



# BOILERMAKERS' NATIONAL BENEFIT FUNDS (CANADA)

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Boilermakers' National Pension Fund (Canada) Plan Registration Number 0366708 and Boilermakers' National Health and Welfare Fund (Canada)

September 1, 2016

## To: Members of IBB Lodges 73, 128, 203, 146 and 555 Regarding New Benefits Under The Boilermakers' National Health and Welfare Plan (Canada)

Dear Plan Members,

As you know, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers ("IBB") has been working hard to implement workplace rules to keep our members safe and to end expensive delays in getting to work. Job Ready Dispatch, which includes demonstrating that members have attained the necessary training, upgrades and completed non-invasive medical testing, will be a reality in the future.

### Starting in September 2016 the Boilermakers' National Health and Welfare Plan (Canada) will support two components of Job Ready Dispatch:

#### 1. Audiometric Testing

- ✓ The Boilermakers' audiometric testing protocol has been approved by the province of Alberta.

#### 2. Annual Medical Exams

#### **Audiometric Testing**

As a proactive measure to preserve the hearing health of Members the IBB and the Board of Trustees of the Boilermakers' National Health and Welfare Plan (Canada) agreed to take responsibility for the audiometric testing program. The program has two important components:

1. Annual hearing testing or re-testing
2. Wearing custom-fitted earplugs

*Baycrest Hospital's  
Winter 2016  
BrainMatters said  
hearing loss is the  
3<sup>rd</sup> most common  
chronic health  
condition in older  
adults and it affects  
90% of adults over  
age 80. Delaying  
treatment for  
hearing loss can  
have negative  
impacts including  
social isolation,  
depression,  
loneliness and  
dementia.*

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Through Connect Hearing, which has locations coast to coast, we have arranged for appropriate testing and custom-fitted earplugs. Connect Hearing's locations are listed on the Plan's web site [www.boilermakersbenefits.ca](http://www.boilermakersbenefits.ca) or by googling Connect Hearing.

Connect Hearing has been engaged to conduct the necessary hearing tests and to report the test results to you and to the Plan. Connect Hearing will also measure you for custom-fitted earplugs. The earplugs are replaceable every 5 years. The cost for the annual audiometric hearing test is \$50.00. Custom fitted earplugs cost \$100.00. If Connect Hearing verifies that you are covered by the Plan they will bill the Plan directly for these services so you are not out of pocket.

Enclosed is a claim form you can use for reimbursement of these expenses. As noted our goal is to have Connect Hearing handle all billing directly with the Plan – the claim form attached is just back up for the early days of the program. It is recommended that you make an advance appointment with Connect Hearing so that your coverage can be verified.

Please note that the Plan will be required to advise an employer that inquires about the date of your last audiogram and its summary results. This is shown in the consent section of the "Audiometric Testing Program – Audiogram" form, enclosed. This is part of keeping the program compliant with national best practices and Alberta's standards. Summary information will be loaded to the new IBB Job Ready Dispatch App. See more info below.

If your audiogram has abnormal results this will be confidentially communicated to the IBB's health and safety director, Jason McInnis, who will arrange for follow-up attention.

### **Annual Medical Exam**

The IBB is reaching best practices by implementing coverage for annual medical exams for covered members. The Plan will reimburse your Physician up to \$50.00 for providing the "Physician's Confirmation of Annual Medical Exam" form, enclosed. Please note that the Plan will not request any follow up information on your medical exam – it's sufficient for the Plan to know that you had an annual medical.

When Job Ready Dispatch is fully up and running employers can contact the Plan and confirm that you've had your annual medical. The claim form for the annual medical exam is attached. It's also on the Plan web site at:

<https://www.boilermakersbenefits.ca/job-ready-dispatch>

Having an annual medical exam not only moves the IBB toward national best practices and innovative Job Ready Dispatch, it will also help to keep members informed about their health – maybe even lifesaving by early detection of illness.

### **Job Ready Dispatch APP**

The results of your audiogram, in summary form only, and that you did have an annual medical exam will be communicated by the Plan to the IBB to support its Job Ready Dispatch APP. You will be able to check your status on this APP. If you allow it, an employer will be able to see the summary results of the audiogram and the check-off that you had a medical exam.

### **More Information**

Please contact the Plan administration office for more information about filing claims for benefits and Plan coverage. If you have questions about Job Ready Dispatch please contact Jason McInnis at [cjmcinnis@boilermaker.ca](mailto:cjmcinnis@boilermaker.ca).

Enclosures (3)