

# ATLANTIC CANADA HEALTH CARE COALITION SOCIETY

## By: Fern Tardif – Executive Director

Atlantic Canada Health Care Coalition Society (ACHCCS) WAS OFFICIALLY INCORPORATED IN July 2008 and has grown from four union locals with 2000 members to 65 groups comprised of over 800 locals representing over 200,000 members. Together with spouses and dependents, there are more than 500,000 people from across Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland who are entitled to participate in the various Coalition programs negotiated with Benefit Providers.

Current Coalition member groups include NSGEU, PEIUPSE, all CUPE'S, PSAC, STEEL WORKERS, and CUPW locals in Atlantic Canada; various UNIFOR Locals, IBEW Locals representing employees with NS Power, NB Power, and Newfoundland Power; most of the building trades construction locals in Atlantic Canada; IATSE Locals; SEIU Locals; Transit workers; Federal Dockyard Locals and the NSGREA.

The one time cost for each group to join the Coalition, no matter the membership size, is an initiation fee of \$200.00. There are no costs to the members to use any of the Coalition programs and the members have the option of whether they wish to use the program or not. Each group has a representative on the Coalitions Board of Directors.

## PURCHASING POWER

With a growing number of people willing to use what the provider has to offer, costs can be negotiated and reduced. The more members we have, the better purchasing power we have with our providers and the Coalition continues its efforts to expand its

numbers and add more providers. The Coalition is also a member of the National Labor Alliance of Health Care Coalitions which has over 10 million members throughout the U.S. and Canada. This allows the ACHCCS to access discount benefit programs through the purchasing power of the NLA such as the hearing aid and U.S. prescription drug discount programs that it now offers.

## COALITION BENEFIT PROVIDERS

The following are the current Benefit Providers that provide discounts to members and their families in the Coalition

### MHCSI

With the MHCSI drug program, you and your eligible dependents and/or your plan (depending on your specific program type) are entitled to coverage starting at up to \$3.00 per prescription processed through the participating network of MHCSI pharmacies – Lawtons Drugs, Sobeys Pharmacy, Sobeys Pharmacy by mail, FreshCo Pharmacy, Foodland Pharmacy, Safeway Pharmacy and Thrifty Foods Pharmacy. You (and spouse, if family coverage) also enjoy great discounts on front store purchases at Lawtons Drugs with the Lawtons Client Group Partner Discount Card. Plus, you can earn valuable AIR MILES® reward miles (where allowed by law, some restrictions apply) on your purchases.

### The CO-OPERATORS

The Co-operators provides insurance plans to more than 400 Canadian companies which include employer sponsored groups, professional associations, and affinity groups. Discounts are available to members of the ACHCCS through a Group Home & Auto Insurance Program with the Coalition.

### CATAMARAN

Catamaran, the industry's fastest-growing pharmacy benefit manager, helps organizations and the communities they serve take control of prescription drug costs. Managing more than 250 million prescriptions each year on behalf of 25 million members, our flexible, holistic solutions improve patient care and empower individuals to take charge of their health. Through the Atlantic Canada Health Care Coalition's partnership with Catamaran, we now offer a US Prescription Drug Discount Card that can be used by all Coalition members and their families when traveling in the United States. Accepted at over 60,000 pharmacies across the United States, the prescription discount card

can help members save 10% to 85% on both brand and generic medications. The card is FREE, has no limitations on use, and members can even share it with their family and friends. Members enjoy lower out of pocket expense and your Fund will have a lower reimbursement cost!

## CONNECT HEARING

Connect Hearing is Canada's strongest network of Hearing Care professionals. For more than 35 years we've helped people stay connected to better hearing and the sounds of life. Save up to 25% below MSRP, and 10% off of retail pricing on name brand manufacturer hearing aid and related professional services. And with our SoundCare Assurance aftercare program, annual check-ups, professional hearing aid cleaning and 3,4, or 5 years of batteries (level) are free. Simply identify yourself as an ACHCCS Member to schedule and appointment or receive service at any of our 120 convenient locations across Canada.

## UNIGROUP INC.

Unigroup is a national insurance broker specializing in providing value added services and benefits for buying groups such as Coalitions, Trade Associations and other affinity groups. We design products that are unique for our partners encompassing discounts and offerings that are designed to offer creative products that can't be obtained in the traditional insurance markets. Coalition members and their spouses have access to purchase life insurance in the \$50,000 Group Optional Life Insurance Plan with no medical questions asked when applying for this insurance. The Insurer is Western Life Assurance which is owned by Desjardins Financial.

If there are Unions that wish to join the Coalition in order that they can offer the discount programs to their members or there are Benefit Providers that wish to provide an added value Benefit to Coalition groups, they can contact Fern Tardif, the Executive Director with the Coalition at [ferntardif@eastlink.ca](mailto:ferntardif@eastlink.ca)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COALITION VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ACHCCS.CA](http://WWW.ACHCCS.CA) WHICH ALSO PROVIDES A FULL LIST OF ALL THE UNION GROUPS THAT ARE PART OF THE COALITION.**