

# MEPP *In-Depth*

## *Pension Options*

This issue provides an overview of your pension options when you decide to retire from MEPP.

### Your Options

The options available to you regarding your lifetime pension from MEPP depend on whether or not you have a spouse when you retire.

If you do not have a spouse when you retire, your lifetime pension will be a single life pension that is:

- payable for as long as you live; and
- guaranteed to be paid for at least 15 years.

If you have a spouse when you retire, you have several options available. Like a single pensioner, you will receive your lifetime pension as long as you live. You will, however, have to decide:

- how many full lifetime payments will be guaranteed; and
- what percentage of your full lifetime pension will be paid to your joint pensioner if you die after you have received the number of payments in your chosen guarantee period.

### Guarantee Period

Your full lifetime pension will be paid to you monthly for as long as you live.

The **guarantee period** is the minimum length of time that your full lifetime pension will be paid. If you die before receiving the guaranteed number of payments, the remaining payments will be made to your joint pensioner or beneficiary.

**Bridge Benefit:** If you retire before age 65, you will receive a bridge benefit in addition to your lifetime pension.

Regardless of the guarantee period you choose, the last payment of the bridge benefit is made the month you turn age 65. If you die before reaching age 65, your bridge benefit payments continue until the month in which you would have turned age 65 if you were still alive.

**Single Lifetime Pension:** If you do not have a spouse when you retire, your full lifetime pension is paid for your lifetime and guaranteed to be paid for 15 years (180 payments) from the date you retire.

If you die after you have received more than 180 payments, your pension stops at your death. If you die before you have received 180 payments, your designated beneficiary receives the remaining payments.

This table gives two examples of what happens if you die after retiring with the single form of pension guaranteed for 15 years.

If you live for...	Your pension payment will continue for...	Your beneficiaries will receive a payment for...
10 years	10 years (120 payments)	5 years (60 payments)
25 years	25 years (300 payments)	No further benefits

**Joint Lifetime Pension:** If you have a spouse when you retire, your pension benefit includes you and your spouse. Your full lifetime pension is paid for your lifetime and guaranteed to be paid for at least five years (60 payments) from the date you retire.

You can choose a guarantee period of five years (60 payments), ten years (120 payments) or 15 years (180 payments).

### Survivor Benefit

The survivor benefit is the portion of your full lifetime pension that is payable to your joint pensioner:

- after you die; and
- after the guaranteed number of full lifetime pension payments has been made.

Your joint pensioner is the only person entitled to a survivor benefit if you die after your guarantee period has ended. When you retire, you can choose a survivor benefit that pays 60%, 75% or 100% of your full lifetime pension.

### Joint Pension

A joint pension is paid as long as either you or your joint pensioner is alive.

The normal form of joint pension from the Plan provides a 5-year guarantee period and 60% survivor benefit. This is the minimum benefit you can receive. You can choose a longer guarantee period and/or larger survivor benefit. Increasing the guarantee period and/or survivor benefit decreases the lifetime pension amount.

If you die **before** you have received the guaranteed number of full lifetime pension payments, your joint pensioner receives the full lifetime amount for the remaining payments in the guarantee period. After all guaranteed payments have been made, your joint pensioner receives monthly survivor benefit payments. These payments are paid at the survivor benefit rate that you chose when you retired. They are paid as long as your joint pensioner is alive.

If you die **after** you have received the guaranteed number of full lifetime payments, the survivor benefit begins immediately. Your joint pensioner receives monthly survivor benefit payments at the rate that you chose when you retired. They are paid as long as your joint pensioner is alive.

When you retire, you can choose any combination of guarantee period and survivor benefit. See chart on the next page.

Guarantee Period (Number of Full Pension Payments)	Survivor Benefit
5 years (60 payments)	60%
	75%
	100%
10 years (120 payments)	60%
	75%
	100%
15 yrs (180 payments)	60%
	75%
	100%

You may not change the guarantee period or survivor benefit after you start your pension.

This table gives two examples of what happens if you die after retiring with a joint form of pension guaranteed for 5 years and a 60% survivor benefit.

If you live for...	You will receive your full pension for...	Your joint pensioner will receive...	
		Your full pension for...	60% of your pension for...
4 years	4 years (48 payments)	1 year (12 payments)	Lifetime
20 years	20 years (240 payments)	N/A (Guarantee period over)	Lifetime

When you retire, your spouse can waive the right to the joint pension by signing a [Spousal Waiver of Survivor Benefits](#) and submitting it to MEPP. This waiver must be signed before a member with a spouse can select a single life pension with a 15-year guarantee period and no survivor benefit.

If you enter a spousal relationship after you retire, the Plan does not provide a joint pension or survivor benefit to your new spouse. You can, however, name your new spouse as a beneficiary of any payments remaining in your guarantee period.

For information about spousal waivers, refer to the [MEPP In-Depth on Spousal Waiver at Retirement](#).

### Other Retirement Income

Your benefit from MEPP is only one source of retirement income. Other sources could include:

- Federal retirement income programs;
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP);
- Old Age Security (OAS); and
- Personal savings.

Contact **Employment and Social Development Canada** for information about federal pension programs. Visit [www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca) or call 1-800-277-9914 or 1-800-255-4786 (TTY).



The forms required for your MEPP pension application are available on the website.



**Looking for more information?** You'll find more information from these sources:

- [MEPP Member Booklet](#)
- [MEPP Matters](#) – the Plan newsletter
- [Your Path to Retirement Workshop Series](#) – a workshop for every stage of your career



**Need assistance?** Contact us using one of these convenient options:

**Email:** [mepp@peba.gov.sk.ca](mailto:mepp@peba.gov.sk.ca)

**Phone:** 306-787-2684 (in Regina)  
1-877-506-6377 (toll-free)

**Fax:** 306-787-0244

The information in this bulletin does not replace or supersede *The Municipal Employees' Pension Act* or *The Pension Benefits Act, 1992* or related regulations. In the case of error or discrepancy, the terms of the Acts and regulations apply.

