

# QUINTE ST. LAWRENCE ELECTRICAL WORKERS TRUST FUNDS

September 2011

Issue 80

## DID YOU KNOW?

Quinte St. Lawrence Electrical Workers Trust Funds TOLL FREE PHONE: 1-800-631-3207

40 Binnington Ct.; Kingston, ON K7M 8S3 Phone: 613-547-4115 ext. #2; Fax: 613-547-1678

Email: [mcotman@kos.net](mailto:mcotman@kos.net); WEBSITE: [www.ibew115.on.ca](http://www.ibew115.on.ca) Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 to 4:00; Friday 9:00 to 1:00

### ESI DRUG CARD

Some members are still being charged a dispensing fee difference at various Wal-Mart pharmacies when using their drug card. You should not be charged. Wal-Mart's dispensing fee is \$9.97. The maximum we will reimburse is \$8.20; however Wal-Mart is part of the Preferred Provider Network (PPN) we belong to through Coughlin & Associates so they should not charge you the \$1.77 difference. If you are being charged, forward your receipts to us and we will deal with the issue. A complete listing of the PPN is available at [www.coughlin.ca](http://www.coughlin.ca).

DO NOT USE THE INSURANCE INFORMATION ON YOUR ESI DRUG CARD AT THE DENTIST'S OFFICE OR THE HOSPITAL. IT IS FOR PRESCRIPTIONS ONLY.

### WORK HISTORY STATEMENTS – PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2011

We previously sent all working members a listing of the hours received during the period of February 1, 2011 to July 31, 2011. This ideally represents hours worked from January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011, however, depending on where you were working, the pay period structure and the Contractor, the months allocated may vary. For example, if you worked out of town in June, those hours would not be received until at least August, therefore they would not have been on the statement you received. They will be reflected on the next statement which will be sent out in February, 2012. If you noticed a discrepancy in your hours that has not been reported, please call us immediately. It is up to the member to track his/her hours and ensure they match the hours recorded by us. This office records hours based on the remittance forms received from the Contractors therefore we have no method of verifying exactly what you worked. If you are calling to report a discrepancy, first make sure you know the total hours worked for each Contractor during the period reported. You may be asked to provide pay stubs or a copy of your ROE.

### SHORT TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS

As you are all aware, we previously lowered the Long Term Disability age of eligibility from 65 to 62. This means if you become disabled after age 62 you are not entitled to LTD benefits with Great West Life.

In order to stay consistent, the Trustees have approved a motion which will take effect January 1, 2012 to lower the age for Short Term Disability to age 62 as well. This means any member, age 62 or older, who becomes disabled after January 1, 2012, will not be eligible for Short Term Disability Benefits.

If you have recently become disabled and have to file a claim for STD benefits, you should contact Michelle immediately at 613-547-4115 Ext. 2 to request an application.

Members over age 62 and currently on Short Term Disability will continue to receive uninterrupted benefits.

Just a reminder that the Local Union's Normal Retirement Age is age 60. All members are eligible to receive full pension benefits beginning at age 60.

### PENSION CALCULATIONS AT MARRIAGE BREAKDOWN

Effective January 1, 2012, we will be required to perform the necessary calculations to determine spousal entitlement to pension at marriage breakdown. Currently, we do not do the calculation and members are required to hire an actuary if the calculation is necessary.

Presently, the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO) has not provided the complete guidelines for doing the calculations but we expect them shortly.

Effective January 1, 2012, any member requiring this calculation at marriage breakdown, will be charged \$500.00 per calculation. Pension entitlement must be determined at the time of marriage breakdown however it not always necessary to require the calculation, especially if entitlement is being waived. You must however indicate entitlement or lack of entitlement in your final separation or divorce agreement. Your family lawyer can advise you further.

Calculations will only be done upon receipt of written notice by the member with the applicable dates and the \$500 fee. In the event you require a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote done, you will be charged again.