

Know Your Collective Agreement

Benefit improvements take effect

One of the more mysterious challenges regarding any Collective Agreement is trying to figure out what benefits members are entitled to. Perhaps the easiest thing is tracking wage increases. And on that front, we have good news. Even the cold winds of an economic storm didn't stop the 2.16% wage increase for all wages in Schedule C from going ahead on April 1, 2009. The good folks in payroll made sure it happened!

In the round of bargaining that concluded in December 2008, we achieved a few modest benefit improvements.

- Chiropractic and Naturopathic services are increased to \$500.00 per service per calendar year, and a similar change was achieved for Physiotherapy and Massage therapy;

- The limit for corrective lenses, frames or contact lenses was increased to \$400.00 per person every two calendar years;
- January 1, 2009 vehicle mileage increased to \$0.51 per kilometre; and
- Employees required to travel may now claim \$60.00 for child care costs over and above their normal costs.

The new Collective Agreement is being reviewed by the Union and the employer, and we expect it to be printed and circulated to the membership by early summer. Make sure you get your copy!

Do you have a question about your Collective Agreement? If so, send it along to us and we'll print a response in an upcoming issue of the *Impact*. Send your question to the editor at editor@ceu.bc.ca