#### NOTICE FOR ALBERTA TWU MEMBERS

### **Re:** TW Benefit Plan – Open Enrolment extended for TWU Alberta Members

The open enrolment period for Alberta Members to enroll in the TW Benefit Plan has been extended to March 31, 2007.

We ask that Alberta TWU Members take this extended time to familiarize themselves with the benefits offered by the TW Benefit Plan. After March 31, 2007 members who did not take advantage of enrolling in the TW Benefit Plan during the open enrolment period will be required to submit medical evidence of insurability if they choose to enroll after March 31, 2007.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions or if you are interested in enrolling in the TW Benefit Plan and you no longer have enrolment cards. Please contact us at (604) 430-3300, we accept collect calls or email us at general@twplans.com.

#### Background

The Telecommunication Workers Benefit Trust Fund ("the Plan") was established by the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU) in 1983 and provides TWU members protection against loss of income due to Short Term Disability and death. The protection comes in the form of group life insurance, a survivor income benefit, and Short Term Disability coverage and it is provided to the members at the lowest cost possible. The basic concept which underlies the Plans are 1) to provide the spouse or designated beneficiary of a member who dies a significant tax free monthly income for a period of at least 10 years (and for the beneficiary's lifetime thereafter if the beneficiary is the member's spouse) 2) replacement of approximately 100% of a member's net income for a period of 2 years for members disabled and unable to perform their own occupation. Many members and their families have discovered that the benefit the Plan provides have been invaluable in providing excellent financial protection against these unexpected events.

The Trustees of the Plan and the TWU strongly believe that these are valuable benefits and encourage your participation in the Plan.

Participation in the Plan is optional and the cost of the Plan is paid for from member contributions.

PARTs B&C of the Plan cover TELUS employees located in Alberta and British Columbia. PART B coverage includes Group Life Insurance and Survivor Income Benefits while PART C of the Plan provides short term disability benefits.

The Trustees review the Plan provisions on a regular basis to identify areas for improvement and/or to provide added benefits to Members. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

## **Benefit Summary**

**Annual Earnings** are used to determine your benefit amounts. Annual earnings are calculated as your daily rate multiplied by 260.89 (average number of paid days in one year).

**Group Life Insurance** provides a Lump Sum Payment of 1 x Annual Earnings, rounded to the nearest \$1000, plus \$2000 to your Group Life Beneficiary in the event of your death.

**Survivor Income Benefits (SIB)** provides a <u>monthly payment</u> to your SIB beneficiary in the event of your death. The amount of the monthly benefit is 25% of Annual Earnings divided by 12.

If your SIB Beneficiary is your Spouse - the monthly benefit is payable for the greater of your spouse's lifetime or 10 years. If your SIB Beneficiary is other than your Spouse - the monthly benefit is payable for 10 years.

**Short Term Disability (PART C)** benefits provided by the Benefit Plan are a supplement to any benefits that you receive under the Company paid Sick Leave and Long Term Disability Plans. These supplemental benefits have been designed so that the combination of Benefit Plan disability benefits and Company paid disability benefits should provide you with a total income approximately equal to your pre-disability gross earnings net of income taxes and other deductions such as Union dues, CPP contributions, EI premiums and TW Pension Plan contributions.

PART C disability benefits are payable during the first 24 months of a period of disability. During the first six months of your disability, except as provided for below, you must be in receipt of Company paid sick leave disability benefits in order to qualify for PART C disability benefits. During this six month period, if you exhaust your Company Sick Leave plan allocation, but can provide proof of continued disability, the Benefit Plan will continue to provide you with disability benefits for the balance of the six month period.

If you are still disabled at the end of six months, you should be eligible for long term disability benefits under the terms of the Company paid LTD plan. During this time, you will be eligible for PART C disability benefits as well. The following table summarizes when you will be eligible for PART C disability benefits.

<b>Disability Period</b>	PART C Disability Benefits	
First 6 months	Eligible if in receipt of Company paid Sick Leave benefits, or if you	
	have exhausted your Company paid Sick Leave benefits and can	
	show proof of the inability to perform the tasks of your own	
	occupation.	
Months 6 to 18	Eligible if in receipt of Company paid LTD benefits.	
Months 18 to 24	Eligible if in receipt of Company paid LTD benefits, or if you are	
	not in receipt of LTD benefits but can show proof of the inability to	
	perform the tasks of your own occupation.	

The level of benefit payable from the Plan will depend upon the level of benefit that you are receiving from the Company and other sources:

Payment Class - Income Received by the Member for the Month from:		% of Annual Earnings Payable:
(a)	the Company sick leave plan:	
	(i) 100% benefit level	0% of Annual Earnings
	(ii) 70% benefit level	15% of Annual Earnings
(b)	regular periodic benefit paid under the Workers' Compensation Act on account of the Member's Disability	0%
(c)	Company paid LTD plan	7.5%
(d)	None of the above	80% on the first \$20,000 of Annual Earnings
		66 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> % on the next \$20,000 of Annual Earnings
		55% on the remainder

# **Cost of Coverage**

Currently, Regular Employees pay 1.5% of actual gross earnings for Group Life, SIB & STD coverage.

Temporary Employees pay 1% of actual gross earnings for Group Life and SIB coverage. Temporary employees cannot participate in the short term disability plan.