



pension perspectives

PEPP's positive growth gives you greater peace of mind



How to avoid crypto/bitcoin scams

Here's a heartbreaking headline, "Sask. man in court battle with crypto exchange lost over \$240K to fraud." Sadly, he's not alone as cryptocurrency scams have exploded in Canada.

According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, Canadians lost over \$308 million due to investment fraud in 2022.

Before investing in cryptocurrency, keep in mind that the Bank of Canada **does not** back these investments. And once a cryptocurrency transaction is done, it cannot be reversed.

Ways scammers hook you in

Like other investment scams, crypto scammers prey on us by using tactics that:

- promise to make us a lot of cash fast;
- create a sense of urgency;
- play on our fear of missing out; and
- direct us to fake websites, videos and endorsements.

See page 2 for **Tips to Protect Yourself**. Learn about frauds and scams by searching the Government of Canada's website (Canada.ca).

Spring is a time for growth and renewal. Whether it's as simple as planting a garden, or a bigger life event like getting married, having a child, or preparing for retirement – there is a sense of hope as we plan for our tomorrows.

And, whether you realize it or not, you're already saving for your future. Take a look at your March 31, 2024, member statement. Did you know you had that much money in your PEPP account? If retirement is on your horizon, you're likely paying closer attention to your account balance.

Wherever you are in your life's journey, we're excited to update you on PEPP's performance because we're members too!

The PEPP Fund remains strong.

In the past 10 years, the PEPP Fund has grown from \$6.1 billion to \$12.4 billion. The 15-year annualized return for our flagship fund, the PEPP Balanced Fund, was 8.1% (as of February 29, 2024).

We're still the largest defined contribution plan in Canada.

While we've held this title for many years now, we're proud to say the PEPP Fund is valued at over **\$12 billion** and growing.

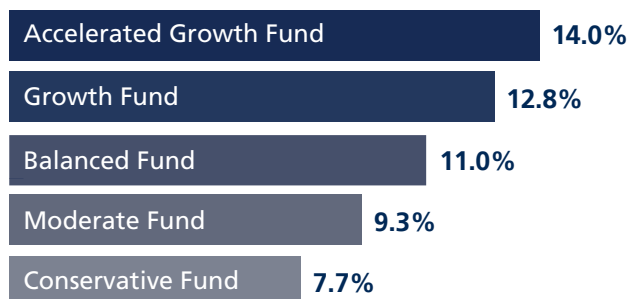
PEPP has a unique competitive advantage that sets us apart

from other investment funds. As a PEPP member, you have access to eight high quality funds – including access to private assets and alternative investments – that aren't typically available to retail investors. These funds tend to outperform industry benchmarks and are supported by competitive management expense fees.

What this means for you!

PEPP's strong performance over the past two decades, along with its diversified investment structure, means your PEPP account continues to grow steadily over time. Contributions from you and your employer along with investment returns ensures you're building a valuable nest egg for your future.

PEPP Fund returns (net of all fees) over last 12 months*



* As at December 31, 2023



And the survey says...

steady satisfaction ratings, notable strengths and opportunities for growth!

In November 2023, PEPP once again reached out to you, our members, for the annual Member Satisfaction Survey. Over 2,500 of you participated!

Notably strong satisfaction ratings

89% of members are satisfied with the quality of customer service they received	87% of members are satisfied with PEPP's plan administration	89% of members are satisfied with the materials and communication they received
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Opportunities for engagement and growth

6 in 10 members are aware of at least one type of service offered by PEPP's Retirement Information Consultants	Awareness Workshops51% Financial planning inquiries42% Free 1:1 planning consultations38%
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We're listening

Based on the survey results, you would like to see more workshop options and prefer using email to communicate with PEPP.

Your continued trust and confidence inspires us to improve the services you receive from PEPP.

INVESTMENT FEES UPDATE

Like all investment funds, PEPP has fees. Each PEPP fund pays a percentage of total investment and admin fees for **actual** costs.

PEPP's investment fees may increase in the next three to five years. The increase will be between 0.03% and 0.15% each year.

The reason? PEPP plans to shift more assets into alternative investments, which needs greater management expertise with more fee structures.

Investment fees affect how much money you make on your savings. While PEPP's fees will increase in the next few years, the boost in returns are expected to outweigh the rise in fees.

PEPP continues to be upfront about its fees. Every year, we update PEPP's Fund Fact Sheets, which can be reviewed anytime by visiting pepp.plannera.ca > [about the fund](#) > [fund information and performance](#).

Greater security and savings!

Three benefits of switching to PEPP eComm



- 1. Security and Privacy:** Your personal information can be protected better through encryption and authentication. This makes it harder for people to access or steal your personal data, unlike with regular mail.
- 2. Cost Savings:** Going digital saves the PEPP Fund money. Costs for printing, paper, and postage are billed directly to the Fund. So, when the Plan spends less on operating costs, this has a positive impact on expense fees.
- 3. Environmental Impact:** By using less paper in our day-to-day operations, we can help save trees and reduce waste.

This is a positive step towards a greener, healthier planet.

Sign up for PEPP's eComm today!

Follow these 3 steps:

- ✓ Scan the QR code or click on the blue [Member Login](#) button on the PEPP home page.
- ✓ Log in to your online PEPP account.
- ✓ On the home page, click on the 'Set your correspondence preference' box to update to online communication.



Once you switch, you'll receive email notices whenever we have new information to share with you. No more waiting for the mail!

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

- Don't act quickly. Take time to think about any offer. 
- Be wary when you're told not to discuss an offer with anyone else.
- Verify any investment company using the Canadian Securities Administrators' National Registration Search Tool.

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This newsletter provides general information about the Public Employees Pension Plan and its operation. It does not replace or supersede the legislation governing the Plan.