



# your PENSION NEWS

A newsletter for Teachers' Pension Plan Active Members

## 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)

### Highlights from the 2016 TPP Annual Report *(as at December 31, 2016)*

**77.7%** Funded ratio

A funded ratio of 100 per cent or more would mean that the Plan is fully funded.

**8.15%** Investment return

The Plan achieved a positive return on investments of 8.15% (gross of investment management fees.)

**\$6.309** billion

Going-concern actuarial Plan liabilities increased to \$6.309 billion. 68.2% of Plan liabilities relate to retirees & survivors.

### Are you planning to retire in 2018?

One of the most important things to remember about your pension is that you must apply for it. Retirement packages will be available starting in January 2018.

If you plan to retire in 2018, please contact us at least three months prior to the date you want to retire and request a retirement package.

### Pre-Retirement Seminars

Pre-retirement seminars are offered between September and June to help Plan members make informed decisions about their retirement. The seminars are conducted by the NSTU with support from Pension Services Corp.

To register for a seminar or to verify if you qualify to attend a seminar, please contact your School Board or employer.

## Did you know?

### Spousal relationship changes

Upon a spousal relationship breakdown, your former spouse is entitled to receive up to one-half of the pension benefit earned during the period of marriage.

The period of marriage is defined in a court order (from the Supreme Court) or divorce decree. It usually begins at the date of marriage and ends at the date of separation or divorce. In order to divide a pension benefit, Pension Services Corp. must receive a copy of the court order or corollary relief judgment. Please note that a separation agreement (if available) is also required. However, a separation agreement alone is not sufficient to proceed with processing the marriage breakdown for pension purposes.

If you are in a common-law relationship, there must exist a period of cohabitation in a conjugal relationship of three years or more in order for your common-law partner to qualify. If you still have a legal spouse or if your divorce is not finalized, your legal spouse would take precedence over a current common-law partner in the event of a division of pension benefits upon your death.

### IMPORTANT!

#### *Keep your beneficiary information up to date!*

Pension benefits are available for your loved ones in the event of your death.

Your surviving spouse, eligible children (subject to age restrictions) and/or dependants are the first in line to receive your survivor pension benefit. However, if you do not have a surviving spouse, eligible children, or a dependant, you can designate a beneficiary. You only need to designate a beneficiary when none of the above surviving relationships exist.

You can designate your adult children (non-dependant), a friend, a relative, or a charity as your beneficiary. They would not receive a monthly survivor pension; but, rather, a lump-sum payment.

If you do not designate a beneficiary, your estate would receive a refund of your contributions. It is important to keep your beneficiary information up to date to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled and to avoid legal complications.

### My Retirement Plan website:

[nspensions.hroffice.com](http://nspensions.hroffice.com)

My Retirement Plan allows active TPP members secure access to their personal pension information online. You can use the website to:

- View your Annual Member Statement
- Use the Pension Projection Tool to estimate how much your pension could be
- View helpful retirement and financial planning resources

We encourage you to log onto My Retirement Plan website and explore all the services it has to offer. To log on, you will need your secure Member ID and password, which were mailed to your home.

## Happy Holidays!

Wishing you all the best for this holiday season and a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2018.



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



### Nova Scotia Pension Services Corporation

1949 Upper Water St., Suite 400  
Purdy's Landing  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2P8  
Hours: 8 am to 5 pm (Mon. to Fri.)

1-902-424-5070 (Halifax)  
1-800-774-5070 (toll free)  
[pensionsinfo@nspension.ca](mailto:pensionsinfo@nspension.ca)  
[www.novascotiapension.ca](http://www.novascotiapension.ca)  
[www.nstpp.ca](http://www.nstpp.ca)

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.