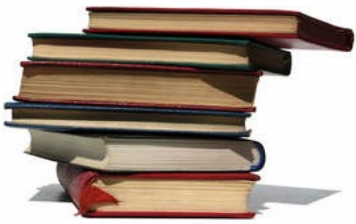


# PIPEWRENCH

## Your Local 67 Benefit Update



January 1, 2017 marked the latest release of your Local 67 Benefits Booklet. Since then there have been many changes and benefits improvements to the Health & Welfare, Pension and SUB Plans. New benefit books, effective January 1, 2018 will be available online at [www.reliableadmin.com](http://www.reliableadmin.com) in the new year. Should you wish to receive a hard copy, please contact the Administrator's office to arrange for one to be mailed to you or you may pick up at the office.

### Health Care Spending Account (HCSA)

In 2017 your Trustees introduced a HCSA that you could use to pay for health and dental expenses not covered by your group benefits plan or your provincial health plan. Any unused amounts from 2017 will be lost and not carried forward into 2018. The Trustees have decided to renew the HCSA benefit for \$500 for 2018.

### Supplementary Unemployment Benefit (SUB)

The SUB Benefit Plan will continue to be paid in 2018 with no changes—a weekly benefit of \$150 for up to 10 weeks in the calendar year. Please refer to your benefit booklet for more details.

### Vision Care

The current benefit allows for up to \$300 for one pair of single vision, bi-focal lenses, frames, safety glasses and eye examination or one set of contact lenses per covered member per calendar year; once every two calendar years for dependents, retirees and surviving family.

While the vision benefit itself will remain at \$300 the Trustees have made an improvement. Members and their dependents may purchase up to \$300 for vision care (glasses, contact lenses) without any restrictions to the number of vision care purchases made. The frequency of vision care will remain the same—every calendar year for members; every two calendar years for dependents, retirees, and surviving family. This change will be effective January 1, 2018.

### Travel Medical Coverage

Travelling to Cuba? The Cuban government will accept a valid provincial health insurance plan card as sufficient proof of travel insurance coverage from Canadian travelers. However, it is advisable that Canadians also take proof of additional travel insurance. Please contact Plan Administrator (Reliable Administrative Services Inc.) for this additional document. If you have any questions about travelling to Cuba, please check the Government of Canada's website <https://travel.gc.ca/> and ensure you follow the applicable requirements.<sup>1</sup>

### OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare<sup>2</sup>

Beginning January 1, 2018 the province of Ontario will provide free prescription drug coverage

<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada Travel Advice & Advisory, 2017-11-08  
<https://www.travel.gc.ca/destinations/cuba>

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
<https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/>

for children and youth aged 24 and under regardless of family income at no cost with no co-payment or annual deductible.

OHIP+ will cover all drugs currently covered through the Ontario Drug Benefit program. To find out if a drug is listed on the formulary please visit the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/Comparative Drug Index at [www.formulary.health.gov.on.ca/formulary](http://www.formulary.health.gov.on.ca/formulary). For those drugs not funded on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary there is the Exceptional Access Program for which your child will need to qualify. Information on this program may be found at [www.ontario.ca/page/applying-exceptional-access-program](http://www.ontario.ca/page/applying-exceptional-access-program).

The Ontario government will contact individuals prior to their 25th birthday to ensure those who still need drug coverage enroll in the Trillium Drug Program.

## Benefit Claims and Fraud

Any abuse, misuse, or over utilization of the Plan as well as inappropriate health provider billing practices, whether intentional or not, is considered fraud. Green Shield Canada has a variety of different tools to prevent and detect fraudulent activity. Their program involves a team dedicated to analyzing claims data and watching for

unusual claiming patterns or anything else that stands out as odd. Periodically Green Shield will audit claims and may need to take additional steps when they adjudicate and pay claims.

If you suspect fraud or possible abuse of your benefits plan report your concerns at 1-800-265-5615 ext 6921 or 1-888-711-1119 and ask for the Confidential TIPS Hotline or email at [bmis@greenshield.ca](mailto:bmis@greenshield.ca).

## How is the Administrator protecting your Plan?

Effective January 1, 2018 a copy of proper documentation (marriage license, birth certificate) will be required before a member can add his/her dependent to the group benefit plan for extended health and dental coverage through Green Shield Canada.

## Travel Card and Your Benefits

If you are working on Travel Card please be aware that it will take **a minimum of two months** for your benefits to be reciprocated back to your home local. If you are at risk of going out of benefit, the Administrator's office will notify you in writing. However, members on Travel Card are strongly encouraged to contact the Administrator, on a monthly basis, to ensure their benefits are up-to-date.

## Local 67 Board of Trustees

Victor Langdon, Chairman

Nathan Bergstrand

Dennis Christie

Les Ellerker

Ross French

Dave Marcus

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Please contact the Administrator should you have any questions.

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