



Bulletin to Branches 2010-07

July 28, 2010

Meetings with stakeholders – update and proposed strategy

In the June Bulletin to Branches, I reported that the NBOD had tasked me with approaching Treasury Board (TB) concerning the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) file. On July 6, the National President, Hélian Lizotte, the Immediate Past National President, Stan Hrabarchuk and I met with TB officials to express our concern about the process that was used to arrive at the changes in the PDSP for pensioners and to obtain answers to a series of questions we sent them earlier in June regarding the analysis used to reach this decision. TB promised that we would have these answers by the end of this month.

I was also asked by the NBOD to meet with our union partners. I met with CAPE and PSAC and will be meeting with PIPSC in August. CAPE and PSAC are greatly concerned about the TB proposed increase in the cost sharing in the PDSP and the corresponding fee schedule hike. They share our concern and FSNA needs to take action.

I briefed the National President on these meetings and we agreed that FSNA must take decisive action now to get TB to put a hold on its decision to increase the cost sharing from 60/40 to 50/50 — an increase in premium rates. To do this effectively, we are seeking the help of our branch presidents, executives and the branch members.

Parliament has adjourned and will reconvene on September 20. Treasury Board plans to implement changes to the PDSP plan on October 1 of this year. The window of opportunity to influence TB is very small.

Our National President and NBOD are, through this communiqué, asking all of you to exercise your democratic right; call and arrange a meeting with your member of parliament to express your concern with the proposed change to your dental insurance plan. Alternatively, you can talk to them at social events they will be attending in their ridings. In short, meet with them and let them know you do not approve of this decision and want it stopped.

We are hopeful that your intervention at the local level (where you have a voice) and our intervention at the national level will yield the results we are striving for. FSNA needs to take a strong position on this matter and advocate together to stay TB's decision concerning PDSP premiums.

In order to assist you with this task, Vera Yuzyk, Director of Government Relations, vyuzyk@fsna.com, will be following up with you to inquire about your meetings with the MPs in your region and to provide you with talking points to ensure consistent messaging across the country.

We believe this objective can only be achieved with your cooperation at the riding level. We are confident we can count on you to take action over the summer to stop TB's decision to increase the cost-sharing formula on premiums for the PDSP.

Insurance coverage for branches

Many branches have questions concerning coverage for their meetings. The information we have obtained is as follows: business meetings (including AGMs) of up to 150 people (with no alcohol being served) are covered by FSNA's insurance. This coverage is sufficient for all non-incorporated branches. Incorporated branches would be covered under their own insurance.

Lump sum payments provided by the New Veterans Charter

Information posted on the three Website links shown below indicate that many complex reviews, studies and reports have been and continue to be undertaken on the appropriateness of the lump sum payments provided by the New Veterans Charter in case of injuries incurred while on duty by the Canadian Forces members.

The National Office is keeping a close eye on the evolution of the work of these three groups, as it relates directly to the standing resolution adopted at Congress 2010:

Be it resolved that FSNA co-operate with the Veterans' ombudsman to pursue the Minister of National Defence to undertake an evaluation to determine the magnitude of the financial and social problems encountered by our combat disabled veterans as a result of the "lump sum" benefit with an intent to make optional or revert back to the "monthly benefit" as a potential solution.

An information note will soon be prepared by the National Office for the September NBOD meeting. In the meantime, we are meeting with the Honourable Peter MacKay's staff, as well as with officials from the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and Veterans' Affairs officials, to share with them FSNA's point of view (as per the resolution above) and to offer our support to continue investigating the best option possible for wounded soldiers in need of assistance.

These meetings are scheduled during August and I will share their outcome with you in the next Bulletin to Branches.

Veterans Ombudsman Website:

<http://www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/consultations/other-autre/payout-paiement-eng.cfm?8>

Veterans Affairs Canada Website:

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/clients/sub.cfm?source=forces/nvc/2009-oct-nvcag/4-0>

House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs Website:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/403/ACVA/Reports/RP4634723/acvarp01/acvarp01-e.pdf>

Claude Edwards memorial

On July 16th, the National President, Hélian Lizotte and I attended the memorial service held in Ottawa for Mr. Claude Edwards. We had the opportunity to express our sympathies to the family and inform them of the Congress 2010 resolution to name the National Office building after the late Claude Edwards. The family was very grateful for this recognition.

National Board of Directors - elections

On June 28, Gérald Denis, President of the Mauricie branch was acclaimed as the National Director for Quebec. He replaces Hélian Lizotte, elected National President at Congress 2010, for the remainder of the term.

On July 20, Duncan Conrad was acclaimed as the National Director for Prince Edward Island. He will take over the remainder of the term for Les Chipperfield, who was elected National VP at Congress 2010.

National Board of Directors Minutes

The minutes of the June 14 and 18, 2010, NBOD meetings are enclosed.

It's Time to Enrol – Public Service Health Care Plan Benefit Card

The Public Service Health Care Plan benefit card is almost here. This means that instead of paying for the full cost of eligible prescription drugs and medical supplies up front and mailing in a claim for reimbursement, you will only have to pay your share of the cost at the pharmacy. Pharmacies will begin accepting the new benefit card on November 1, 2010.

To obtain the card, all members of the Public Service Health Care Plan must enrol themselves and all their eligible dependants for electronic claims processing. This will require providing the plan administrator (Sun Life Financial) with information such as age, gender and alternative medical coverage.

Starting Thursday, July 15, 2010, members who are already users on the **Sun Life Plan Member Services Web site** can enrol online at:
http://www.sunlife.ca/enrolment_pshcp.

Members who are not users on the website will receive an information package in the mail, by August 15, 2010, that will contain everything needed to enrol on paper or online.

It is critical that all members of the PSHCP enrol by September 15, 2010. Starting November 1, 2010, claims will no longer be processed for those who are not enrolled.

For more information, please consult the frequently asked questions on the **Treasury Board Secretariat Web Site** at:
<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hr-rh/bp-rasp/benefits-avantages/hcp-rss/hcp-rss-eng.asp>.

If members do not receive their information package either by email or through Canada Post, they can contact the Sun Life PSHCP call centre, which is open Monday to Friday 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST at the following numbers:

- 613-560-7846 in the National Capital Region
- 1-877-283-1411 toll free from anywhere in North America.

Please feel free to contact the call centre if you have any questions about positive enrolment.

Advocacy initiatives

Attached is the summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in June.

August holiday

National office will be closed on Monday, August 2, a statutory holiday.

ON GUARD fall 2010 deadlines

Action The deadlines for the fall 2010 branch report information to arrive at the National Office are: Friday, 20 August Membership changes (for non-WMS branches)
Friday, 27 August Branch Reports

The expected delivery period to members is 27 September – 8 October 2010.

Reports can be sent by e-mail to Françoise Gauthier (gauthier@fsna.com). Please include the **branch code** (i.e. NB64) as well as the **branch name** (i.e. Moncton) in the message **subject** window.

If you have not received an acknowledgement reply within two working days, call her or send her another e-mail, as this could indicate there was a transmission problem.



Sylvia Ceacero, MBA, MA
Executive Director

Attachments:

[NBOD June 14, 2010 minutes](#) [NBOD June 18, 2010 minutes](#)
Summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in June

FSNA at 50

In 2013, FSNA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Plans for this momentous event must get underway. Branches are invited to send their suggestions for the festivities to take place during Congress 2013, which will be held in Ottawa, to me at sceacero@fsna.com.

Thank you everyone for your participation.

**Tracking FSNA's Advocacy across Canada
June 2010**

ED = Executive Director
LTC = Long Term Care
NBOD = National Board of Directors
ND = National Director

PAO = Provincial Advocacy Officer
PDSP = Pensioner's Dental Service Plan
PS = Public Service
PSHCP = Public Service Health Care Plan

RSO = Regional Services Officer
SDB = Supplementary Death Benefit
SR = Standing Resolution

Date	Issue	Means	Stakeholders	FSNA Advocate	Outcome
Jun 1	Alberta Seniors drug plan, home care	Meeting	Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister of Seniors and Community Supports	ND for AB & NT and the RSO, VP and Director, Edmonton Branch	
Jun 1	Alberta Seniors Drug Plan	Meeting	Assistant Deputy Minister, Seniors and Community Supports	ND for AB & NT and the RSO, VP and Director, Edmonton Branch	
Jun 8	Introduction of FSNA	Letter	Minister of State for Seniors	ND and PAO NB	Meeting confirmed for Jun 30, 2010.
Jun 16	Health Act public consultations	Consultation meeting	MLA for Lethbridge West and an Alderman	Member of the FSNA Alberta advocacy group	
Jun 28	Pension Benefit Standards Act (PBSA) i.e. to abolish contribution holidays, which are the main cause of recurrent pension plans' solvency problems.	Meeting	Senate Committee on Finance	Senior Research and Communications Officer and Common Front for Retirement Security (CFRS) spokesperson	

Date	Issue	Means	Stakeholders	FSNA Advocate	Outcome
Jun 28	Health Act public consultations	Consultation meeting	An MLA	Edmonton Branch member on behalf of the Branch President	
Jun 29	De-briefing of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15 th	Meeting	Seniors Secretariat	PAO for PE	
Jun 30	PSHCP	Meeting	National Joint Council members	ED, Research & Communications Officer (PSHCP & PDSP)	