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The NSTU Group Insurance Program – An Overview for New Members

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees would like to advise that if you are a new NSTU member and have a term, probationary or permanent contract, you are eligible for benefits under the NSTU Group Insurance Plan. Please review the information below carefully to ensure you enroll on a timely basis and receive the benefits you wish and are entitled to as a NSTU member.

The NSTU, through the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees, offer excellent coverages to active members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Hopefully, this article will provide some useful information with regard to the coverages available.

Employer Cost-Shared Benefits You Need to Enroll In

Total Care Medical

The Total Care Medical Program is a comprehensive supplementary health care program available to all active Public School, APSEA, and Community College members and the premium is paid 100 per cent by the employer. This program provides prescription drug coverage, semi-private hospital room, vision care, paramedical services, including physiotherapy and massage therapy, and many other benefits as outlined in the Group Insurance Profile you will receive. **This benefit is not automatic.** You may apply for this benefit at any time provided you are actively at work.

Total Care Dental

Similarly, the Total Care Dental Program provides comprehensive dental care coverage to NSTU members. Total Care Dental includes Basic Preventative Services, Major Restorative Services, and Prosthodontic and Orthodontic Services. The employer cost shares 65 per cent of the Basic and Major Restorative premiums of the Total Care Dental while the member pays 35 per cent for Basic Preventative and Major Restorative premiums, plus 100 per cent for Prosthodontic and Orthodontic premiums. **This benefit is not automatic.** You may enroll in the NSTU Total Care Dental Program once per year before October 15. Also, new members have 31 days from the receipt of their new member package to enroll.

The current member cost for the Total Care Dental Plan is as follows:

Public School/APSEA Members

Single - \$16.92 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Family - \$35.80 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Community College Members

Single - \$18.66 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Family - \$39.40 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Coverage for both the Total Care Medical and Total Care Dental will take effect first of the month following receipt of application.

Automatic Coverage for Every New Member

Provincial Master Life Insurance

A \$50,000 term life policy is available to all active Public School, APSEA, and Community College members. A Dependent Life benefit of \$3,000 for your spouse and \$1,500 for each eligible dependent child is also included in this coverage. The premium for this benefit is 100 per cent paid by each employer, therefore, there is no charge to the member for this coverage. It is very important that you designate a beneficiary for your Provincial Master Life Insurance.

Provincial Master Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

As part of the Provincial Master Life Insurance coverage, a matching \$50,000 of insurance is included for Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D).

As well, under the Provincial Master AD&D Plan there is a \$2,000 Critical Illness benefit for you, the member. This benefit provides a one-time lump sum tax free payment that may be payable, if you are diagnosed with one of the following critical illnesses: Heart attack, coronary artery by-pass surgery, stroke, life threatening cancer.

Long Term Disability

Effective August 1, 2014, the NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is mandatory for all members. However, if you have 35 years of pensionable service, less your accumulated sick leave, you will be exempt from the long term disability plan. As well, if you are 64 years of age and have enough accumulated sick time to reach your 65th birthday, you may also be exempt from the long term disability plan.

This coverage provides a benefit based on 70 per cent of your gross monthly salary at the time your claim commences. This is a taxable benefit as the employer contributes to the cost of the premium.

The Long Term Disability benefit is integrated with the Canada Pension Plan. The qualifying period before benefit payments would commence is the greater of 90 calendar days or your accumulated sick leave.

The NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is cost-shared with the Employer at 50 per cent.

Hospital Cash

A Hospital Cash benefit is provided to all NSTU members who are enrolled in the NSTU Long Term Disability Program. This coverage is a daily benefit of \$20.00 to an insured member when the member is in a hospital and under the care of a physician. This benefit will be paid from the first day of hospitalization, if hospitalized for at least four days. The premium for this coverage is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Resilience® – Employee and Family Assistance Program

Resilience® is an Employee and Family Assistance Program for active NSTU members who have a permanent, probationary or term contract. Through Resilience®, members can reach a team of experienced counsellors from Homewood Health™ who will listen to the issue, offer sound advice and help you create an action plan to address issues. This program also provides Plan Smart and Career Smart Services which includes Childcare and Parenting Caregiver Support Services, Elder & Family Care Services, Legal Advisory Services, Nutritional Support, and many others. The premium for this program is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

CAREpath – The Cancer Assistance Program

All active and retired members of the NSTU are eligible to use the services of CAREpath. The CAREpath navigation system is a service provided by the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees. If you, your spouse, or eligible dependent children suspect having cancer, are diagnosed with cancer, or living with cancer, CAREpath is ready and able to provide support, guidance and answers. The premium for this program is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Optional Coverages Paid By Members

There are a number of optional benefits available to NSTU members that provide the opportunity to purchase additional insurance coverages through payroll deduction, such as, Optional Group

Life/Spousal Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment, MEDOC® Travel Plan, MEDOC® Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance, Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance, and Home/Auto Insurance. These coverages are 100 per cent paid by the member and are offered at competitive premium rates. Details on these programs are contained within the Group Insurance Profile.

Stay tuned this fall for an exciting opportunity from the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees regarding the Optional Group Life/Spousal Life Insurance Plan.

This is a brief overview of the benefits detailed through the NSTU Group Insurance Program. Full details of your NSTU Group Insurance Program are contained within the Group Insurance Profile, which you should take the time to review carefully.

Once you receive your new member package or should you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 902-453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).