

Pension Life

Your continued connection to your plan

The Public Service Pension Plan Newsletter for Retired Members

Winter 2017

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Changes to health care premiums February 1 and April 1, 2017

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Pension payments 2017

January	30	July	28
February	27	August	30
March	30	September	28
April	27	October	30
May	30	November	29
June	29	December	21

Your pension payment is deposited directly to your bank account on the second-to-last business day each month—except in December, when we deposit your payment two business days before Christmas. First pension payments may be deposited on the last business day of the month. This is only for the first month in which you start collecting your pension. All future pension payments will be paid on the dates noted above.

If you do not already do direct deposit, consider having your pension payment deposited directly to your bank account—no need for a paper cheque. It's a safe, convenient and dependable way to receive your monthly pension payment.

● *Sign up for direct deposit at pspp.pensionsbc.ca > My Account*

We're pleased to process payments for those living outside of Canada. However, we cannot guarantee payment arrival dates.

New extended health care and dental carrier, same coverage

Your health provider is changing to Green Shield Canada in April

We are moving your extended health care (EHC) (including your prescription drug program) and dental coverage from Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) to Green Shield Canada (GSC) effective April 1, 2017. If you have voluntary EHC and dental coverage through the Public Service Pension Plan (plan), you will have received a board communiqué in the mail in December outlining this upcoming change.

If you have continuous coverage with another carrier, you are eligible for coverage with GSC; however, you will need to apply on or after April 1, 2017.

Why the change?

This change is a result of a joint review of health and dental insurance carriers with the Teachers' and College pension boards of trustees. The review was done to find the best value for you and your dependants by taking advantage of the buying power of our retired plan members and reducing administrative costs.

With GSC, you will have access to features such as Change4Life, an online health portal. See the back page for more information on the online services you can expect to enjoy beginning April 1, 2017.

You don't need to take any action now. There will be no changes to your EHC and dental coverage, and you will not need to re-satisfy your deductible.

We are working to determine any possible key differences in administrative policies between GSC and PBC, and understand any possible impact on you as a retired member. You will continue to be covered by PBC through March 31, 2017, and should submit any claims incurred on or before that date to PBC.

Watch for your GSC welcome package in the mail in March. Your package will include a new GSC ID card and claims instructions.

Your rates will change. See page 2 for information on premiums.

We are taking steps to ensure a smooth transition. Over the coming months, your benefits information, including your claims history (annual and lifetime maximums), will move to GSC.

EHC coverage through the plan is optional and not guaranteed. The EHC plan is



(continued on page 2)

Ensuring your pension benefit remains secure

Your pension plan is governed by a board of trustees committed to maintaining the plan's financial health. Meet one of the trustees who does important work to ensure your pension remains secure.



John Mazure, Trustee (appointed by the Province of British Columbia)

"It's a privilege to work collaboratively with my fellow trustees to ensure the value of the plan. I view my responsibility on the board as an opportunity to share my pension knowledge and experience for the benefit of all members."

Work experience and education

- Currently assistant deputy minister of gaming policy and enforcement with the Ministry of Finance
- Employed more than 10 years in public service in the areas of finance and environment
- Serves on two corporate boards: BC Pension Corporation and Interprovincial Lottery Corporation
- Obtained a master of arts degree in applied economics from the University of Victoria
- Completed a bachelor of science degree in mathematics at the University of Regina

Tax time

Don't throw away that envelope: your T4A is inside

Important information for your taxes

Your pension is income; it's outlined in the T4A included with the printed copy of this newsletter. Make sure you report your pension income on your 2016 tax return.

- Access your T4A securely at pspp.pensionsbc.ca > My Account

Note

When filing your taxes, take special note of Box 135 of your T4A, which shows your premiums for extended health and/or dental benefits (if you have extended health and/or dental coverage under your pension).

- Questions about completing your return? Visit cra-arc.gc.ca/contact or call 1-800-959-8281

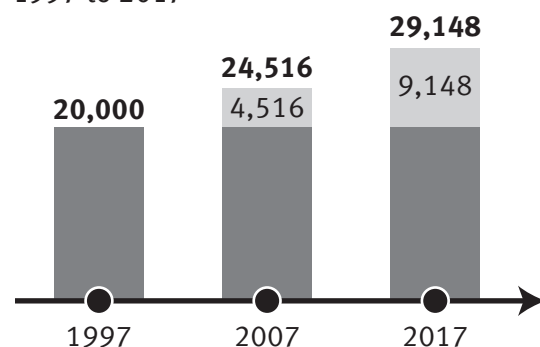
Pensions to increase 1.4%

Your pension payment will increase by 1.4 per cent effective January 1, 2017; the dollar amount depends on your pension amount. The inflation adjustment reflects the change in the Canadian consumer price index over the last 12 months ending October 31, 2016.

The adjustment is applied to the basic lifetime pension (becoming a permanent part of your pension) and the bridge benefit. Though not guaranteed and only granted when funds are available, these adjustments are important. They allow you to keep pace with the increasing cost of living over time.

For example, if you started receiving a pension in 1997 with an annual lifetime pension of \$20,000, your pension in 2017 would be \$29,148.

Basic lifetime pension plus inflation adjustment granted (\$) 1997 to 2017



- Basic lifetime pension (\$20,000)
- Inflation adjustment

If you retired partway through 2016, your adjustment will be pro-rated based on the number of months in 2016 you received a pension.

New health care carrier, same coverage, continued from page 1

monitored regularly, and coverage may be changed at any time by the board, if required.

The plan subsidizes a portion of your EHC premiums depending on your years of pensionable service. Subsidies for these non-pension benefits are funded from a limited portion of employer contributions that would otherwise have gone towards inflation adjustments. The plan does not subsidize dental premiums or EHC premiums for spouses or dependants.

Rest assured the Public Service Pension Plan itself remains healthy. It is fully funded, which means your pension is secure for your lifetime.

As trustees, we manage your pension fund in a professional and reliable manner, and focus on keeping it financially healthy. The most recent valuation of the plan was completed as of March 31, 2014. It showed a surplus of \$194 million, representing a funding ratio of 101 per cent.

For more information

- Visit greenshield.ca
- See our October 24, 2016, and December board communiqués
- Visit pspp.pensionsbc.ca/retiredfaq

Rate changes for extended health care and dental

Premiums will change February 1 and April 1, 2017

Premiums for your extended health care (EHC) and dental coverage are changing. Effective April 1, 2017, the plan's health carrier will move from Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) to Green Shield Canada (GSC).

Your coverage will continue with PBC through March 31, 2017. For the months of February and March, your rates with PBC will

increase. If you pay premiums, your February and March coverage will be deducted from your January and February pension payments, respectively. While any rate increase is significant, we are pleased to inform you the increase only applies to February and March.

On April 1, 2017, when GSC coverage begins, EHC rates will decrease by at least seven per cent from PBC's rates.

Your EHC plan

EHC rates provided in your semi-annual statement will be current as of January 2017 (as long as any outstanding benefit applications, enrolments and cancellations have been processed). You will not receive a transaction statement when the changes to EHC deductions are applied to your February pension payment. Refer to the tables for the most up-to-date details.

Pacific Blue Cross EHC plan rates (monthly) effective February 1 to March 31, 2017 (\$)			
Pensionable service of retired member	1 person ¹	2 people	3+ people
< 2 years (full premium)	56.00	112.00	168.00
2 < 4 years	44.80	100.80	156.80
4 < 6 years	33.60	89.60	145.60
6 < 8 years	22.40	78.40	134.40
8 < 10 years	11.20	67.20	123.20
10+ years	0.00	56.00	112.00
Individual receiving a survivor pension	56.00	112.00	168.00

Green Shield Canada EHC plan rates (monthly) effective April 1, 2017 (\$)			
Pensionable service of retired member	1 person ¹	2 people	3+ people
< 2 years (full premium)	52.00	104.00	155.00
2 < 4 years	41.60	93.60	144.60
4 < 6 years	31.20	83.20	134.20
6 < 8 years	20.80	72.80	123.80
8 < 10 years	10.40	62.40	113.40
10+ years	0.00	52.00	103.00
Individual receiving a survivor pension	52.00	104.00	155.00

¹ Retired member eligible for subsidy

Your dental plan

Premiums for dental care will increase twice, effective February 1, 2017, and again April 1, 2017. You will see the change to deductions for dental coverage on your January and March pension payments.

Pacific Blue Cross dental plan rates (monthly) effective February 1 to March 31, 2017 (\$)			
	1 person	2 people	3+ people
Essential	22.94	43.61	73.47
Enhanced	41.05	77.97	110.14

Green Shield Canada dental plan rates (monthly) effective April 1, 2017 (\$)			
	1 person	2 people	3+ people
Essential	23.31	44.31	74.64
Enhanced	41.58	79.01	111.58

Helpful contacts

Canada Benefits › canadabenefits.gc.ca Phone: 1-800-622-6232 TTY: 1-800-926-9105

An overview of all government benefit programs and services for individuals.

Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement › serviccanada.gc.ca

Phone: 1-800-277-9914 TTY: 1-800-255-4786

Canada Revenue Agency › cra-arc.gc.ca Phone: 1-800-959-8281

Medical Services Plan (MSP) › hibc.gov.bc.ca Phone: 1-800-663-7100

SeniorsBC › seniorsbc.ca

Provides resources and tips for planning and living a healthy life.

Ageing Well › healthyfamiliesbc.ca/aging-well Email: healthyfamiliesbc@gov.bc.ca

Provides resources to help you think about and plan for a healthy and independent future. Information, tools and videos about health and wellness, finance, transportation, housing and social connection.

Extended health care and dental coverage

The Public Service Pension Plan works with a health care carrier to administer group health benefits at a reduced rate to members.

Through March 31, 2017, please contact PBC directly with specific questions about your coverage.

Phone: 604-419-2000 or 1-877-722-2583 for members living outside of BC

Web: pac.bluecross.ca

Beginning April 1, 2017, your carrier will change to Green Shield Canada.

Web: greenshield.ca

Green Shield Canada (GSC) is a leading Canadian non-profit unionized health and dental benefits carrier.

Plan Member Online Services

Available starting April 1, 2017

Self-service through GSC's website will make things quick, convenient, secure and easy (paper claims can still be made). If you currently have extended health or dental coverage through the pension plan, you'll receive a GSC welcome package in March.

Claims incurred up to and including March 31, 2017, should be submitted to Pacific Blue Cross; claims incurred on and after April 1, 2017, should be submitted to GSC.

Your welcome package will include everything you need to get started, including your GSC ID number. With the number in hand, you will be able to register for Plan Member Online Services to:

- Submit your own claims online for physiotherapy, glasses and contact lenses, massage therapy, acupuncture, chiropractic services, medical items and more
- Submit a simulated claim to instantly find out when and what portion of your claim will be covered when you actually submit it
- Print your explanation of benefit statements for when you need to coordinate benefits with another carrier
- View personal claims histories and see a breakdown of how claims were processed
- Run drug eligibility searches that include whether a drug is eligible, reimbursement levels and information on prior authorization

- Access a provider look-up feature to pre-identify dental, paramedical practitioner and vision care providers in good standing in your area that can bill GSC directly for services (GSC will target communications to health care providers to announce the change in carriers and remind them of their direct-billing capabilities)

GSC's handy mobile app—GSC on the Go—lets you manage your benefits wherever you are, from claims submission to drug eligibility searches to an electronic drug card.

Change4Life

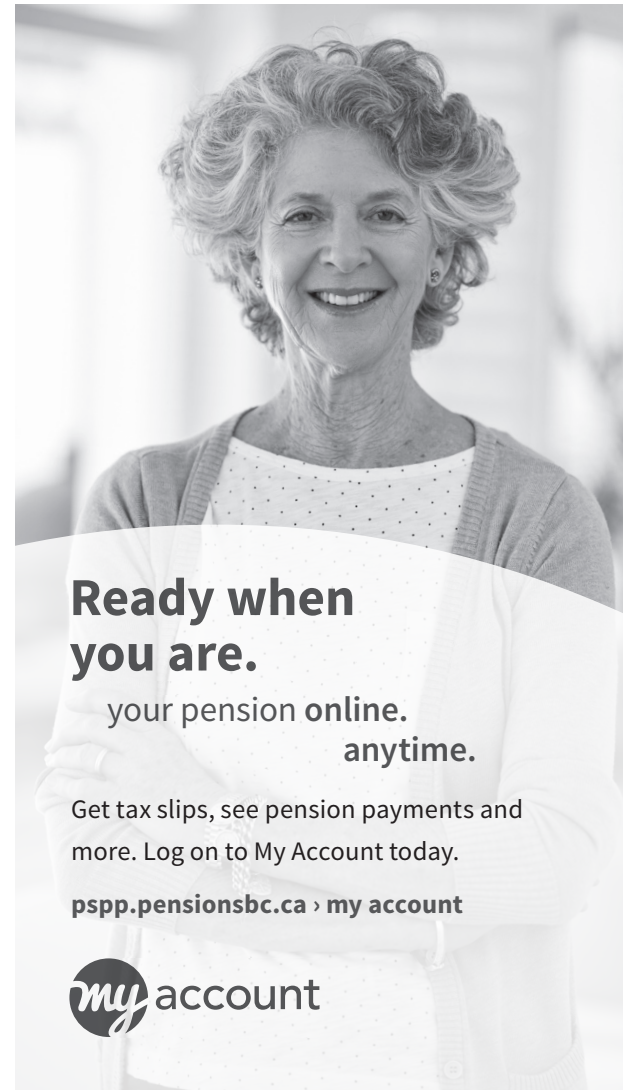
One of the features that GSC offers is the Change4Life health portal. While you'll need to wait until April 1 to register, Change4Life will help you get healthy.

GSC's Change4Life portal helps support your healthy life choices by providing you with personalized tips, easy-to-use online tools and important information, all at your fingertips.

You'll get insight into your current health, learn how you can successfully improve it using a "small steps" approach, and use the portal's tools and information to make it easier to manage existing medical conditions.

Here's what you will be able to do on the Change4Life portal:

- Complete a health assessment survey to receive your personalized health report card and action plan
- Track your daily health progress
- Sign up for reminders to take or refill your medication
- Sign up for healthy-living reminders
- Set personal health goals (and achieve them!)




Ready when you are.

your pension online.
anytime.

Get tax slips, see pension payments and more. Log on to My Account today.

pspp.pensionsbc.ca › my account

 my account

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you wonder what happens if you go back to work? Have questions about who to contact if you move outside the province? Need to know about health care and dental coverage?

Find answers to these important questions by visiting Retired Member Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

The FAQs are available 24/7 and cover topics such as estate planning and moving. You might even find something you hadn't thought about.

► pspp.pensionsbc.ca/retiredfaq



**Public Service
Pension Plan**

Pension Life

CONTACT INFORMATION

Include your Person ID number (see your pension statement) in all correspondence.

Mail: Public Service Pension Plan
PO Box 9460
Victoria BC V8W 9V8

Phone: 250-356-9617

Toll-free: 1-866-876-6777 (Canada & U.S.)

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays

Fax: 250-953-0431

Email: retired@pensionsbc.ca

Pension Life is published twice a year. You may receive more than one copy of *Pension Life* if you receive a pension from more than one pension plan. Read your statement letter to determine which plan provides your group benefits.

Any person entitled to a benefit, or their agent, has the right to examine plan documents, data and public information about the plan.