

## When I retire, what happens to my benefits coverage under the group life insurance, health and dental plans?

The retiree group life insurance and retiree health benefits are administered by the Benefits division of the Public Service Commission. You are eligible to participate in these benefit plans if you retire from the Province and are in immediate receipt of a monthly pension from the Province of Nova Scotia Public Service Superannuation Plan.

If you defer your monthly pension payment, you are eligible to join the retirees health plan once you begin to receive the monthly pension, but since the group life insurance coverage must have been continuous and in place just prior to your retirement date, you will not be entitled to the retirees life insurance coverage.

Once the PSC receives notice of your retirement, a letter will be mailed to your home which will outline your benefit coverages, along with the costs. Benefit costs will be deducted from your monthly pension from the Province. Participation in these plans is not mandatory.

Here is a brief summary of the retiree benefits coverage:

### **1. Basic Group Life Insurance**

If you are under age 65 when you retire, you are eligible to continue the basic group life insurance coverage you had in place as an employee. At age 65 your coverage will terminate. If you are age 65 or over at retirement, coverage will be available for 3 months past your retirement date and then it will terminate. As a retiree, you can choose to continue the amount of coverage you had as an employee, or it can be reduced or cancelled. However if you decide to reduce or cancel the coverage, it cannot be reinstated at a later date.

The monthly cost is 26 cents per \$1000 of coverage.

Once this coverage terminates you will be offered a **Conversion Privilege\***.

### **2. Optional Life Insurance**

In order to continue this coverage, it must have been in place on your retirement date. Basic life insurance coverage has to be maintained in order to keep Optional life coverage in place at retirement. You may keep the full amount of coverage, or reduce it, or you can cancel the coverage at any time. However if you decide to reduce the coverage or cancel it, it cannot be reinstated at a later date. (Basic life insurance termination rules and conversion rules also apply to the Optional life insurance coverage).

The costs are monthly, per \$1000, and are based on your age, as follows:

| <b>Age Band</b> | <b>Monthly Cost per \$1000</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| age 50-54       | 20.58 cents                    |
| age 55-59       | 35.97 cents                    |
| age 60-64       | 59.80 cents                    |

### **\*Conversion Privilege - Basic and Optional Life Insurance**

When your Basic and Optional life insurance coverage terminates, you will be offered a 31 day conversion period to convert your group policy to an individual life insurance policy without having to be medically approved by the insurer. When you convert to an individual policy, the group life insurance rates no longer apply. You must apply to convert your group coverage within 31 days from termination. ***The PSC will notify you approximately one month before your coverage terminates with details on the conversion process.***

### **3. Retired Employees Health Plan**

Coverage under the Employees Health and Dental plan will terminate 28 days after your retirement date and you (and your eligible dependents) will automatically be enrolled in the Retired Employees Health plan. This ensures there is no lapse in coverage. All previous health plan claims history with Medavie Blue Cross will transfer with you to the Retired Employees Health plan.

Your Blue Cross identification number will stay the same, but your Blue Cross group policy number will change to #16000 if you are under age 65, or policy # 16500 if you are 65 or over at retirement.

The PSC will send you a new Blue Cross identification card and Retirees Health Plan booklet within 4-5 weeks of your retirement date. This coverage is not mandatory, if you decide to discontinue your participation in this plan, please send written notice to the Public Service Commission.

It's important to note that the Retired Employees Health plan is not the same as the Employees Health plan and also that Travel coverage and Dental benefits are not provided. At age 65, prescription drug coverage ceases to be a benefit, but your other health benefits will continue (ie. eyeglasses, physiotherapy, semi-private hospital room, etc.) If your spouse is under 65, their drug coverage will stay in place until their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Retirees who need drug coverage past age 65 can purchase coverage through either the Seniors or Families Pharmacare programs.

For complete details on the Retired Employees Health plan, please log on to [www.gov.ns.ca/psc](http://www.gov.ns.ca/psc) and click on the link for Benefit Resources.

| <b>Retirees Monthly Health Premiums 2009-10</b> | <b>Under Age 65</b> | <b>Over Age 65</b> |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Single  | \$33.22             | \$17.65            |
| • Family  | \$73.71             | \$35.41            |

**Once you have retired, please keep the Public Service Commission, Benefits Division updated on any life status changes that could impact your benefits coverage and/or your life insurance beneficiary designation. If your address changes, please notify the Nova Scotia Pension Agency.**