

Real People, Real Claims

“We insure ourselves for everything else, why wouldn’t you protect your earning power?”



This is Kim Sundby’s story, the wife of a Great-West Life disability insurance policyowner who experienced the benefit of her husband’s disability coverage.

Average. Typical. Invincible. These are words I would use to describe the majority of young Canadian families. Mine was no different or so I thought. Our family of four – a boy and a girl, a husband and a wife – looked like a typical Canadian family. We had our own successful business and I worked part-time at a local grocery store.

All four of us enjoyed great health. Suffering from the occasional cold, cough or flu was as bad as it ever got. We ate healthily and were all physically active in a variety of activities.

When he was 36, my husband Glayne was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML). Everything stopped. At first we thought the blood tests had somehow got mixed up, but no such luck.

As reality sunk in, the pieces started to fit together. My husband had been unusually tired over the past month and a half, even too tired to play hockey. He had lost weight and his skin had an unhealthy yellow tinge. These are all signs of CML.

Fortunately, the leukemia was a “good” kind to get, if it possibly could be good. Fortunately again he was a perfect candidate for a bone marrow transplant and his sister was a match to be the donor.

And finally, we had disability insurance with Great-West Life. Glayne’s cousin had told us about it but I don’t know why we bought it two years earlier because we had never bought any type of disability insurance before. Why would we? We were young, healthy and invincible.

The last thing a person needs at a time like that is to worry about money. Glayne didn’t work for a year and I took some time off to be with him. There was no income coming in but the kids still had to be fed and bills had to be paid. Life goes on.

Great-West Life started sending us cheques immediately after the diagnosis. They arrived once a month and always on time. About every three or four months an insurance adjuster would contact us and ask for an evaluation report from the doctor and it was no big deal. They were always very nice, polite, professional and considerate.

My husband has come through the procedure with flying colours. He feels excellent and his prognosis for a long and healthy life is excellent.

We are grateful we had disability insurance. It gave us one less thing to worry about. We insure ourselves for everything else, why wouldn’t you protect your earning power?

Kim Sundby
Wife of Great-West Life disability insurance policyowner

The information and views expressed are solely those of the individual represented but may have been edited for brevity.

For more information about how disability insurance may fit your needs ask your representative for an illustration.

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