

REPORT TO THE 105th LTD FULL BOARD

Re: Rehabilitation Report # 46

Date: June 17, 2010

From: Anthony Gould
Director, LTD Benefits & Rehabilitation

This report covers the period from January 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010.

At the beginning of the year, 1261 members were in receipt of LTD benefits. This included 471 (37%) members who received collateral benefits only. At the end of April 2010, the total declined by 2.4% to 1231 members on LTD. Of these, 753 (61%) received both a cheque and collateral benefits, while 478 (39%) received collateral benefits only.

Of the members receiving LTD benefits at the end of April 2010, 833 (68%) were in Category "01" (permanent total disability); 320 (26%) were in Category "03" (temporary disability), and 78 (6%) were in Categories "02" or "02A" (rehabilitation).

The chart below shows the number of members in each category by average age and age range.

CATEGORY 01			CATEGORY 02		
Age	Count	%	Age	Count	%
21 - 30	3	.4%	21 - 30	4	8.2%
31 - 40	19	2.3%	31 - 40	11	22.4%
41 - 50	161	19.3%	41 - 50	23	46.9%
51 - 54	178	21.4%	51 - 54	9	18.4%
55-59	472	56.6%	55-59	2	4.1%
AVG: 54	Total 833	100%	AVG: 44	Total 49	100%

CATEGORY 02A			CATEGORY 03		
Age	Count	%	Age	Count	%
21 - 30	1	3.5%	21 - 30	9	2.8%
31 - 40	7	24.1%	31 - 40	38	11.9%
41 - 50	12	41.4%	41 - 50	120	37.5%
51 - 54	4	13.8%	51 - 54	78	24.4%
55-59	5	17.2%	55-59	75	23.4%
AVG: 46	Total 29	100%	AVG: 49	Total 320	100%

New LTD Claims Approved

From January 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010, the Plan approved 56 new LTD claims. This compares to 61 new LTD claims approved over the same period in 2009.

Caseloads

Over the first four months of the year, there were a total of 94 new referrals to Rehabilitation Services (STD and LTD). This is down 59 cases, or 39% from the same period last year.

At the end of April 2010, there were 410 cases assigned to the Rehabilitation Counsellors, for a caseload average of 52. This is down 19% from an average of 64 cases per counsellor at the end of April 2009.

Return to Work Outcomes

From January 1 to April 30, 2010, the Rehabilitation Counsellors successfully assisted a total of 75 members return to work. Of these, 68 (91%) returned to work in their own occupation with the same employer, either directly (98%) or with job modifications (2%). Of the remaining 7 members, 1 returned to work in a different occupation with the same employer; 2 found work with alternate employers in the forest industry; and 4 secured new employment outside the forest industry.

Of the 75 members who returned to work, 53 were Early Intervention, STD cases (71%), and 22 were LTD cases (29%). Of the 53 STD claimants, 50 returned to work in their own occupations, and 3 secured work in new occupations. Of the 22 LTD claimants, 18 returned to work in their own occupation and 4 found work in alternate occupations, both within the forest industry (2) and outside the industry (2).

The counsellors closed an additional 7 cases for return to work reasons. The latter category captures those cases where rehabilitation services are complete and a return to work is expected and pending at time of case closure.

Overall, of 88 members who were on STD or LTD and fit to return to work, 75 successfully returned to work at time of case closure (85%), and a combined total of 82 were either at work or expecting a return to work at time of case closure (93%).

Of the 6 members who were fit to return to work, but did not, reasons were as follows: WCB claim activated (2); relocated or unable to locate (1); and inactive/non-compliant (3).

There were an additional 5 rehabilitation case closures for members who retired in the first four months of the year. This compares to a total of 20 retirements over the same period in 2009.

Rehabilitation Expenses

Rehabilitation expenditures over the period January 1 through April 30, 2010, totalled \$120,024 and were \$13,276 under budget. The largest segment of rehabilitation expenditures was applied to the funding of physical conditioning and assessment services to prepare members for return to work (\$50,447), the associated costs of travel and accommodation to help members access services (\$15,324), and the sponsorship of education and training programs to help members secure work in alternate occupations (\$ 40,027).

Canada Pension Plan Appeals and Reconsiderations

Over the period January 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010, two of our Rehabilitation Counsellors, Gordon Philip and Steve Matovic, successfully appealed seven (7) Canada Pension Disability claims for an estimated total offset of \$502,000.

Of the seven (7) appeals, six (6) were won at the reconsideration stage and one (1) at the final level of the Pension Appeals Board. We are currently awaiting decisions on four (4) additional appeals that have been submitted for reconsideration and one (1) that had been submitted to the Review Tribunal.