



Insurance Update

January 16, 2009

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association

Annual SUMA Convention Feb 1 - 4

Individual Highlights:

Convention Feb 1-4

VFF Renewal

2008 Claims Cutoff

Out of Country Coverage

Income Tax Status

Attachments:

none

Links:

www.suma.org

www.greatwestlife.com

www.vfis.com

www.aon.com

The SUMA convention is quickly approaching and we hope to see many of you there. Be sure and stop by the SUMA booth for important information about Group Benefits & Insurance Services. There will also be a new brochure and information on the SUMA Advantage Programs available to

you and your municipality with your SUMA membership. This year we have designed new SUMA mugs, drop by the SUMA booth and pick one up or have a member of council bring one back for you. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Renewal

Renewal packages for your Volunteer Firefighter Insurance were mailed out to all of the participating municipalities in early December. Don't forget that the deadline to renew or apply is February 28th.

You may have noticed that the GST charged on some invoices was incorrectly calculated at 6% rather than 5%. If your invoice is incorrect, we would appreciate if you could make the adjustment and remit 5% GST.

We will NOT be sending out revised invoices but will provide one upon request.

Municipalities that provide their firefighters with "**Off Duty**" coverage must provide a current listing of all Volunteer Firefighters. This list must be maintained throughout the year and it is particularly important that you add ALL new firefighters to the roster. If a firefighter is not on the list, he/she will not be covered!

You are not required to complete a roster sheet for our basic "On Duty" coverage.

If you have not received your invoice please contact the Group Benefits office as soon as possible.

2008 Health & Dental Claims Submissions

Please remind everyone who has Extended Health Care or Dental Care coverage that the deadline for submitting claims which occurred in 2008 is March 31, 2009.

Claims incurred during 2008 that are received after this date will be considered "stale" and will be declined by Great-West Life.

Group Benefits & Insurance Services
200-2222 13th Avenue, Regina SK, S4P 3M7
Phone: 525-4390 Fax: 525-4373 Email: gis@suma.org

www.suma.org

Income Tax Status of Group Benefit Premiums

For those of you who are about to make up the 2007 T4 slips, the following information may be helpful.

The following premiums are considered a taxable benefit to the employee:

- Basic Life Insurance
- Optional Life Insurance
- Spousal Optional Life Insurance
- Child Optional Life

Only the portion paid by the employer is a taxable benefit, the portion paid by the employee or elected official is not.

To report a taxable benefit, show the total amount of taxable premium paid for the year by the employer in item #40 on the T4 slip. The amount shown in #40 on the T4 slip should also be included in item #14. The taxable benefit is not subject to EI contributions, but is subject to CPP and income tax deductions.

If you have income tax questions please call the following:

**Canada Customs & Revenue Agency
1- 800-959-5525.**

Travelling Out of Country???

It is definitely the time of year that a lot of us will be heading out of the country to beat the cold weather!

Please remind all of your employees and elected officials that if they are travelling out of country they should ensure that they have a Medassist card.

Medassist provides out of country coverage and is a benefit that is included in your Extended Health Care Package.

Employees should carry the card on them at all times. If there is an emergency and the employee or a family member needs medical assistance the Medassist number **MUST** be called prior to undergoing any treatment.

There are penalties that may be applied to your claim if the number is not called prior to starting treatment.

Please note that there is a 60 day trip limit with this coverage. If you plan to be away longer than 60 days you will need to purchase additional travel coverage. It should also be mentioned that out of country health coverage does not include trip cancellation insurance.

If you need the Great-West Life Medassist brochure please contact us and we will be happy to mail some out to you or, you can print your own at www.greatwestlife.com