

Pension Life®

Your continued connection to your plan

The Municipal Pension Plan Newsletter for Retired Members

Summer 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

How is extended health care funded?	2
Improvements to My Account	2
Group benefit review ongoing	2
Plan finances and statistics	3
Capture your retirement in action	3
Pacific Blue Cross	4

Even small savings
can have a big impact

The benefits of healthy savings, page 4

Pension payments 2019

July	30	October	30
August	29	November	28
September	27	December	23

Sign in to My Account to view your payment history. Your pension payment is deposited directly to your bank account on the second-to-last business day each month—except in December, when we deposit your payment two business days before December 25.

If you are still receiving a cheque, and you have a Canadian or U.S. bank account, visit My Account to sign up for direct deposit.

Though we process direct deposit payments for plan members living in the United States, your deposit date may vary from the scheduled date depending on U.S. bank processing requirements.

• [Sign up for direct deposit at myaccount.pensionsbc.ca](https://myaccount.pensionsbc.ca)

A handy toolkit on pensions

You worked hard during your career to contribute to your pension. Visit the plan website for facts about your pension's value and explore special features, including the latest plan news and the *Pension Percolator* blog.

• mpp.pensionsbc.ca > [About us](#) > [News](#)

Your plan: keeping fit at 80

April 1 marked your Municipal Pension Plan's 80th birthday

My how we've grown



Your pension has its roots in the *Municipal Superannuation Act* of April 1, 1939. In the plan's first ten years, its assets grew to \$11.9 million. According to the annual report from 1948, 4,707 employees made contributions of \$474,499 and 134 retirees began receiving pensions that year.

Today the plan has more than 340,000 members, including more than 200,000 active members who contribute almost a billion dollars a year. The plan has over \$52 billion in assets. There are now more than 100,000 of you receiving a pension.

Strong oversight means stability through ups and down

Did you know your plan's oldest member is 106? You can see how important it is that we trustees take a long-term view of your plan's sustainability.

Your lifetime pension is secure because it is part of a defined benefit plan. Your and your employer's contributions while you were working make up about 25 cents of every pension dollar. The other 75 cents comes from investment returns. That's why the Municipal Pension Board of Trustees works closely with the plan's investment manager, British Columbia Investment Management

(continued on page 3)



Follow us on Twitter for timely tips, news and links @MyBCMPP

How is extended health care funded?

When it comes to extended health care (EHC) coverage, many enrol because the premium is partially subsidized by the plan.

How is your EHC coverage funded?

While you were employed, you and your employer contributed to the pension plan on your behalf. The contributions were distributed in different ways. The majority went into the basic account, which funds lifetime pensions. This account remains healthy and secure. A small amount of your contribution went into the inflation adjustment account (IAA), which funds cost-of-living adjustments for retired members. A portion of your employer's IAA contribution went toward group benefit subsidies for members who were retired at the time. None of your contributions while you were working went toward your group benefits in retirement.

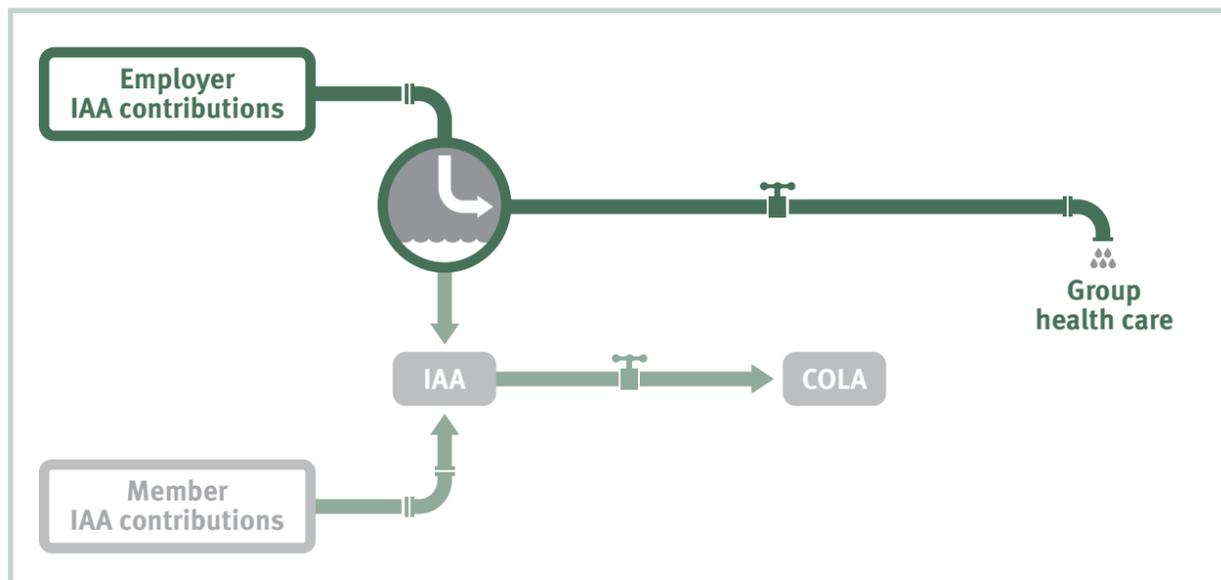
The subsidy you receive on your monthly premium is funded by current employer contributions. As employer contributions

come in today, a portion flows directly to the EHC premium subsidy you and other retired members receive. The subsidies flow directly from current employer contributions to current retirees.

Through this funding model, your plan is able to subsidize a portion of your EHC premium. The subsidy is based on your years of service: the more years of service you have, the greater the subsidy will be. However, you can receive a subsidy with as little as two years of contributory service.

Interested in ways to keep your EHC costs down? Want to know more about your group benefits?

- mpp.pensionsbc.ca › [Your pension](#) › [Retirement health coverage](#)



Fair PharmaCare

Have you registered for Fair PharmaCare?

Looking for financial assistance with the costs of eligible prescription drugs and certain medical supplies? If you are a BC resident, register for Fair PharmaCare; you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for prescription drug expenses under your extended health care (EHC) plan.

- Register at gov.bc.ca (search for “register for Fair PharmaCare”) or call toll-free 1-800-663-7100 (BC)

If you have questions about how this government program works with the coverage under your EHC plan, please contact Pacific Blue Cross.

Helpful resources

Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement › canada.ca

Toll-free (Canada/U.S.): 1-800-277-9914 TTY: 1-800-255-4786

Canada Revenue Agency › canada.ca Toll-free (Canada/U.S.): 1-800-959-8281

Medical Services Plan › hibc.gov.bc.ca Toll-free (BC): 1-800-663-7100

Office of the Seniors Advocate › seniorsadvocatebc.ca Toll-free (BC): 1-877-952-3181

Information and referral specialists are available Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (closed statutory holidays)

Ageing Well › healthyfamiliesbc.ca/aging-well Email: healthyfamiliesbc@gov.bc.ca

Free access to health professionals, and community health and fitness programs

MSP premiums will be eliminated January 1, 2020

Effective January 1, 2020, the BC government will eliminate Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums. BC Pension Corporation will no longer administer MSP group coverage.

There is no action required from you. Health Insurance BC (HIBC) will automatically put you and any existing dependants on a self-administered MSP account. It is important that HIBC has your current address on file before January 1, 2020.

- To update your MSP account address, please visit addresschange.gov.bc.ca
- To request an MSP account change or submit updated documentation online, visit gov.bc.ca/managingyourmspaccount

Group benefit review ongoing

A comprehensive review of post-retirement group benefits (PRGB) is ongoing.

The board is continuing to work with its professional health benefit advisors, ZLC Financial and Cubic Health, as part of its review of the PRGB program. This part of the review includes reviewing and analyzing claims data to get a clear picture of how members use benefits.

In October we'll seek feedback from active and retired members about what's most important to you when you think about group benefits. Watch for information on the plan website.

We're also looking at opportunities to hear from you on October 17, 2019, following the AGM at the Anvil Centre in New Westminster.

- mpp.pensionsbc.ca—watch for details in late September

Improvements to My Account

We've improved My Account based on feedback from retired members like you. All the information you need is still available.

When you first sign in, you will see your most recent pension payment—including itemized deductions—and your most recent annual statement. You will also see notifications and updates about the plan in the sidebar.

Sign in to My Account to stay in touch with the plan

- Change your banking information
- View and print your pension tax slips
- Update your account settings
- Update your personal information, address and phone number
- Use Message Centre to contact BC Pension Corporation; your messages and the corporation's replies are saved for easy reference

- Sign in at myaccount.pensionsbc.ca

Plan finances and statistics

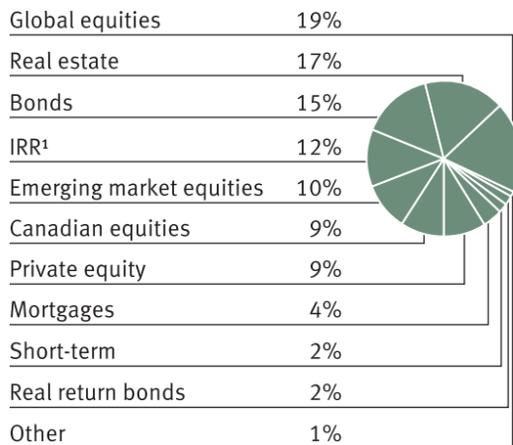
All data as at December 31, 2018, unless otherwise stated

● Audited financials available online August 2019 in the 2018 Annual Report

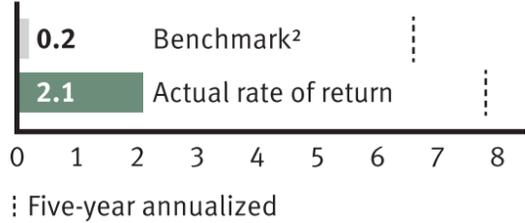
Year at a glance (\$ billions)



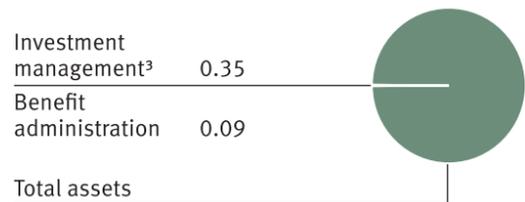
Investment holdings (total \$53 billion)



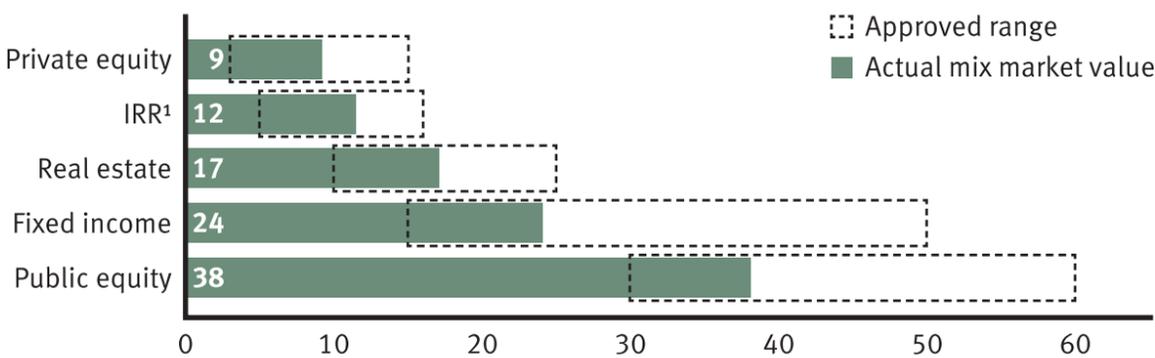
Return on investments (%)



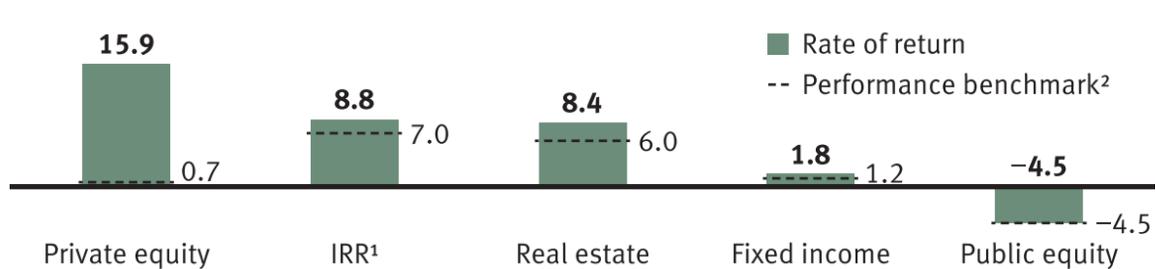
Fees (% of total assets)



Asset allocation (%)



Rate of return vs. benchmark (%)



1 Infrastructure and renewable resources
 2 Benchmarks are standards to compare against investment returns
 3 Certain external management costs totaling \$61.8 million are included in fees as a percentage of total assets but, in the financial statements, they are not included in investment and administration costs

Your plan: keeping fit at 80, continued from page 1

Corporation (BCI). We keep a close eye on how our investments perform over the long term. The five-year annualized return was 7.8 per cent, beating a market benchmark of 6.6 per cent. Longer-term investment horizons help smooth out market volatility.

The plan is undergoing its actuarial valuation, an important exercise conducted every three years to help the board monitor the plan's financial health. We'll report the results this fall.

Staying flexible keeps us healthy

Your plan has shown flexibility through adaptations like increasing contributions to the inflation adjustment account, which will make cost-of-living adjustments available longer.

Adapting for climate change is another important way to keep the plan healthy. Last year, the board collaborated with BCI on a climate action plan that takes a comprehensive look at your plan's exposure to climate change risks and opportunities. We'll continue to track our investments and adapt the climate action plan in the years to come.

Your Municipal Pension Plan is the sixth largest pension plan in Canada and is keeping fit for the future.

Keep up on the latest news

- mpp.pensionsbc.ca
- twitter.com/MyBCMPP

Capture your retirement in action

Have fun showing off your retirement lifestyle by modelling in a professional photoshoot. Photos are used to promote the Municipal Pension Plan on our website and in publications, helping other members connect with retirement living.

Our photographer and assistant will chat with you ahead of time to discuss details, such as the best time and place for your photoshoot. To thank you for your participation, you'll receive a digital photo from the shoot—and bragging rights too!

- Sign up today by emailing memberphotos@pensionsbc.ca



Kin and Jean Cheng, retired MPP members, Vancouver



Municipal Pension Retirees' Association

Municipal Pension Retirees' Association (MPRA) represents retirees of the Municipal Pension Plan.

Join for the opportunity to talk to other retirees and their spouses about pension issues, meet former co-workers, make new friends and have a voice about your MPP pension. To join, please send 2019 dues of \$20 (single) or \$35 (couple). Please make cheques payable to the Municipal Pension Retirees' Association. A form is also available on our website.

Municipal Pension Retirees' Association
 2475 Dobbin Road, Unit 22, Suite 525, West Kelowna BC V4T 2E9

Learn more, and find out about exclusive events, meetings and special offers > mpra.ca



Municipal Pension Plan works with Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) to administer group health benefits at a reduced rate to members.

Please contact PBC directly with specific questions about your coverage.

Phone: [604-419-2000](tel:604-419-2000) Toll-free: [1-877-722-2583](tel:1-877-722-2583) (BC) or [1-888-873-9200](tel:1-888-873-9200) (outside BC)

Web: pac.bluecross.ca

Have you had a prescription check-up lately?

If you have been taking medication for a long period of time, it's important to have regular discussions with your doctor or pharmacist to make sure the dosage—and the drug itself—is still the best choice for you. Drugs such as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), commonly used for stomach issues like heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), are widely used but may not be needed long-term depending on your condition. Full story: pac.bluecross.ca/mpp.

The impacts of hearing loss

Whether it happens suddenly or builds up slowly over time, hearing loss can have a serious impact on your daily life. To learn more about the different types of hearing loss; the root causes, signs and symptoms to watch for; and tips on prevention and treatment options, visit pac.bluecross.ca/mpp.

Fast, easy claims

Manage your coverage quickly and easily with one of our convenient options:

- **Insta-Claim**—Book your next treatment at one of thousands of health providers offering Insta-Claim from PBC. Your claim will be processed on the spot, and you only pay for what isn't covered by your health plan. Providers include acupuncturists, chiropractors, massage therapists, naturopaths, ophthalmologists, optical stores, optometrists, physiotherapists, podiatrists and psychologists.
- **Online claiming**—Save time by signing into your Member Profile with your PBC policy and ID numbers found on your member card and submit your claims online.
- **PBC mobile app**—Enjoy a seamless experience starting with fingerprint touch ID. You can take a photo of your receipt, submit your claim and be on your way.
- **Pharmacy Compass**—Use Pharmacy Compass to compare prescription prices across BC.

Learn more about our online tools and mobile app at pac.bluecross.ca/fasteasyclaims.

Introducing PocketPills

PocketPills is a full-service online pharmacy recently added to our Preferred Pharmacy Network (PPN). PocketPills sorts your medication by dose into easy-to-open packages, and it offers free delivery anywhere in BC, no pharmacy markup and a low \$7 dispensing fee, making medication more affordable.

Through our PPN, PBC has partnered with leading pharmacy retailers to offer guaranteed low prices and dispensing fees to our plan members in BC. Learn more at pac.bluecross.ca/ppn.

The benefits of healthy savings

Keeping health benefits costs as low as possible not only improves your bottom line, it's also essential to keeping your benefits plan sustainable. Plan sustainability ensures well-rounded benefits coverage can continue for all members at the lowest rates possible. Even small savings can have a big impact when it comes to rising health care costs.

- In 2018, MPP extended health plan members saved over \$2.3 million in drug mark-up costs thanks to PBC's enhanced pharmacy agreement. These funds were diverted from pharmacies directly back into retirees' pockets.
- BlueRX provides you with safe, high-quality prescription medication while ensuring your plan's long-term sustainability. For more information, visit pac.bluecross.ca/mpp.
- It pays to be a smart shopper. Did you know that, just like many other retail items, the prices for medical devices, prescription medications, paramedical services and more can vary from location to location? By comparing prices, you can help reduce costs both for yourself and for your benefits plan. And don't forget, as a member, you have access to additional cost-saving opportunities through our Blue Advantage program. Learn more at blueadvantage.ca.



Contacting the plan

Contact BC Pension Corporation staff through Message Centre in My Account. Your messages and the corporation's replies are saved in one location for easy reference.

New mailing address

If you (or your power of attorney) do not give us your new mailing address, **you risk having your pension and group benefits suspended** until we receive your current address.

For your security, we may stop your payments if your mail is returned to us three times.

If you're staying in your current province or country for an extended period of time, update your address in My Account—otherwise, notify the plan in writing.

Contact information

Update your contact information, including phone number and email address, in My Account.

Beneficiaries and marital status

Sign in to My Account to name a beneficiary.

Contact the plan if your spouse or beneficiary has passed away.

Health coverage

- Contact Health Insurance BC for questions about BC's Medical Services Plan or to update your account
- Contact Pacific Blue Cross if you have questions about your extended health care or dental coverage
- Contact the plan if you have questions about your eligibility, enrolment or premiums

Direct deposit

Sign in to My Account to register for direct deposit or update your banking information.

Municipal Pension Plan

Include your Person ID number (see your pension statement) in all correspondence

Web: mpp.pensionsbc.ca

Toll-free: [1-866-876-6677](tel:1-866-876-6677) (Canada/U.S.)
8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (PST)
Monday–Friday (except holidays)

Mail: PO Box 9460
Victoria BC V8W 9V8



Municipal
Pension Plan

Pension Life

Pension Life is published twice a year. You may receive more than one copy of *Pension Life* if you receive a pension from more than one pension plan. Read your statement letter to determine which plan provides your group benefits.

Any person entitled to a benefit, or their agent, has the right to examine plan documents, data and public information about the plan.