

# member news



## **Thinking about retiring? Group benefits for retired members are changing January 1, 2017**

If you're working for a Municipal Pension Plan employer and thinking about retiring, you should know that group benefits for retired members are changing January 1, 2017.

The changes are required to continue providing access to extended health care (EHC) and dental coverage for retired plan members, ensuring the program continues to provide the best value for the funds available.

### **What is the new coverage?**

- Prescription drug coverage through Blue RX
- Annual EHC deductible of \$100 per person
- EHC co-insurance of 70 per cent on first \$1,000 in claims per person per calendar year
- EHC lifetime maximum of \$200,000 per person
- An unsubsidized voluntary dental plan will be available

### **How will these changes affect me?**

If you start your pension in 2016 and select dental coverage, you will be asked to decide whether you wish to apply for the 2017 voluntary dental plan. If you select EHC, you do not need to do anything, but you should know the new coverages above apply as of January 1, 2017.

If you plan to retire after January 1, 2017, you do not need to do anything now. Your retirement application package will contain your group benefit options and application forms.

### **What does this mean for my pension?**

Your basic pension is secure and guaranteed for life.

### **Why are group benefits for retired members changing?**

Retiree group benefit costs are growing faster than available funding from current employer contributions. These changes are required to continue meeting one of the Municipal Pension Board of Trustee's priorities of providing access to group benefits for retired members.

The extended health care and dental program is not a guaranteed part of the basic pension and is not funded by your contributions to the basic pension.

### **Questions?**

For more information, visit [mpp.pensionsbc.ca/groupbenefits](http://mpp.pensionsbc.ca/groupbenefits).

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