



Gouvernement
du Canada

Government
of Canada

140, rue O'Connor
Édifice L'esplanade Laurier
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0R5
Téléphone : 613-948-9742

140 O'Connor Street
L'Esplanade Laurier Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0R5
Telephone : 613-948-9742

MAR 07 2018

Mr. Jamey Mills
Regional Executive Vice-President
Public Service Alliance of Canada, BC Region
302-5238 Joyce Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V5R 6C9

Dear Mr. Mills:

This is further to your letter of November 20, 2017, regarding the changes in Medical Services Plan premium rates for British Columbians. I regret the delay in this response.

On November 17, 2017, based on information provided by Health Insurance BC, Public Services and Procurement Canada advised departments and agencies that the Medical Services Plan premium rates (effective January 1, 2017) would be changed on the December 13, 2017 pay, for employees who reside in the province of British Columbia. We can confirm that these new rates were implemented, as planned, on December 13, 2017.

Departments and agencies were also advised that any retroactive refund or deficiencies of contributions since January 1, 2017 would be processed on the December 27, 2017 pay, of impacted employees. However, Public Services and Procurement Canada has recently confirmed that some of the refunds or deductions that were taken on this pay may not have been processed accurately. The Department is in the process of reviewing all impacted cases and will adjust the refunds and deductions, as required. Every effort will be made to process the adjustments prior to the issuance of the 2017 T4s. If an adjustment was not processed prior to the beginning of February 2018, then amended T4s will be generated, as required.

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With regard to collective agreement implementations, as you pointed out, certain recently signed collective agreements have not been fully implemented by the deadline specified in the agreement. As a result, some employees may not have received the full amounts owed to them related to their signing bonuses, pay increases, and retroactive payments by the mandated deadline. Every effort is being made to process these outstanding payments as quickly as possible.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Marc Lemieux
Assistant Deputy Minister
Pay Administration Branch
Public Services and Procurement Canada

c.c.: Ms. Robyn Benson
National President
Public Service Alliance of Canada