

## **MUNICIPAL PENSION PLAN**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND COMPLETE THE DECLARATION**

### **Employee's Declaration:**

1. Are you currently a member of the Municipal Pension Plan?      Yes      No  
Have you been in the last 30 days?      Yes      No
2. I have been provided with an explanation or summary of the pension plan, and of the relevant entitlements and obligations under the pension plan.
3. I understand how I may combine service and earnings with more than one plan employer to qualify for membership in the plan.
4. I understand that it is my responsibility to inform my employer of my eligibility to enroll in the plan, if based on employment with more than one plan employer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Declaration must be submitted within 30 days of employment***

### **About Your Pension Plan**

#### **What is the Municipal Pension Plan?**

The Municipal Pension Plan is a defined benefit plan, where your pension is based on your age, your years of pensionable service and the average of your highest five years of salary (not necessarily your last five years). It is not based on your contributions to the Plan or on the investment performance of the Plan's assets. The advantage of this kind of pension plan is that your pension is paid for your lifetime, and may continue for the lifetime of your spouse or eligible dependant (depending on the option you choose at retirement).

#### **Who runs this plan?**

On April 5, 2001, the Municipal Pension Plan moved to joint trusteeship with a Municipal Pension Board of Trustees consisting of eight people appointed by the Plan Member Partners and eight people appointed by the Plan Employer Partners. The Board's duties include establishing investment policy, recommending changes in benefits and funding policy and directing the application of Pension Plan Rules. The Board appoints an independent actuary to assess the Plan's financial health every three years through an actuarial valuation.

#### **Who are the employers in the Municipal Pension Plan?**

There are more than [900 employers](#) in the Municipal Pension Plan, representing sectors including cities, districts, towns, villages and regional districts; the health sector; school districts; and colleges.



### **What is the Pension Corporation?**

The Pension Plan is administered in partnership with the trustees by the [British Columbia Pension Corporation](#). The Pension Corporation is one of Canada's largest pension benefit administrators, serving the boards of trustees for the largest public sector pension plans in British Columbia, and representing over 440,000 active and retired plan members and more than 900 plan employers.

If you have questions about your pension account, are making retirement decisions, or have questions as a retired plan member, you will speak with a plan representative at the Pension Corporation. You can get more information about the [Pension Corporation here](#).

### **Joining**

#### **How do I become a member?**

Enrolment is mandatory for full-time, permanent staff after their probationary period (unless waived to an earlier date by the employer) and for full-time staff employed on a continuous basis for one year.

#### **What if I am working part-time?**

Part-time employees have the option to enrol if they complete two years of continuous employment and, in each of two consecutive calendar years, earn at least 35 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings (YMPE), including overtime and other payments, exactly as for the calculation of contributions to the Canada Pension Plan.

Part-time employees can also be enrolled upon resolution of an employer in accordance with the terms of a negotiated collective agreement.

#### **How much does it cost me? How much does it cost my employer?**

As a member of the Municipal Pension Plan, you contribute both to this plan and to the Canada Pension Plan through automatic deductions from your salary. How much these contributions are depends on the YMPE. Employee contribution rates (other than group 5 members) are currently set at:

- 8.50% of your salary up to and including the YMPE, and
- 10.00% of your salary above the YMPE.

Your employer also contributes to the Municipal Pension Plan on your behalf. Employers contribute at a rate based on the number of employees, their salaries, ages and occupations. The rate is updated annually.

### **Benefits**

#### **What does a pension plan give me?**

If you become "vested," the Plan will give you a lifetime pension, starting when you retire. After your death, depending on what kind of pension option you choose at retirement, the Plan may continue to pay pension benefits to your spouse (if you have one) for his or her lifetime, or to another beneficiary for a set period, or it may pay a lump-sum payment to your estate.

#### **When do I become eligible to receive a pension?**

You are "vested" in the Municipal Pension Plan (which means you are entitled to a pension commencing at earliest retirement age 55 [50] or later) after you have accumulated two years of contributory service with some or all of that service after December 1997. You are also vested if you accumulate any contributory service after age 60 (55).

#### **When can I retire?**

Earliest retirement age for most Municipal Pension Plan employees is 55. However, for police officers and firefighters the earliest retirement age is 50. Thus, earliest retirement age is expressed throughout your [Guide for Plan Members](#) as 55 (50).

#### **How can I find out what my pension might be when I retire?**

You can use the [online pension estimator](#) to estimate what your pension might be, based on your current personal information.