized by the government; however, there are provincial associations such as the Ontario Association of Osteopathic Manual Practitioners (OAO) which set out guidelines and requirements for members. Starting April 1, 2010, services by practitioners holding a DO(MP) are eligible expenses under our Extended Health Plan.

Your benefit maximum will remain the same

Whether claims are submitted for the services of either DOs or DO(MP)s, the benefit maximum of \$500 per year will remain the same. The same benefit maximum will apply, but will become a shared maximum between these two eligible practitioners.

A new requirement when submitting your orthotics claims starting August 1, 2010

Our Sun Life Extended Health Care benefit provides coverage for orthotic claims.

- Coverage is for **'custom-made' orthotic inserts** for shoes, when prescribed by a doctor, podiatrist or chiropodist.
- Once every 24 months.
- According to 'usual and reasonable' rates.

Custom-made orthotic inserts

A custom-made orthotic insert or corrective foot care device worn inside a shoe, is manufactured from a 3-dimensional (3-D) image (or cast) of the foot using raw materials. In order for custom-made orthotics to be effective, they need to be properly casted to accommodate the specific medical condition of the patient's foot. Off-the-shelf forms altered to approximate the best fit to the foot are not made from a unique cast and therefore not eligible under our plan.

Our plan does *not* cover custom-made orthopaedic shoes.

Effective August 1, 2010, a detailed lab invoice will be required

In addition to the above guidelines, beginning August 1, 2010, you are also required to provide a **detailed lab invoice** with your claim.

A detailed lab invoice is issued to the provider of service (i.e. the person dispensing the orthotic insert to you) by the manufacturer of the custom-made orthotic insert. This invoice should include an itemized breakdown of the raw materials used, their cost and any other associated costs incurred to manufacture the custom-made insert. If the costs relate to insert modifications, the details and cost of each modification must be present. When purchasing your custom-made orthotic insert for shoes, ask your provider for a detailed lab invoice at the time you pick up and pay for your orthotic insert.

The new detailed lab invoice requirement is in addition to the existing requirements of:

- a written recommendation (prescription) for the custom-made orthotic insert from a doctor, podiatrist or chiropractor.
- the written recommendation must be submitted with each claim and **must** include the diagnosis necessitating the custom-made orthotic.
- a receipt showing that full payment has been made, patient's name and date of service.

Predetermination

Before engaging in the work of custom-made orthotic inserts, it is always a good idea to send an estimate or predetermination to Sun Life including all the above information. Sun Life will be able to confirm that the claim meets the eligibility requirements and what portion of the cost will be covered by our plan. (The current 2010 'usual and reasonable rates' paid by Sun Life for custom-made orthotic inserts is \$650)

Harmonized Sales Tax ...HST – new tax name... same rate

As you know, the provinces of Ontario and British Columbia have implemented a new Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) beginning July 1, 2010. While there are no changes for members of the Group Life Insurance Plan or Health and Dental Plan for the province of British Columbia, members of the benefit plans in Ontario will notice a change in the name of the tax that is applied.

Beginning July 1, 2010, all Ontario retiree group life insurance premiums and all Ontario retiree health and dental premiums will be charged **8% HST**, instead of 8% PST.



Changes to how you will receive Claim Forms beginning January 1, 2011

It has been the practice for several years now to include a pre-printed personalized new claim form each time you receive a payment from Sun Life. In most cases, you will use this form for your next claim. The cost to produce and mail the pre-printed, personalized claim forms is added to the administration charges of the plan each month.

Since our claim forms are also easily accessible for download via the Sun Life or Pension and Benefits Board websites, more and more members choose to print their own forms as needed. This helps to reduce our administration costs and reduce the amount of printed paper.

In addition, many of our Health and Dental Plan members, including about one third of our Retired Health and Dental Plan members, choose to have their claim payments directly deposited to their bank accounts, further reducing the requirement to provide pre-printed personalized claim forms. Both actions encourage good stewardship of the environment and help us to control our plan costs.

In light of this, the Pension and Benefits Board has decided that beginning January 1, 2011, pre-printed personalized claim forms will no longer be included with your payment from Sun Life. Instead, you are encouraged to print forms directly from the Sun Life or Pension and Benefits Board websites. You may also contact the Pension and Benefits office directly for additional claim forms.

Look for further information regarding claim forms in our annual December Retiree Health and Dental Plan letter.

In Memory of . . . We Remember those we lost in 2009-2010

2009

Mrs. Winnifred Bean
The Rev. Gordon W. C. Brett
Ms. Georgine G. Caldwell
Mr. Lloyd J. Coleman
Mrs. Molly Doka
The Rev. Andrew Duncan
Mrs. Mary L. Jack
The Rev. Lois C. Johnson
The Rev. George A. Johnston

The Rev. M. H. Ross Manthorpe
Mrs. Jean B. Muir
Mrs. Erzsebet Nagy
The Rev. Kyung Nam Park
Mrs. Christena L. Patterson
Mrs. Nina Robson
The Rev. Kenneth J. Rowland
The Rev. J. Dean Smith

2010

The Rev. Donald G. Carson
The Rev. Craig A. Cribar
Mrs. Frances Dunn
The Rev. Gordon H. Fresque
The Rev. C. Sheldon Hastings
Mrs. Marjorie M. MacLean
Mrs. Sadie MacPherson
Mrs. Margaret Mitchell
Mrs. Dorothy K. Taylor
The Rev. Kenneth Wild

About this newsletter

This bulletin provides summary information about the Presbyterian Church in Canada pension and benefits plans. It is not intended to be complete or comprehensive, or to provide legal or medical advice. If there are any discrepancies between this bulletin and the wording in the legal documents that govern the plans, the legal documents will apply in all cases.