March 15, 2018

REMINDER
Benefit Year Ends March 31

A reminder that all benefit claims MUST BE INCURRED by March 31 and claimed by June 30.

CHECK YOUR HEALTHCARE SPENDING ACCOUNT BALANCE at Great West Life to make sure you have used up your entire $825 balance.

After pressing the Employer to implement changes to benefits bargained by UMFA at the end of 2016, on January 30, 2018, the Board of Governors finally approved several enhancements to U of M’s Group Insurance Benefits, including several not discussed in bargaining.

The enhancements will be implemented retroactive to April 1, 2017. The plan
enhancements include:

- increases to the Health Care Spending Account limits to $825 for the full-time plan and $580 for the part-time plan.
- Orthodontic Coverage will now apply to the whole family instead of only dependent children.
- Orthodontic limits will increase to $3,000 lifetime for the full-time plan and $1,575 lifetime for the part-time plan.
- Orthodontic claims will be excluded from the yearly maximum for dental expenses.
- Dental Implants will be covered at a level equivalent to the least costly alternative treatment.
- The Dental Fee guide from the province where work was completed will be used instead of the Manitoba fee guide.
- If the dental work is performed outside of Canada, the fee guide from the province of residence will be used.
- The Prescription Drug annual limit will increase to the lesser of $5,000 or the Manitoba Pharmacare deductible for the full-time plan and $3,500 or the Manitoba Pharmacare deductible for part-time plan.

To take advantage of the enhanced coverage, plan members will need to re-submit their eligible claims. More information will be coming from the Employer in the first week of March.

Any additional questions can be directed to Dave Muir, Director, Compensation and Staff Benefits, Dave.Muir@umanitoba.ca or 204-474-9584.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

2017 T4 and T4A Now Available

The 2017 T4 and T4A are now available electronically via Employee Self Service (ESS).
Log-in to JUMP http://jump.portal.umanitoba.ca and click the following:

- Staff tab
- Employee Self Service
- My Pay
- T4
- Print or download

Please note:
If you have any difficulty logging into JUMP, ESS, or printing your T-slip, please contact IST support at the following link:
http://umanitoba.ca/computing/ist/help/index.html

If you have any questions regarding the figures on the T4/T4A(s), please contact your Payroll Associate for further assistance.

You can find the Payroll Services contact list at http://umanitoba.ca/admin/financial_services/media/Payroll_Contacts_2018.pdf
Librarians & Libraries on Campus

Throughout the months of February and March, we'll be taking some time to de-mystify the role of academic librarians on campus. Librarians play a crucial role in making the UofM function on a day-to-day basis.

We'll be talking about some of these tasks and roles throughout the next couple months and looking at how librarians and libraries are essential to the functioning of post-secondary education.

Click below to read the librarian profiles and learn more about the campaign!
Solidarity with York University Strike

Academic staff at York University are currently on strike for equity provisions, prevention of further setbacks in their fellowship funding model, job security, and graduate assistant jobs as part of the new collective agreement.

You can read more about the strike here: [https://3903.cupe.ca/](https://3903.cupe.ca/)

Knowing and Using Your Collective Agreement was developed to bring clarity to some of the more confusing aspects of the CA. Each section of Knowing and Using Your Collective Agreement lays out the groundwork and the practical takeaways that are important for Members to understand so they can continue to maintain the principles that we’ve fought for through collective bargaining and strike action.

When in doubt, however, the language in the CA takes precedence over the descriptions included here. If you have questions or concerns, contact the UMFA office at 204-474-8272 or faum@umfa.ca.

Current articles:

* Section 19.B.1.8 (meetings concerning discipline or investigations) A must read!

[Article 10: Retirement and Reduced Appointments](#)

[Article 18: Hiring of Members](#)

[Articles 19 and 20: Tenure and Promotion Recommendation Information for Recent Applicants](#)

[Workload Provisions](#)
If you have information or an event that you’d like to share in an upcoming issue, please email the item to umfa-communications@umfa.ca for consideration.