

## **OPSSU Benefits Committee Report – December 2014**

The OPSSU Benefits Committee has had a busy Fall! We have assisted over 15 members with benefit inquiries, STD applications and benefit appeals. We have worked with the bargaining team to procure strike benefits should we find ourselves out on the line. And we have continued to put pressure on the Employer to disclose the benefits information we require (and they committed to give us) to ensure the Joint Benefits Administration Committee (JBAC) functions effectively.

### **SHEPELL FGI – OUR EFAP**

Remember, if you are permanent OPSEU employee, you have *free* access to our Employee and Family Assistance Program through Shepell FGI. They offer a wide range of confidential services, including personal well-being support, relationship and family assistance, child- and elder-care resources, legal advice, financial guidance, career planning, workplace conflict assistance, addiction and mental health help. They also have launched a new proactive targeted program, called ProActive Employee Support! Call [1-800-387-4765](tel:1-800-387-4765) for more information. And check out the EFAP folder in the OPSEU Binder on the Outlook Public folder.

### **PRE-APPROVAL OVER \$300**

It is strongly recommended that you submit a pre-determination/pre-approval to the insurance company for any expense that will be more than \$300. This is especially important for any new goods or service being prescribed. This will allow you to know up front the amount to expect to be reimbursed, so there aren't any surprises once you're already out of pocket.

### **DENIED BENEFITS COVERAGE? HAVE A BENEFITS' QUESTION?**

If you receive a denial from SSQ/Claim Secure for a claim that you believe should be covered, we recommend you contact the insurance company for verification of the denial. If you are unable to have the denial overturned, please contact one of the members of the Benefits Committee for information and/or assistance.

Bernard King – Benefits Committee Chair & Accommodation Committee Member [bernardjking@gmail.com](mailto:bernardjking@gmail.com)

Marisa Forsyth – Wellness Committee Member [emmanicardi@gmail.com](mailto:emmanicardi@gmail.com)

Cheri Hearty [cheriheartly@gmail.com](mailto:cheriheartly@gmail.com)

*The OPSSU Benefits Committee supports members experiencing difficulty with their benefits (extended health, paramedical, dental, STD, LTD, etc) and works with ASU and OPSEU management on benefits issues through the Joint Benefits Administration Committee (JBAC).*