

## HEALTH BENEFITS UPDATE – March 2017

**Transition Fund:** Since January 2016, the Transition Fund has been available to support Ontario retirees affected by the suspension of U.S. Steel Canada (“USSC”) prescription drug and other health benefits (“OPEBs”). The Government of Ontario established the Transition Fund to help address urgent and critical health needs and assist retirees as they transitioned to other supports and programs.

**Retiree Fund:** As a result of a 2016 Court Order, USSC made a one-time contribution of \$2.7 million to establish a Retiree Fund which will pay for some limited health benefits. See the next page for more information on the Retiree Fund.

### **What is changing?**

As communicated in December 2016, the Transition Fund will be winding down effective March 31, 2017. Starting April 1, 2017, the same prescription drugs, emergency dental and other benefits currently available through the Transition Fund will be available through the Retiree Fund.

### **Will your health benefits change after March 31, 2017?**

No. The prescription drugs and emergency dental and other benefits currently available through the Transition Fund will continue after March 31, 2017, but, as of April 1, 2017, will be paid for by the Retiree Fund.

The additional benefits currently available through the Retiree Fund will also continue after March 31, 2017.

See the next page for more information on the Retiree Fund.

### **Will the way you submit health benefits claims change after March 31, 2017?**

No. You can continue to go to your pharmacy who will process your claims for 30 days of **prescription drugs**.

You can continue to submit claims for **emergency dental and other benefits** to Ernst & Young Inc. (the Court appointed Monitor). Please note that such claims require that you submit a signed Dental and Other Benefit Application Form (attaching a Green Shield Claim Form) to Ernst & Young Inc. This form, and information on how to submit these claims, can be found on the following website: <http://www.ey.com/ca/ussc> or can be mailed to you by contacting one of the representatives at the contact information provided on the next page.

### **How will the change between the Transition Fund and Retirement Fund work?**

Eligible **prescription drug** claims submitted by 11:59 pm Toronto time Friday, March 31, 2017 will be funded by the Transition Fund. Claims submitted starting April 1, 2017 will be funded through the Retiree Fund.

Eligible claims for **emergency dental and other critical healthcare services** submitted by 11:59 pm Toronto time Friday, March 31, 2017 will be funded from the Transition Fund. Claims submitted starting April 1, 2017 will be funded through the Retiree Fund.

## THE RETIREE FUND

On Aug. 17, 2016, the USW and the court-appointed Representative Counsel to the non-USW active and retired members brought a motion asking the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for an order requiring USSC to restore health benefits (“OPEBs”). On August 19, 2016, the Court indicated it would dismiss the motion if USSC made a one-time contribution of \$2.7 million to fund health benefits for retirees. Reasons for the decision were released by the Court on September 12, 2016. USSC has made the \$2.7 million one-time contribution and has set up a fund (the "**Retiree Fund**"). The Retiree Fund is separate from the Transition Fund, which was established by the Ontario Government.

The Retiree Fund, which is administered by Green Shield Canada, will:

- starting on April 1, 2017, pay for the benefits that were available to eligible retirees and their eligible spouses and beneficiaries (“**OPEB Beneficiaries**”) in Ontario under the Transition Fund;
- extend the benefits that have been available under the Transition Fund to Ontario OPEB Beneficiaries to include those who are resident in Canada but who reside outside of Ontario. This will be retroactively applied to bring out-of-province Canadian residents up to the same benefit level Ontario members have had under the Transition Fund since January 2016; and
- provide a one-time reimbursement of up to \$100.00 to OPEB Beneficiaries for health services or supplies which were purchased after September 12, 2016 and which were not covered by the Transition Fund but would have been covered under the suspended USSC OPEB plan, such as dental care, glasses, medical supplies, massage therapy, physiotherapy, deductibles or orthotics.

Claims made to the Retiree Fund are on a first come-first serve basis. The Retiree Fund will continue until it is exhausted or certain events occur, such as the implementation of a court approved plan of arrangement with respect to USSC. Further information regarding the Retiree Fund is set out in the enclosed materials.

Further information on the Retiree Fund, the Application Forms and Green Shield Claim Form is available on the following websites:

Ernst & Young [www.ey.com/ca/ussc](http://www.ey.com/ca/ussc)

Local 1005 [www.uswa1005.ca](http://www.uswa1005.ca)

Local 8782 [www.uswa8782.com](http://www.uswa8782.com)

Koskie Minsky LLP [www.kmlaw.ca/usscrepcounsel/](http://www.kmlaw.ca/usscrepcounsel/) or email: [usscrepcounsel@kmlaw.ca](mailto:usscrepcounsel@kmlaw.ca)

Stel Salaried Pensioners Organization - [www.stel-salaried-pensioners.org](http://www.stel-salaried-pensioners.org)

If you do not have access to the internet, please call one of the following:

- Green Shield Canada: Toll-free phone number: 1-888-711-1119
- Non-USW members (i.e. Salaried Members) can call Koskie Minsky toll-free at 1-866-777-6341
- For members of the USW, please call your Local as follows:

Local 1005	Tony McLaughlin (905)547-1417 ext. 4 <a href="mailto:tony.mclaughlin@uswa1005.ca">tony.mclaughlin@uswa1005.ca</a>	Ron Wells (905)547-1417 ext. 3 <a href="mailto:ron.wells@uswa1005.ca">ron.wells@uswa1005.ca</a>
Local 8782	Terry Barnard 519-587-2000 ext. 225 <a href="mailto:wsib@uswa8782.com">wsib@uswa8782.com</a>	Mark Talbot 519-587-2000 ext. 301 <a href="mailto:vp@uswa8782.com">vp@uswa8782.com</a>