## Wellness and Benefits: The New Reality

BENEFITS AND PENSION SUMMIT Charmaine Alexander Senior Advisor June 1, 2022



We are living through a moment of change unlike anything we've seen before in the history of work

Linker

- Ryan Roslansky, CEO of LinkedIn

## **Mental health**

- 35% of Canadians are exhausted
- **1 in 3** workers report mental health problems

## **Physical health**

- 700,000 surgeries/procedures delayed
- Unhealthy lifestyles
- Lack of exercise

## **Financial health**

- 1 in 2 Canadians are worried
- The no. 1 source of stress for **38%** of Canadians





## 1. Disability

- Cases up 9%
- + 17% for mental health reasons

### 2. The Great Resignation

- 20% of Canadian workers seeking new work
- 2 out of 3 considering quitting

## **3. Labour shortages**

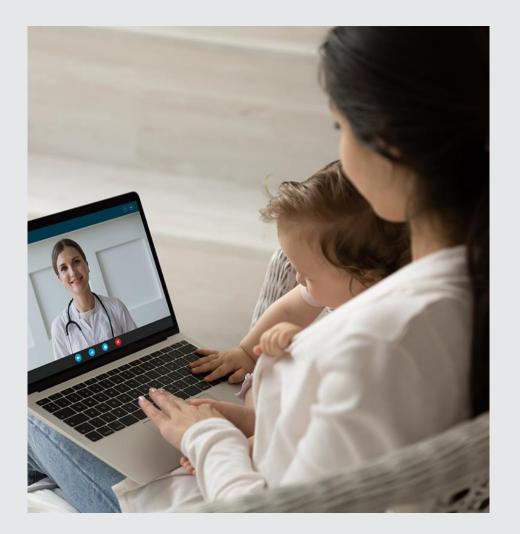
• **55%** of entrepreneurs having difficulty recruiting

## The Great Resignation The Great Transformation

## Group insurance is as popular as ever

- More valuable than public health care for 1/3 of members
- One of the main reasons to keep a job for 71%





## The new basis of group insurance

- Virtual health care
- Health spending account/wellness account
- Increased maximum coverage for mental health services: \$2,000 to \$3,000

### **Discuss benefits**

#### When choosing a plan

- An 83% gap between what employees want and what they have
- **33 to 59%** unhappy with health and wellness support provided

#### Once the plan is in place

 60% don't make use of existing mental health resources



66

Employers consistently underestimate financial well-being stressors, while employees see it as a priority.

x



# A new generation of retirement savings plans

- More than just savings
- Training and education
- Financial advisor services included



New benefits

# Changing work arrangements

- Mental health days
- 4 to 6 weeks off
- 4-day work week
- No overtime

#### New benefits

## **Flexibility**

- More important than career progression for 55% of employees
- Most important tool in supporting mental health for 33%
- **3 out of 4** favour hybrid work
- **25%** willing to earn less to be able to work from home



## Turning a necessity (telework) into a benefit: the right equation





New benefits

# Across-the-board creativity

- Digital nomads
- Outdoor shared workspace
- Sponsored emergency fund for women
- Menopause policy

- Pet insurance
- Pet-sitting service

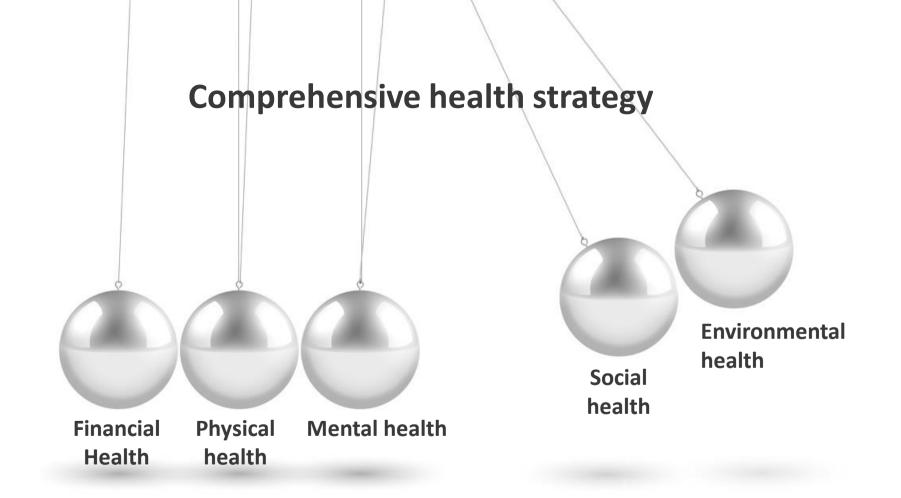
### **Prioritize rather than saturate**

20

MEDIA

NEWS

2022 Goal: A strategy



## A safe and healthy work environment



## **Corporate culture**

- Caring in action
- Restoring meaning to the purpose of work
- Commitment from senior management and managers

# EDI

#### A priority for 70% of leaders vs. a reality for 15% of employees



## Management practices

2

- Reorganize work to reduce
  anxiety
- Empower employees to do their work
- The right to disconnect





## Communication

- One of the best retention strategies for **50%** of employers
- **44%** still use old-fashioned communication methods

## Working conditions are the new benefits

Healthy employees in a healthy organization



Charmaine Alexander, Senior Advisor desjardinslifeinsurance.com/businesses



### **Sources and references**

- Observatoire sur la santé et le bien-être au travail de l'Université de Montréal, February 2022
- Workplace Strategies for Mental Health, Canada Life, January 2022
- Department of Finance Canada
- Health Technology Adoption, Advanis study for Desjardins, March 2022
- 2021 Financial Stress Index, Leger survey for FP Canada, May 2021
- Analyses of the Desjardins portfolio, 2018-2021
- Ceridan HCM, December 2021 and Robert Half Survey, spring 2021
- Hays Recruiting Experts (Canada) survey, December 2021
- How to Adapt to the Labour Shortage Situation, BDC, September 2021
- The Sanofi Canada Healthcare Survey, 2020
- Conference Board of Canada and Telus Health survey, November 2021
- Environics Research for Dialogue, November 2020
- 2021 Benefits Canada Healthcare Survey, October 2021
- Wellbeing and Voluntary Benefits Survey, Buck, 2022
- Angus Reid survey, June 2020
- LifeWorks BCC Mental Health Index, December 2021
- Canadians like hybrid model concept: Workplace reboot, KPMG, 2021
- The Future of Work, Advanis, January 2021
- Employee Research Survey, Canadian Payroll Association, 2017
- Global study by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- KRC Research for Weber Shandwick, June 2021