

your **group**
benefits

The Corporation of Haldimand County

Haldimand County Volunteer Firefighters

**Contract Number 22487
Effective April 1, 2023**

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General Information

- About this booklet** The information in this employee benefits booklet is important to you. It provides the information you need about the group benefits available through your employer's group contract with Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada (*Sun Life*), a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.
- Your group benefits may be modified after the effective date of this booklet. You will receive written notification of changes to your group plan. The notification will supplement your group benefits booklet and should be kept in a safe place together with this booklet.
- If you have any questions about the information in this employee benefits booklet, or you need additional information about your group benefits, please contact your employer.
- Eligibility** To be eligible for group benefits, you must be an active volunteer firefighter and a resident of Canada.
- We consider you to be actively working if you are performing all the usual and customary duties of your job with your employer. We do not consider you to be actively at work if you are receiving disability benefits or are participating in a partial disability or rehabilitation program.
- Enrolment** You have to enrol to receive coverage. To enrol, you must request coverage in writing by supplying the appropriate enrolment information to your employer.
- When coverage begins** Your coverage begins on the date you become eligible for coverage.
- If there are additional conditions for a particular benefit, these conditions will appear in the appropriate benefit section later in this booklet.

Changes affecting your coverage

From time to time, there may be circumstances that change your coverage.

The following exceptions apply if the result of the change is an increase in coverage:

- if proof of good health is required, the change cannot take effect before Sun Life approves the proof of good health.
- if you are not actively working when the change occurs or when Sun Life approves proof of good health, the change cannot take effect before you return to active work.

Updating your records

To ensure that coverage is kept up-to-date, it is important that you report any of the following changes to your employer:

- change of name.
- change of beneficiary.

Accessing your records

For insured benefits, you may obtain copies of the following documents:

- your enrolment form or application for insurance.
- any written statements or other record, not otherwise part of the application, that you provided to Sun Life as evidence of insurability.

For insured benefits, on reasonable notice, you may also request a copy of the contract.

The first copy will be provided at no cost to you but a fee may be charged for subsequent copies.

All requests for copies of documents should be directed to one of the following sources:

- our website at www.mysunlife.ca.
- our Customer Care centre by calling toll-free at 1-800-361-6212.

When coverage ends As a volunteer, your coverage will end on the earlier of the following dates:

- the date you reach age 65.
- the date you are no longer a volunteer firefighter.
- the end of the period for which premiums have been paid to Sun Life for your coverage.
- the date the group contract ends.
- the date specified under the provision *When coverage ends* of the benefits covered under this plan.

The termination of coverage may vary from benefit to benefit. For information about the termination of a specific benefit, please refer to the appropriate section of this employee benefits booklet.

Replacement coverage

The group contract will be interpreted and administered according to all applicable legislation and the guidelines of the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association concerning the continuation of insurance following contract termination and the replacement of group insurance.

Sun Life will not be responsible for paying benefits if an insurer under a previous group contract is responsible for paying similar benefits.

If such legislation or guidelines require that Sun Life resume paying certain benefits because of a recurrence of an employee's total disability, Sun Life will resume payment at the same amount and for the remainder of the maximum benefit period.

Making claims

Sun Life is dedicated to processing your claims promptly and efficiently. You should contact your employer to get the proper form to make a claim.

There are time limits for making claims. These limits are discussed in the appropriate sections of this employee benefits booklet. If you fail to abide by these time limits, you may not be entitled to some or all benefit payments.

All claims must be made in writing on forms approved by Sun Life.

For the assessment of a claim, Sun Life may require medical records or reports, proof of payment, itemized bills, or other information Sun Life considers necessary. Proof of claim is at your expense.

Legal actions

Limitation period for Ontario:

Every action or proceeding against an insurer for the recovery of insurance money payable under the contract is absolutely barred unless commenced within the time set out in the *Limitations Act, 2002*.

Limitation period for any other province:

Every action or proceeding against an insurer for the recovery of insurance money payable under the contract is absolutely barred unless commenced within the time set out in the *Insurance Act* or other applicable legislation of your province or territory.

Proof of disability

From time to time, Sun Life can require that you provide us with proof of your total disability. If you do not provide this information within 90 days of the request, you will not be entitled to benefits.

Medical examination

We can require you to have a medical examination if you make a claim for benefits. We will pay for the cost of the examination. If you fail or refuse to have this examination, we will not pay any benefit.

Recovering overpayments

We have the right to recover all overpayments of benefits either by deducting from other benefits or by any other available legal means.

Definitions

Here is a list of definitions of some terms that appear in this employee benefits booklet. Other definitions appear in the benefit sections.

Illness

An illness is a bodily injury, disease, mental infirmity or sickness. Any surgery needed to donate a body part to another person which causes total disability is an illness.

We, our and us

We, our and us mean Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.

Life Coverage

General description of the coverage Your Life coverage provides a benefit for your beneficiary if you die while covered.

Life coverage for you

Amount Your Life benefit is \$35,000.

Coverage ends Your coverage will end when you are no longer a volunteer firefighter or when you reach age 65, whichever is earlier. Coverage may also end on an earlier date, as specified in *General Information*.

Who we will pay

If you die while covered, Sun Life will pay the full amount of your benefit to your last named beneficiary on file with Sun Life.

If you have not named a beneficiary, the benefit amount will be paid to your estate. Anyone can be your beneficiary. You can change your beneficiary at any time, unless a law prevents you from doing so or you indicate that the beneficiary is not to be changed.

A minor cannot personally receive a death benefit under the plan until reaching the age of majority. If you reside outside Québec and are designating a minor as your beneficiary, you may wish to designate someone to receive the death benefits during the time your beneficiary is a minor. If you reside outside Québec and have not designated a trustee, current legislation may require Sun Life to pay the death benefit to the court or to a guardian or public trustee. If you reside in Québec, the death benefit will be paid to the parent(s)/legal guardian of the minor on the minor's behalf. Alternatively, you may wish to designate the estate as beneficiary and provide a trustee with directions in your will. You are encouraged to consult a legal advisor.

Coverage during total disability

If you become totally disabled before you retire or reach age 65, whichever is earlier, Life coverage may continue without the payment of premiums as long as you are totally disabled. This continued coverage is subject to the terms of the contract which were in effect on the date you became totally disabled, including reductions and terminations.

Sun Life must receive proof of your total disability within 12 months of the date the disability begins. After that, we can require ongoing proof that you are still totally disabled.

If proof of total disability is approved after an individual insurance policy becomes effective as a result of converting the group Life coverage, the group Life coverage will be reduced by the amount of the individual insurance policy, unless the individual insurance policy is exchanged for a refund of premiums.

Total disability must continue for at least an uninterrupted period of 6 months.

This coverage will continue without payment of premiums, from the date total disability begins, until the date you cease to be totally disabled or the date you fail to give Sun Life proof of your continued total disability, whichever is earlier.

For the purposes of your Life coverage, you will be considered totally disabled if you are prevented by illness from performing any occupation you are or may become reasonably qualified for by education, training or experience.

Converting Life coverage

If your Life coverage ends or reduces for any reason other than your request, you may apply to convert the group Life coverage to an individual Life policy with Sun Life without providing proof of good health.

The request must be made within 31 days of the reduction or end of the Life coverage.

There are a number of rules and conditions in the group contract that apply to converting this coverage, including the maximum amount that

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can be converted. Please contact your employer for details.

Claims for Life benefits must be made as soon as reasonably possible.
Claim forms are available from your employer.

Respecting your privacy

Respecting your privacy is a priority for the Sun Life Financial group of companies. We keep in confidence personal information about you and the products and services you have with us to provide you with investment, retirement and insurance products and services to help you meet your lifetime financial objectives. To meet these objectives, we collect, use and disclose your personal information for purposes that include: underwriting; administration; claims adjudication; protecting against fraud, errors or misrepresentations; meeting legal, regulatory or contractual requirements; and we may tell you about other related products and services that we believe meet your changing needs. The only people who have access to your personal information are our employees, distribution partners such as advisors, and third-party service providers, along with our reinsurers. We will also provide access to anyone else you authorize. Sometimes, unless we are otherwise prohibited, these people may be in countries outside Canada, so your personal information may be subject to the laws of those countries. You can ask for the information in our files about you and, if necessary, ask us in writing to correct it. To find out more about our privacy practices, visit www.sunlife.ca/privacy.

You have a choice

We will occasionally inform you of other financial products and services that we believe meet your changing needs. If you do not wish to receive these offers, let us know by calling 1-877-SUN-LIFE (1-877-786-5433).

