

My Group Benefits Plan



CANADIAN BAPTISTS OF ATLANTIC CANADA

Division 6

BENEFIT DETAILS

Great-West Life is a leading Canadian life and health insurer. Great-West Life's financial security advisors work with our clients from coast to coast to help them secure their financial future. We provide a wide range of retirement savings and income plans; as well as life, disability and critical illness insurance for individuals and families. As a leading provider of employee benefits in Canada, we offer effective benefit solutions for large and small employee groups.

Great-West Life Online

Visit our website at www.greatwestlife.com for:

- information and details on Great-West Life's corporate profile and our products and services
 - investor information
 - news releases
 - contact information
 - claim forms and the ability to submit certain claims online
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This booklet describes the principal features of the group benefit plan sponsored by your employer, but **Group Policy Nos. 156241 and 156243** issued by Great-West Life are the governing documents. If there are variations between the information in the booklet and the provisions of the policies, the policies will prevail.

This booklet contains important information and should be kept in a safe place known to you and your family.

The Plan is underwritten by



50-11-17

Access to Documents

You have the right, upon request, to obtain a copy of the policy, your application and any written statements or other records you have provided to Great-West Life as evidence of insurability, subject to certain limitations.

Legal Actions

Every action or proceeding against an insurer for the recovery of insurance money payable under the contract is absolutely barred unless commenced within the time set out in the Insurance Act (for actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Alberta and British Columbia), The Insurance Act (for actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Manitoba), the *Limitations Act, 2002* (for actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Ontario), or other applicable legislation. For those actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Quebec, the prescriptive period is set out in the Quebec Civil Code.

Appeals

You have the right to appeal a denial of all or part of the insurance or benefits described in the contract as long as you do so within one year of the initial denial of the insurance or a benefit. An appeal must be in writing and must include your reasons for believing the denial to be incorrect.

Benefit Limitation for Overpayment

If benefits are paid that were not payable under the policy, you are responsible for repayment within 30 days after Great-West Life sends you a notice of the overpayment, or within a longer period if agreed to in writing by Great-West Life. If you fail to fulfil this responsibility, no further benefits are payable under the policy until the overpayment is recovered. This does not limit Great-West Life's right to use other legal means to recover the overpayment.

Protecting Your Personal Information

At Great-West Life, we recognize and respect the importance of privacy. Personal information about you is kept in a confidential file at the offices of Great-West Life or the offices of an organization authorized by Great-West Life. Great-West Life may use service providers located within or outside Canada. We limit access to personal information in your file to Great-West Life staff or persons authorized by Great-West Life who require it to perform their duties, to persons to whom you have granted access, and to persons authorized by law. Your personal information may be subject to disclosure to those authorized under applicable law within or outside Canada.

We use the personal information to administer the group benefits plan under which you are covered. This includes many tasks, such as:

- determining your eligibility for coverage under the plan
- enrolling you for coverage
- investigating and assessing your claims and providing you with payment
- managing your claims
- verifying and auditing eligibility and claims
- creating and maintaining records concerning our relationship
- underwriting activities, such as determining the cost of the plan, and analyzing the design options of the plan
- preparing regulatory reports, such as tax slips

We may exchange personal information with your health care providers, your plan administrator, any insurance or reinsurance companies, administrators of government benefits or other benefit programs, other organizations, or service providers working with us or the above when relevant and necessary to administer the plan.

As plan member, you are responsible for the claims submitted. We may exchange personal information with you or a person acting on your behalf when relevant and necessary to confirm coverage and to manage the claims submitted.

You may request access or correction of the personal information in your file. A request for access or correction should be made in writing and may be sent to any of Great-West Life's offices or to our head office.

For a copy of our Privacy Guidelines, or if you have questions about our personal information policies and practices (including with respect to service providers), write to Great-West Life's Chief Compliance Officer or refer to www.greatwestlife.com.

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Benefit Summary

This summary must be read together with the benefits described in this booklet.

Employee Basic Life Insurance \$60,000, reducing to \$5,000 at age 65 and to \$2,500 at age 70

Dependent Basic Life Insurance

Spouse \$10,000
Child \$4,000

Dependent Basic Life Insurance reduces by 50% when you reach age 65 or when you retire, whichever is earlier. Benefit terminates at age 70

Optional Life Insurance*

Available in \$25,000 units to a maximum of \$500,000, for you or your spouse, subject to approval of evidence of insurability

If you are covered under this plan as both an employee and a spouse, you are limited to the \$500,000 maximum

*If you elected optional life benefits prior to December 1, 1997 you are not eligible for additional optional life coverage.

Long Term Disability Income Benefits

Waiting Period

119 days

Amount

67% of your monthly earnings to a maximum benefit of \$5,000

COMMENCEMENT AND TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

You are eligible to participate in the plan on the date that is equal to the time between the date your employment begins and the date you join the pension plan.

- You and your dependents will be covered as soon as you become eligible.
- You must be actively at work when coverage takes effect, otherwise the coverage will not be effective until you return to work.

Increases in your benefits while you are covered by this plan will not become effective unless you are actively at work.

- Temporary, part-time and seasonal employees may not join the plan.

Your coverage terminates when your employment ends, you are no longer eligible, or the policy terminates, whichever is earliest.

- Your dependents' coverage terminates when your insurance terminates or your dependent no longer qualifies, whichever is earlier.
- Your coverage may be extended if it would have terminated because you are not actively at work due to disease or injury, temporary lay-off or leave of absence. Your employer will provide you with details.
- When your coverage terminates, you may be entitled to an extension of benefits under the plan. Your employer will provide you with details.

Survivor Benefits

If you die while your coverage is still in force, the Contact benefit for your dependents will be continued for a period of 2 years or until they no longer qualify, whichever happens first.

DEPENDENT COVERAGE

Dependent means:

- Your spouse, legal or common-law.

A common-law spouse is a person who has been living with you in a conjugal relationship for at least 36 months or, if you are a Quebec resident, until the earlier birth or adoption of a child of the relationship.

- Your unmarried children under age 22, or under age 25 if they are full-time students.

Children under age 22 are not covered if they are working more than 30 hours a week, unless they are full-time students.

Children who are incapable of supporting themselves because of physical or mental disorder are covered without age limit if the disorder begins before they turn 22, or while they are students under 25, and the disorder has been continuous since that time.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

You may make, alter, or revoke a designation of beneficiary as permitted by law. You should review any beneficiary designation made under this policy from time to time to ensure that it reflects your current intentions. You may change the designation by completing a form available from your employer.

EMPLOYEE BASIC LIFE INSURANCE

On your death, Great-West Life will pay your life insurance benefits to your named beneficiary. If you have not named a beneficiary or there is no surviving beneficiary at the time of your death, payment will be made to your estate. Your employer will explain the claim requirements to your beneficiary.

- If you become disabled while insured, Great-West Life may waive the premiums on your life insurance after the waiting period, throughout the benefit period.

The waiting period is the same as the waiting period under the long term disability income benefit.

A benefit period is the period of time after the waiting period during which you satisfy the disability definition under the long term disability income benefit. A benefit period will not continue past your 65th birthday.

- Your life insurance will terminate if you are age 65 or over and you are not actively at work. However, if you are not actively at work because of disease or injury, your life insurance may be continued on a premium paying basis for up to 6 months following the date you ceased to be actively at work.
- If any or all of your insurance terminates before age 71, you may be eligible to apply for an individual conversion policy without providing proof of your insurability. You must apply and pay the first premium no later than 31 days after your group insurance terminates. See your employer for details.

DEPENDENT BASIC LIFE INSURANCE

If one of your dependents dies, Great-West Life will pay you the dependent life insurance benefit. Your employer will explain the claim requirements.

- Your dependent life insurance will not continue past the end of the day before the date you reach age 70.
- If you are disabled and the premiums for your employee life insurance are waived, your dependent life insurance will also continue without premium payment until your own coverage terminates or your dependents no longer qualify.
- Your dependent life insurance will terminate if you are age 65 or over and you are not actively at work. However, if you are not actively at work because of disease or injury and your employee life insurance is continued, your dependent life insurance will be continued on the same basis.
- If your spouse's insurance terminates before age 71, he or she may be eligible for an individual conversion policy without providing proof of insurability. You or your spouse must apply and pay the first premium no later than 31 days after the group insurance terminates. See your employer for details.

OPTIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

Optional Life Insurance allows you to choose additional coverage for yourself and your spouse. Check the **Benefit Summary** for the amount of Optional Life Insurance available. When you apply for Optional Life Insurance, you must provide proof of insurability, and the application must be approved by Great-West Life. If you or your spouse dies within two years after applying for Optional Life Insurance, Great-West Life has the right to verify any medical information you or your spouse provided. If any inconsistencies are discovered, the claim will be denied and any premiums paid will be refunded.

On your death, Great-West Life will pay your life insurance to your named beneficiary. If you have not named a beneficiary or there is no surviving beneficiary at the time of your death, payment will be made to your estate. Your employer will explain the claim requirements. If your spouse dies you will be paid the amount for which he or she was insured.

- If you are approved for waiver of premium on your basic life insurance, any optional life insurance for yourself or your spouse will also continue without premium payment as long as your basic life insurance continues but not beyond the date your optional insurance would otherwise terminate.
- If your or your spouse's optional life insurance terminates, you or your spouse may be eligible to apply for an individual conversion policy without providing proof of insurability. You must apply and pay the first premium no later than 31 days after your group insurance terminates. See your employer for details.
- Your optional life insurance will not continue past the end of the day before the date you reach age 65. Your spouse's coverage will not continue past the end of the day before the date you or your spouse reaches age 65, whichever comes first.

Limitation

No benefit is paid for suicide within the first two years of initial or increased optional life coverage. In such a situation, Great-West Life refunds the premiums that have been received.

LONG TERM DISABILITY (LTD) INCOME BENEFITS

The plan provides you with regular income to replace income lost because of a lengthy disability due to disease or injury. Benefits begin after the waiting period is over and continue until you are no longer disabled **as defined by the policy** or you reach age 65, whichever comes first. Check the **Benefit Summary** for the benefit amount and waiting period.

- If disability is not continuous, the days you are disabled can be accumulated to satisfy the waiting period as long as no interruption is longer than 2 weeks and the disabilities arise from the same disease or injury. If your employer provides short term disability or sick leave benefits that are still being paid when the waiting period ends, the waiting period will be extended until the end of the short term disability or sick leave benefit period, but not later than one year after your disability started.
- LTD benefits are payable for the first 24 months following the waiting period if disease or injury prevents you from doing your own job. You are **not** considered disabled if you can perform a combination of duties that regularly took at least 60% of your time to complete.
- After 24 months, LTD benefits will continue only if your disability prevents you from being gainfully employed in any job. Gainful employment is work you are medically able to perform, for which you have at least the minimum qualifications, and provides you with an income of at least 75% of your indexed monthly earnings before you became disabled.
- After the waiting period, separate periods of disability arising from the same disease or injury are considered to be one period of disability unless they are separated by at least 6 months.
- Because your employer contributes to the cost of LTD coverage, benefits are taxable.
- Your LTD insurance will not continue past the end of the day before the date you reach age 65.

Other Income

Your LTD benefit is reduced by other income you are entitled to receive while you are disabled. Your benefit is first reduced by:

- disability or retirement benefits you are entitled to on your own behalf under the Canada or Quebec Pension Plan, except for increases that take effect after the benefit period starts
- benefits under any Workers' Compensation Act or similar law

There is a further reduction of your LTD benefit if the total of the income listed below exceeds 80% of your monthly earnings before you became disabled. If it does, your benefit is reduced by the excess amount.

- your income under this plan
- benefits another member of your family is entitled to on the basis of your disability under the Canada or Quebec Pension Plan that are paid directly to you, except for increases that take effect after the benefit period starts
- loss of income benefits available through legislation, except for Employment Insurance benefits, which you and any other member of your family are entitled to on the basis of your disability, including automobile insurance benefits where permitted by law
- disability benefits under a plan of insurance available through membership in an association
- employment income, disability benefits, or retirement benefits related to any employment except an approved rehabilitation plan or program (termination pay and severance benefits are included as employment income under this provision)

Earnings received from an approved rehabilitation plan or program are not used to reduce your LTD benefit unless those earnings, together with your income from this plan and the other income listed above, including any increases in Canada or Quebec Pension Plan benefits that take effect after the benefit period starts, would exceed your indexed monthly earnings before you became disabled. If it does, your benefit is reduced by the excess amount.

Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits

Vocational rehabilitation involves a work related activity or training strategy that is designed to help you return to gainful employment and a more productive lifestyle. A plan or program will be approved if it is appropriate for the expected duration of your disability and it facilitates your earliest possible return to work.

Medical Coordination Benefits

Medical coordination is a process of early involvement to ensure that you are diagnosed quickly and receive appropriate treatment on a timely basis. The goal is to enable you to return to work as early as possible and to prevent the disability from becoming long term or permanent.

Limitations

No benefits are paid for:

- Any period in which you do not participate or cooperate in a prescribed plan of medical treatment appropriate for your condition.

Depending on the severity of the condition, you may be required to be under the care of a specialist.

If substance abuse contributes to your disability, the treatment program must include participation in a recognized substance withdrawal program.

- The scheduled duration of a lay-off or leave of absence.

This does not apply to any portion of a period of maternity leave during which you are disabled due to pregnancy.

- Any period after you fail to participate or cooperate in an approved rehabilitation plan or program.
- Any period after you fail to participate or cooperate in a recommended medical coordination program.
- Any 12-month period in which you do not live in Canada for at least 6 months.
- Any period of confinement in a prison or similar institution.
- Disability arising from war, insurrection, or voluntary participation in a riot.

How to Make a Claim

- To submit claims online, go to www.greatwestlife.com.
- To submit paper claims, obtain an Employee Claim Submission Guide (form M4307B) and follow the guide's instructions.

You can get this form from your employer, or online from the Great-West Life corporate website. To access the form online, go to www.greatwestlife.com.

Please ensure that your claim is submitted to Great-West Life as soon as possible, but no later than 6 months after proof of your claim has been requested.

CONTACT – EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Contact employee assistance program provides you and your dependents with access to confidential counselling and information services.

The services provided under the Contact employee assistance program are available by dialing the toll-free number shown below. This toll-free number is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by intake counsellors who can provide immediate support and counselling, respond to crisis or emergency situations or schedule appointments.

For service in English: 1-800-387-4765

For service in French: 1-800-361-5676

For more information on the services available under the Contact employee assistance program, please see the employee assistance program brochure provided by your plan administrator or visit the employee assistance program: **www.shepell.com**.