

**Memo #29**

Date: February 28, 2018  
To: Executive/Members

**Re: T4A Income Tax Slips for 2017 – Taxable Benefits; OHIP+ and Exceptional Access Program; Possible Strike by CUPE 3903, York University**

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T4A Income Tax Slips for 2017 – Taxable Benefits

Please be advised that, as per the current income tax provisions, the Basic Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) benefits premiums which were paid by the OECTA Employee Life and Health Trust (ELHT) on the member's behalf during the 2017 calendar year are taxable benefits.

Members (and former members employed during the 2017 calendar year) will be receiving a T4A Income Tax statement for these taxable benefit premium amounts. OTIP, as the ELHT's third party provider, will be issuing the T4As directly to members and former members (as appropriate) on behalf of the OECTA ELHT Benefit Trust.

Members should have received a direct communication from OTIP sometime during the January 19 to January 30 timeframe and they should be in receipt of their T4A by the end of February.

The T4A taxable benefit amounts are calculated based on the Basic Life and AD&D premiums paid by the OECTA ELHT on a member's behalf for the 2017 calendar year (January to December).

In the past (before the ELHTs were created), the Basic Life and AD&D benefit premium amounts paid by a school board on the member's behalf would also have been reported as a taxable benefit, but the amount would have been included on the T4 Income Tax Form from the school board.

**OHIP+ and Exceptional Access Program**

On January 1, 2018, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) introduced OHIP+ Children and Youth Pharmacare. Ontario residents who are 24-years-old or younger will be able to get their prescription medications for free under the new OHIP+ program. Enrolment and drug coverage will be automatic, with no upfront costs such as co-payments or deductibles.

The new program will cover all drugs currently reimbursed through the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program. This includes more than 4,400 drug products listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index and additional drugs eligible for funding through the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. **Therefore, medication that may be considered for funding through the EAP will not be covered under the OECTA ELHT benefits plan effective March 1, 2018, unless you take the following steps:**

Speak with your prescribing doctor/nurse practitioner to:

1. Ask if there is a suitable alternative drug covered on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary that can be prescribed instead of the EAP drug. **Or,**

- Request that they complete an EAP application for coverage for the EAP drug. The approval process can take a few weeks. Please take action now, so you are not paying out-of-pocket the next time you get the prescription filled.

**NOTE: At the beginning of January, a notice was sent out from the insurer (Manulife Financial) and OTIP to members who are currently using EAP drugs, to give them sufficient time to apply for EAP funding.**

If applicable, your EAP drug claims will be covered under your health plan until either March 1 or April 1 (effective date), depending on the plan you are covered under. After your effective date, you will need to follow the steps above and below.

For non-Prior Authorization drugs	For Prior Authorization drugs
<p>If EAP drug coverage is <b>approved</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The doctor/nurse practitioner may contact you or you can call the doctor/nurse practitioner directly to find out the status.</li> <li>Please inform your pharmacist the prescription will be paid through OHIP+.</li> <li>You do not need to notify OTIP.</li> </ul>	<p>If EAP drug coverage is <b>approved or denied</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The doctor/nurse practitioner may contact you or you can call the doctor/nurse practitioner directly to find out the status.</li> <li>OTIP will require proof that the EAP application was approved or denied.</li> <li>Please <b>send this information to OTIP</b>.</li> <li>Once OTIP has been informed, the pharmacist can submit the EAP claim to see if it can be covered under the group benefits plan.</li> </ul>
<p>If EAP drug coverage is <b>denied</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The doctor/nurse practitioner may contact you or you can call the doctor/nurse practitioner directly to find out the status.</li> <li>OTIP will require proof that the EAP application was denied.</li> <li>Please <b>send this information to OTIP</b>.</li> <li>Once OTIP has been informed, the pharmacist can submit the EAP drug claim to see if it can be covered under the group benefits plan.</li> </ul>	

**Send this information to OTIP:**

<p><b>By mail:</b></p>
<p>OTIP Health Claims PO Box 280 Waterloo ON N2J 4A4</p> <p>Please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The patient's name</li> <li>Your plan number and OTIP ID number (can be found on your benefits card)</li> <li>A copy of the notice from the province</li> </ul>
<p><b>By fax:</b></p>

Fax: 1-844-595-9551

Please add a cover page stating:

- The patient's name
- Your plan number and OTIP ID number

Fax the cover page with a copy of the notice from the province.

Once OTIP has received your information, your records will be updated accordingly.

### **Possible Strike by CUPE 3903, York University**

CUPE 3903 representing unionized Graduate Assistants, Teaching Assistants and Contract Faculty at York University is currently in a legal strike position and has set a strike deadline of March 5, 2018.

*OTF Policy VIII, Teacher Education, Section A, General states:*

6. *That in the event the faculty of a teacher education institution declares a strike in the course of collective bargaining, OTF would consider the practicum to be suspended for the duration of the strike, and OTF members would not provide associate teaching services to teachers in pre-service programs.*

The Ontario Teachers Federation has informed the Dean of the Faculty of Education and the Presidents of CUPE 3903 and the Faculty of Education Student Association (FESA) that should the CUPE 3903 strike occur the practicum of all teacher candidates in the Faculty of Education will be suspended.

OECTA, in support of CUPE 3903 is requesting that Associate Teachers suspend all practicum involvement with student-teacher candidates through York University. If an associate teacher currently has a student-teacher candidate in an active practicum the candidate should be directed to return to the Faculty of Education during the duration of the strike.

**If you have any concerns, please contact the Unit office at 705-733-9625 or 1-800-558-4815  
Thank you for sharing this information with OECTA members.**