

This bulletin has been distributed to all school districts where the local teachers' association has voted to adopt the new teachers' Provincial Extended Health Benefit plan and all current BCPSEA Buying Group Participants.

Provincial Extended Health Benefit Plan

Update on Request for Proposals Process

BCPSEA received six responses to the "Request for Proposals" issued in early October. The Request for Proposals invited benefit plan providers/insurers to submit a bid to be the insurance carrier for the extended health and dental plans for BCPSEA Buying Group participants.

On November 8, BCPSEA met with our benefit consultants, Morneau Shepell, and BCTF representatives to review the six proposals and determine a shortlist of providers/insurers. The six proposals were evaluated on the following criteria:

- Ability to meet the stated requirements
- Price
- Flexibility in terms of plan designs and funding options
- Quality of claims administration services
- Proposed service levels and local presence
- Project management as it relates to implementation
- Educational support for plan members, on implementation and ongoing
- Experience in the industry and underwriting multi-employer plans
- Management reporting abilities
- Any additional value added services

The following three respondents have been shortlisted and have been invited to make a presentation to the selection committee on November 15:

- Desjardins
- Great-West Life
- Pacific Blue Cross

Very shortly after the finalists have made their presentations to the selection committee, the committee will select the benefit plan provider/insurer for the extended health and dental plans for BCPSEA Buying Group participants, including the new teachers' Provincial Extended Health Benefit Plan.

Once the benefit plan provider/insurer has been selected, further implementation information will be provided as it becomes available.

Implementation Issues in Dispute between BCPSEA and the BCTF

BCPSEA and the BCTF have identified the following three issues as in dispute with respect to the implementation of the Provincial Extended Health Benefit Plan:

1. The rights of the union and obligations of the employer regarding the selection or change of insurance provider / carrier of the Provincial Extended Health Benefit Plan.
2. The appropriate effective date of the Provincial Extended Health Benefit Plan.
3. The application of restrictions regarding dual coverage under current extended health benefit plans to the Provincial Extended Health Benefit Plan

The parties have agreed to have Mark Brown act as mediator/arbitrator to resolve these issues. The mediation/arbitration is scheduled for November 26. If the parties are unable to reach a mediated agreement Mr Brown will issue binding recommendations before the end of December.

Questions

If you have any questions related to the plan, please contact Candice Wright at 604 730 4504 or candicew@bcpsea.bc.ca