



# Benefits Bulletin

Fall 2016

Bluewater Educational Support Professionals Bargaining Unit

## Welcome Back

Welcome back to the 2016-2017 school year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. As always, I would remind our membership to feel free to contact me if you have any benefits related questions or concerns. My contact information is at the end of this bulletin. You may also contact Paula Walpole, ESP President at 226-433-2108 (or if calling long distance then toll free at 1-855-433-2108).

## Provincial Benefit Plan

At the end of June 2016, in my last Benefit Bulletin, I advised our membership about the provincial benefit plan known as the 'ELHT' (Employee Life and Health Trust) and directed the membership to the OSSTF website where they could read about the new ELHT. I also advised that Bluewater District school board would be moving into this provincial plan in November 2016. In June that was correct! We have since been advised that Bluewater District School Board has been moved to the February 2017 enrolment into the ELHT. **What does this mean?** It basically means that until that time, our current benefit plan will remain in effect. Our health, dental and life plans will renew in

January as usual and then in February provided there are not any unforeseen hold-ups), we will move into the provincial plan in February. All eligible members will be transitioned into the plan and there will be no break in coverage for our members as a result of the transition in February. Prior to the February transition, eligible members will receive from OTIP email and/or mail communications including enrolment instructions. Emails will be sent to your Board email address. You will start receiving these communications approximately 3-4 weeks prior to our transition—so **watch for these in January!** The communications are designed to answer questions and help each individual to transition in to the new plan smoothly.

A reminder that a copy of the final design of the OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Benefit Plan can be found in the member portal on the OSSTF website. You will need a member account to access the plan. If you have not previously set up a member account, simply follow the instructions on the home page of the OSSTF website.

## Important Reminders

### **Calling OTIP Services**

Just a reminder that when you call OTIP Services regarding our health and dental plan, or about a specific claim you have submitted, you will need to provide them with our plan number which is 47903 and your ID number (which is also your employee number with the Board). You will also be asked specific questions pertaining only to you for security purposes. OTIP Services is 1-866-783-6847.

### **Check your pay stub and deductions!**

Depending on what benefits you have, benefit deductions for the following benefits should appear on your biweekly 'Statement of Earning and Deductions':

Extended Health Care (EHC), Dental (DEN), Long Term Disability (LTD), Accidental Death and Dismemberment (ADD), Optional Life Insurance or Additional Life Insurance (OPT), Dependent Life Insurance (DLI), Group Life Insurance (GLI)

(You will not see any deductions for Group Life Insurance or Dependent Life Insurance as this is a fully funded benefit for all permanent employees)

### Best Doctors:

Best Doctors is a continued part of our benefit plan for the 2016-2017 school year. Best Doctors offers a range of services to ensure you have the information you need to move your healthcare forward with confidence. Different services offered include:

**InterConsultation** -- Best Doctors experts will conduct an in-depth analysis of your medical records including imaging scans, x-rays, test results and pathology. You will be provided with a written summary of their findings to share with your doctor.

**FindBestDoc** - Best Doctors will conduct a customized physician search and recommend leading Canadian specialists who are accepting new patients

**FindBestCare** - If you require an expert physician or a leading care facility outside of Canada, Best Doctors will help you find what you need.

**Best Doctors 360®** -- Call Best Doctors for medical information and resources, one on one support and customized health coaching for a wide range of health concerns from simple to serious!

### **OSSTF D7- ESP Unit Membership**

**Number: HG00003371**

Best Doctors: 1-877-419-2378

bestdoctorscanada.com

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Have a great fall term!

Regards,

**Deb Olesen,**

**Benefits Information Officer**

**Bluewater Educational Support**

**Professionals**

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