



MEPP MATTERS

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN NEWSLETTER

Retire *With Ease*

Are you within five to 10 years of retirement? MEPP is now offering retirement planning sessions. This one-day presentation aims to:

- inform you about Plan provisions regarding retirement;
- the process you will go through to apply for a MEPP pension;
- how the government programs come into play at retirement; and
- some tips on preparing for retirement.

Retirement Information Consultants (RICs) with the Public Employees Benefits Agency conduct these presentations. The RICs are financial planners and are well-qualified to be talking to members about retirement.



Upon request MEPP will provide a retirement presentation to a specific group of members (minimum of 20 attendees). Please contact your employer if you would like to attend a presentation or call the Plan at 1-877-506-6377.

MEPP is developing an online pension calculator. You will be able to experiment with retirement calculations online in the privacy of your own home. It will help members better understand the Plan and the retirement options available. Please watch *MEPP Matters* for more details.

MEPP Highlights

This is the second time members have been sent *MEPP Highlights*. The information was developed to share highlights from the MEPP Annual Report. The 2008 edition provides a snapshot of the Plan financials, membership demographics and accomplishments throughout the year. The complete MEPP Annual Report is available on our website.

We hope you find the *MEPP Highlights* easy to understand and informative. Please call MEPP if you have any questions.

New to the Plan?

Congratulations! You are one of about 39 per cent of Canadians who are lucky enough to belong to a pension plan.

Benefits of belonging to MEPP:

- you are earning a lifetime pension;
- employers and employees share equally in the funding of the Plan;
- MEPP is a defined benefit plan - your pension is calculated using a formula including your years of service and salary; and
- the amount of monthly pension you receive is not driven by investment market performance.

Retirement may seem like a long way off, but belonging to a pension plan is one step towards a secure and comfortable retirement.

Maintaining a Healthy Plan

MEPP members and employers want to keep their pension plan healthy. That is a given.

This spring, the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA), administrator for MEPP, at the direction of the Municipal Employees' Pension Commission, has been talking to the associations that appoint members to the Commission.

Discussions are focusing on ensuring MEPP can remain a healthy fully-funded plan.

Pensioners: Call RBC Global Services if you:

- have any questions about your pension payments,
- have T4A questions,
- need to make an address and/or name change,
- need to make banking changes
- want to sign up for direct deposit.

Toll free Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST at 1-800-668-1320.

Two More Years Age 69 rule changes to age 71

MEPP members must begin receiving pension by the end of the calendar year they reach age 71. Previously, members were required to begin their pension by the end of the calendar year they reach age 69.

Dear MEPP

MEPP Matters is looking for questions from members. If there is anything that you want to know about MEPP, please send your questions to *Dear MEPP*. Here is a question MEPP received recently:

Dear MEPP: I have a Power of Attorney document in place. How does this apply to my MEPP pension?

Dear MEPP Member: A Power of Attorney is a document in which you appoint someone else to act on your behalf on matters that you specify.

If you have granted power of attorney to an individual, the Plan requires a certified copy of the Power of Attorney document.

Once MEPP is satisfied with the documentation, a copy will be kept on file. The person named in the document will be allowed to access your personal Plan information and to act on your behalf.

The authority granted in a Power of Attorney ceases on your death.

You may address any inquiry or complaint regarding the administration of the Municipal Employees' Pension Plan to the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) at:

1000 - 1801 Hamilton Street
REGINA SK S4P 4W3

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Phone: Toll-free 1-877-506-6377 - In Regina 787-2684

E-mail: mepp@peba.gov.sk.ca

Fax: 1-306-787-8822

PEBA will respond to all pension-related inquiries or complaints. If a complaint cannot be resolved, PEBA will provide you with details of the procedure for having your complaint heard by the Municipal Employees' Pension Plan Commission.

MEPP Matters is published as a service to the members of the Municipal Employees' Pension Plan (MEPP). This newsletter provides general information about MEPP and its operation. It does not replace or supersede the legislation governing the Plan. The articles contained in this newsletter have been carefully compiled from sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Suggestions are welcome.

Visit us at www.peba.gov.sk.ca/mepphome.htm

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