



# your PENSION NEWS

A newsletter for Teachers' Pension Plan Employers

## The OAG Report and the financial status of the TPP

As you may know, on October 4, 2017 the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) issued a Report to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly. It included an information chapter on 3 provincially-funded public-sector pension plans – the Teachers' Pension Plan, the Public Service Superannuation Plan, and the Nova Scotia Health Employees' Pension Plan. The OAG put particular emphasis on the Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP or Plan) and its \$1.4 billion deficit.

The Trustee of the Plan, Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. (TPPTI), in its annual reports has highlighted its own concerns about the Plan's financial status. It is important to note that the Plan's financial position is likely to further deteriorate going forward unless the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union and the Province together take very significant steps. TPPTI remains ready and willing to assist the Teachers' Union and the Province.

For more information on the OAG Report, please visit the following website, click on October 2017 Report, and go to Chapter 3 – "Public Sector Pensions: Promoting Public Discussion":

[www.oag-ns.ca/publications/2017](http://www.oag-ns.ca/publications/2017)

For more information on the TPP's financial status, please visit the Annual Report section of our website at:

[www.nstpp.ca/teachers/members/publications/annual-reports](http://www.nstpp.ca/teachers/members/publications/annual-reports)

### Important Reminders!

#### Deadline for retirement applications

One of the most important things to remind employees is that they must contact us to request a retirement package.

Employees must submit their completed retirement application, plus all other required documentation, at least three months prior to their retirement date.

A Certificate of Pension cannot be issued by us until we receive a complete application.

Retirement packages will be available in January to those retiring in 2018.

#### Timelines

The timely submission of payroll data and remittance cheques is important in serving our members.

Please ensure posting files and remittances are sent to Pension Services Corp. within 30 days of the pay period end date. To avoid delays in processing, remittance summary sheets and remittance cheques should balance.

We support Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT). Please contact us if you would like more information about this secure remittance method.

#### Information for Retiring Teachers

All retiring teachers, *including retiring substitute teachers*, must notify their school boards in writing of their intent to retire and the effective date so that their positions may be terminated in SAP.

This ensures that if a retired substitute teacher returns to work as a substitute, their employment information will be correctly reflected in our pension administration system.

## Processing retirees returning to work?

Retired teachers who return to the classroom can work up to 69.5 days\* in a school year without it affecting their pension; however on day 70 their pension must cease until they stop working.

If they work beyond 69.5 days in a school year, they must start contributing to the TPP, with the following exceptions:

- If they have accumulated 35 years of service, and/or
- If they are 71 years old.

Pension Services Corp. should be provided the number of days worked and salary information, as the pension of such a retired teacher may need to be adjusted or recalculated. If their period of employment is *less than 1 school year*, their pension is restarted without any adjustments or recalculations. If their period of employment is *longer than 1 school year*, they will have to apply for a new pension for it to reflect any higher salaries.

*\* The 69.5 days include all days that a teacher was employed and paid by a participating employer. Holidays are included if the teacher was paid for these days.*

### 30 years of service for Jim Evans...and still going strong!



We would like to recognize the significant contributions that Jim has made, not only to our team but also to many teachers, retired members, and employers. Many of you have probably dealt with Jim over his career with Pension Services Corp.

Please join us in congratulating Jim on this milestone and wishing him continued success in his career.

### The YMPE for 2018

The Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) is the maximum amount of earnings on which contributions to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) are based.

For the year 2018, the YMPE will be \$55,900. In 2017 the YMPE was \$55,300. Contributions rates are:

- 11.3% below the YMPE
- 12.9% above the YMPE

For more information on the YMPE, please visit the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) website at:

[cra-arc.gc.ca](http://cra-arc.gc.ca)

### My Retirement Plan website [nspensions.hroffice.com](http://nspensions.hroffice.com)

This website allows active Plan members secure access to their personal pension information online. If a Plan member requires assistance using the My Retirement Plan website, they should contact us via email at: [pensionsinfo@nspension.ca](mailto:pensionsinfo@nspension.ca)

### SITE VISITS

Our Employer Services Team would be happy to visit you. It is a great opportunity for us to meet those we work with every day and to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

If you would like to schedule a site visit, please contact your Employer Services Analyst.

We appreciate your feedback. If you have a comment or a suggested topic, please contact:



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All information presented in this document is premised on the Plan rules and criteria which currently exist under the *Teachers' Pension Act* and the Regulations made thereunder. This document explains in plain language aspects of the rules and criteria of the Plan that exist at the time of publishing this newsletter. Plan members, beneficiaries, and others who wish to determine their legal rights and obligations under the Plan should refer to the Plan text. In the event of a discrepancy between the information provided in this document and the Plan text, the latter takes precedence.