



Retiree pension and benefits newsletter

December 2021

Cost of living adjustment (indexing)

If you're eligible, your monthly pension payment will be increased to include an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 2.65% effective January 1, 2022. This percentage is prorated if you started your pension in 2021.

The COLA is based on the change in the average Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 12-month period ending October 31, compared to the prior 12-month period. The COLA is also subject to a cap that is determined through a sustainability test. The cap is the maximum long term sustainable increase that is estimated to be supported by the Pension Plan's Index Reserve Account (IRA) and is re-calculated every three years as part of the actuarial valuation. The sustainability cap is currently 2.65% as calculated in the last actuarial valuation. This year, the change in average CPI was 2.74%. Since this is greater than the cap of 2.65%, the COLA amount will be limited to 2.65%.

Your 2021 T4A

Your 2021 T4A will be mailed to you by RBC Investor Services in February 2022.

If you participated in the BC Hydro Retiree Extended Health Care "Extra" Plan in 2021, your premium payments will be reported in Box 135 of your 2021 T4A. This amount may be claimed as a medical expense on line 330 of your personal income tax return.

As a reminder, MSP premiums were eliminated by the B.C. provincial government effective January 1, 2020. Therefore, most retirees won't receive a second T4A to report taxable benefits for either MSP premiums (box 118) or life insurance premiums (box 119). You'll only receive a separate taxable benefit T4A if the retiree basic life insurance premiums paid by BC Hydro on your behalf was greater than \$25.

Are you moving? Keep your address up to date

To continue to receive important and timely information, please ensure we have your correct address on file. Contact RBC Investor Services at **1 800 668 1320** to report a change of address.

Power Pioneers

Join the Power Pioneers and stay connected with eNewsletters and Zoom events, pension and benefit reminders, Gluu digital security talks and other fun online Branch events. Participate in projects and fundraising for BC Children's Hospital, United Way and the new Branch Volunteer Hours project supporting local communities with dollars for hours. Power Pioneers are also planning for more normal times including local Branch activities and the next Provincial Jamboree at Harrison Hot Springs, September 27, 28 and 29, 2022. Some Branches have begun Welcome Back events with more coming in 2022.

Visit powerpioneers.com today and look for the Join Us link on the homepage to get your membership and full access to everything available online. For more information call Lorilee Koltai at **604 623 3768** or lorilee.koltai@bchydro.com.

Lumino Health

Did you know that Lumino Health is a free, bilingual platform available to everyone in Canada? You can access the platform at luminohealth.sunlife.ca, or if you're enrolled in the BC Hydro retiree benefits plan, you can access Lumino Health from your mysunlife.ca account or Sun Life mobile app. Here you can find and book appointments with health care providers in your area and discover the latest innovations in health. You can also access articles and information on several health topics related to fitness & lifestyle, mental health, family health, diet & nutrition, aging & caregiving, virtual & home health, and diabetes. Discover Lumino Health Guides, watch videos, listen to podcasts, sign up for the newsletter, and much more. The platform also includes resources and offers which include exclusive discounts, free resources and tools from leading providers and retailers related to categories such as vision & hearing, medical products & resources, mental wellness, senior health & care, and more.

PharmaCare Special Authority Prescription Drug Program

What is the provincial PharmaCare Special Authority program?

The provincial BC PharmaCare program covers the cost of certain drugs only under specific medical circumstances. If your prescriber believes your medical circumstances warrant the use of one of these specific limited coverage drugs, they can submit a Special Authority (SA) request to PharmaCare to determine if PharmaCare will cover the cost of the drug.

Which drugs require a SA request to be submitted?

You can find a list of SA drugs at gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority. If you have coverage under the retiree extended health plan and you've submitted a claim to Sun Life for a drug on the SA list, Sun Life may send you a letter advising that a SA request must be submitted to PharmaCare first to see if the provincial plan will cover the costs. You must

send Sun Life a copy of PharmaCare's approval or denial notification.

How does this affect my Sun Life drug coverage?

PharmaCare's approval or denial doesn't impact whether the drug will be eligible for reimbursement under the retiree extended health plan. However, it does impact the overall cost to the retiree extended health plan and ultimately what retirees pay in monthly premiums for the Extra plan, which is why it's important that you've applied to PharmaCare.

Need more information?

You can contact Health Insurance BC (HIBC) at **604 683 7151** or **1 800 663 7100** (Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Dental claim reminder

A reminder to submit your 2021 dental health spending account (HSA) claims to Sun Life no later than March 31, 2022. Claims can be submitted through mysunlife.ca, mobile app or call Sun Life for a Dental HSA claim form.

Contact information

- Report the death of a BC Hydro pensioner or spouse
- General information about the pension plan
- Submit or change a Power of Attorney

BC Hydro Benefits and Pension Centre
1 888 353 9123 (Mon–Fri 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
Employee.Benefits@bchydro.com

- Change of address or banking information
- Information about pension payments or adjust tax deductions
- Questions about your T4A

RBC Investor Services
1 800 668 1320 (Mon–Fri 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
benefipay@rbc.com

- Questions about your coverage under the Retiree Extended Health plan
- Questions about your dental HSA claim
- Information on emergency medical travel coverage

Sun Life
1 800 361 6212 (Mon–Fri 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
mysunlife.ca Policy 150533

- Out-of-country or out-of-province emergency travel assistance under the Extended Health Care plan (phone numbers are also listed on the back of your Sun Life card)

Allianz Global Assistance
1 800 511 4610 (from US and Canada)
1 519 514 0351 (from anywhere else)

- General information about retiree benefits
- Making changes to your Extended Health Care coverage

BC Hydro (Retiree Line)
604 694 8600 or 1 800 663 1339
Pension.RetireeBenefits@bchydro.com