

your PENSION CONNECTION

A newsletter for Public Service Superannuation Plan Retirees

2017 PSSP Review

A comprehensive review (Review) of the Public Service Superannuation Plan (PSSP) is now coming to completion. Amendments to the *Public Service Superannuation Act (Act)* received Royal Assent on April 18, 2018.

The Review was mandated by Section 47 of the *Act*. The Public Service Superannuation Plan Trustee Inc. (PSSPTI) commissioned the Review in late 2016. The process spanned more than two years.

The Review report set out 12 main recommendations for PSSPTI to consider, in response “to stakeholder concerns, changes in the Canadian pension landscape and to build on the Plan’s success.” The recommendations fell into the following primary areas:

1. benefits and eligibility, funding policy, and actuarial assumptions;
2. governance;
3. strategic considerations; and
4. plan text updates and ‘housekeeping matters’

You can read the final Review report, a summary of steps taken, and more on our website at: www.nspssp.ca/publicservice/about/psspti-reviews/2017-pssp-review

PSSPTI would like to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in the Review and contributed to its success. The next PSSP Review under Section 47 of the *Act* will occur in 2022.

The PSSP membership is growing

In an effort to address the Plan’s aging demographic challenges, PSSPTI developed a strategy to grow the PSSP membership. A key element of this PSSP membership growth strategy includes allowing new employers to join or transfer their existing pension plans into the PSSP.

Since it was first implemented in 2015, this membership growth initiative has to date expanded the PSSP membership by almost 1600 active members and 700 retirees.

Employers that have joined or transferred into the PSSP include: the Sherbrooke Village Restoration Commission; South Shore Public Libraries; Cape Breton University (partial); Acadia University; Université Sainte-Anne; University of King’s College; Halifax Harbour Bridges and, most recently, Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

PSSPTI’s guiding principles throughout these transfers have been that a transfer into the PSSP must be beneficial to the long-term sustainability of the PSSP and cost neutral to its existing members.

Growing the PSSP membership to promote long-term financial sustainability is a key strategic focus for PSSPTI. PSSPTI continues to pursue growth opportunities and is in discussions with several other employers.



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2017-2018 Annual Report

On June 30th, be sure to check out the 2017-2018 PSSP Annual Report! The Annual

Report provides you with information on the PSSP’s investment results and interesting statistics. The Report will be available online at: www.nspssp.ca

Returning to work?

Returning to work after retiring is an individual decision. Planning for post-retirement employment involves determining the possible impact on your other sources of retirement income. If you would like to return to the workforce, you should consider the following:

- Under the *Income Tax Act*:
 - You are not allowed to contribute to and collect from the same pension plan at the same time.
 - Your pension plan contributions must cease no later than December 1st of the year in which you turn 71 years old. At this time, you must begin drawing your pension, even if you are still working.
- You cannot contribute to the PSSP if you retired with at least 35 years of pensionable service with the PSSP.

If you return to work with an employer who participates in the PSSP, please contact us to determine if your pension payment will be affected.

If you return to work for an employer who does not participate in the PSSP, you can continue to collect your PSSP pension as well as your income from employment. It is important to know that once you have started to receive your PSSP pension, you no longer have the option to transfer your PSSP pensionable service to another pension plan.

What happens if you have a marriage breakdown?

When a spousal relationship breaks down or divorce occurs, the division of your pension benefit is not automatic. In order for us to complete a division of your pension benefit, you must provide us with a copy of the court order from the Supreme Court.

Your former spouse or common law partner is entitled to receive up to one half of the pension benefit earned during the period of marriage. The period of marriage must be defined in the court order. It begins at the date of marriage or cohabitation and ends at the date of separation.

If the relationship ends after you have retired, payment is in the form of a monthly pension. If your spousal relationship changes and you need to update your information, please contact us.

Helpful Contact Information:

Medavie Blue Cross:
1-800-667-4511

Nova Scotia Seniors' Pharmacare Program:
1-800-544-6191

Public Service Commission, Benefits Division:
www.gov.ns.ca/psc/EmployeeCentre/benefits

Canada Pension Plan (CPP) & Old Age Security (OAS):
1-800-277-9914 (English), 1-800-277-9915 (French)

We appreciate your feedback. If you have a comment or a suggested topic, please contact:



Nova Scotia Pension Services Corporation
1949 Upper Water St., Suite 400
Purdy's Landing, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2P8
P: 1-902-424-5070 (Halifax)
P: 1-800-774-5070 (toll free)
pensionsinfo@nspension.ca
Hours: 8 am to 5 pm (Monday to Friday)