

Mepp Matters



Looking after your future!

The Municipal Employees' Pension Commission has recommended some changes to look after the future of the Municipal Employees' Pension Plan (MEPP). Member consultations were held January–March, 2017 to talk about the changes and get feedback. We would like to thank all who participated.

These changes have been through the Legislative process and will be in place by January 1, 2019.

Members who stop working for a MEPP employer and are eligible for a pension must take the MEPP monthly pension. These members may start their pensions either immediately or at a later date. There will not be an option to transfer the value of the pension out of MEPP.

If you are already eligible for a pension, or will be eligible by December 31, 2018 and you wish to transfer your pension value out of Plan you must **both**:

- ensure MEPP receives written notice by December 31, 2018 of your intent to transfer out your benefit; and
- stop working by December 31, 2018.

Your member statement shows when you qualify for a pension. If you are not eligible to retire when you stop working you will still have the option to transfer your MEPP pension value.

All amounts over the tax-sheltered limit will be paid out and taxable if a member chooses to transfer out of the Plan. If you choose to transfer your pension value out of MEPP, the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) imposes a maximum that is allowed to be transferred tax sheltered. Currently, if you exceed this tax sheltered amount you may be eligible for a temporary MEPP pension which helps to defer some tax. The temporary pension will no longer be an option, all amounts over the limit will be taxable. Temporary pensions currently in pay will continue.



Excess contributions must be removed from the Plan; no more option to use excess to increase monthly pension. When you stop working the value of your pension is calculated and you may have excess contributions. Excess is the amount by which your contributions with interest exceed half the value of your pension. Currently, excess may be used to increase your monthly pension or be transferred out.

No more option to transfer out 50% of pre-1994 contributions and interest. These contributions will remain part of your total pension benefit. If you choose a MEPP pension they will be included in your monthly benefit at retirement; if you choose to transfer out of MEPP, they will be included in your transfer amount. Currently, if you contributed to the Plan before 1994 you can transfer 50% of the pre-1994 contributions and interest out of the Plan when you stop working.

These changes are to help protect the future of your pension plan. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Working on the gap...



In July 2017, MEPP invited members to participate in a Member Satisfaction Survey. We would like to share results of the data collected from July 26 to October 2, 2017.

There appears to be opportunity to strengthen communications with members, both through means of communication and content. Members expressed interest in online and email communication.

Interestingly, one in five members have contacted the Plan this past year; and most (77%) of those used the phone. More than eight in 10 report being satisfied with their MEPP interactions. Member satisfaction, interest and information seeking increase as members get closer to retirement.

Most members would prefer email or mail communication. The MEPP *Matters* newsletter is the most commonly referenced and valued resource for learning about the Plan, followed by events/workshops and the MORE online retirement planner. The *RetireWithEase* sessions are highly valued due to face-to-face communication.

Member statements got good reviews; 68% of members review most or all of their pension statements and 77% find it somewhat easy, to very easy, to understand.

Website information materials such as MEPP In-Depth and the MORE planner are not being used very often. The survey indicates this could be an awareness issue. Overall, website impressions indicate there is room for improvement here.

Overall the survey showed a high member satisfaction rating (eight of 10) with all criteria of the pension plan, but we do have a gap in certain areas.

Thank you for your participation; you are helping to form the future of your plan. As a follow up to the survey, focus groups are being conducted in early May to gain further insight into specific areas covered in the member survey. A more detailed report of the survey results will be posted to the website in the near future.

Contribution rate increase

Member and employer contribution rates are increasing*. As of July 1, 2018 the general rate will increase from 8.15% to 9.00%; the designated rate will increase from 11.35% to 12.5% for both members and employers.

*This was a recommendation from the study on Plan sustainability. Regulations have been approved.

Sign Up for

e-comm

Paper Free Communications

Less clutter and more flexibility, sign-up for e-comm on the MEPP homepage today.

RetireWithEase Workshops

Saskatoon	June 6
Regina	June 21
Yorkton	July 11
Moose Jaw	July 18

Register today! Visit MEPP's home page and click on the PEBA Hosted Workshop Image!

*Workshop dates are subject to change. Watch the MEPP website for workshop dates, added workshops, and space availability.



Municipal Employees' Pension Plan
c/o - Public Employees Benefits Agency
1000-1801 Hamilton Street
Regina SK S4P 4W3
In Regina: 306.787.2684
Toll Free: 877.506.6377
Fax: 306.787.0244

 www.peba.gov.sk.ca
 mepp@peba.gov.sk.ca
 facebook.com/SaskMEPP
 @SaskMEPP