

Pension Fact Sheet

Information for Plan Members, Pensioners & Survivors

“ Changes to the Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan effective April 6, 2010 ”

General Details

1. What is happening to the MLA Plan?

Changes are being made to the MLA Plan in conjunction with similar changes being made to the Public Service Superannuation Plan.

2. What are the major changes and when do they come into effect?

The major changes are to the Indexing of Pensions. All of the changes are effective April 6, 2010, with the exception of one change related to Deferred Pensions.

3. Will my pay be affected?

No, your pay will not be affected as a result of these changes.

4. Will the Province’s matching contributions be affected?

No, the Province’s pension contributions will not be affected as a result of these changes.

5. How many members and retirees are there in the Plan; who may be affected by these changes?

As of September 30, 2009:

Active Members	51
Inactive members & members who have deferred their pension	6
Pensioners & Survivors of Pensioners	<u>115</u>
Total Membership:	<u>172</u>

What is changing?

Indexing of Pensions

Effective April 6, 2010, Indexing rules for the Members’ Retiring Allowance Plan will change to reflect indexing credited to allowances payable under the Public Service Superannuation Plan.

These changes apply to **ALL** pensioners, present, and future; including those retirees already receiving a pension, active members near to retirement, and any and all future retirees.

Survivor Benefits

There is no change for current plan members (active members, pensioners and deferred members).

There will be new survivor benefits for new members that join the Plan on or after April 6, 2010.

Survivor Benefits	
Plan member that joined the Plan prior to April 6, 2010	
Surviving Spouse	A surviving spouse would be entitled to 66⅔% of the pension benefit the Plan member was receiving or would have been entitled to receive, payable for life.
Surviving Children	Surviving children are eligible to receive 10% of the pension benefit up to 18 years of age (or 25 if in school). If there are more than 3 eligible children 33⅓% of the member's pension benefit is divided equally among them. If there is no surviving spouse, eligible surviving children would be entitled to share the 66⅔% spousal benefit.
Surviving Dependant	A life annuity with a 50% pension payable upon the member's death if dependants (other than a spouse or children) are surviving.

Survivor Benefits	
Plan member that joins the Plan on or after April 6, 2010	
Surviving Spouse	A surviving spouse would be entitled to 60% of the pension benefit the Plan member was receiving or would have been entitled to receive, payable for life.
Surviving Children	Surviving children are eligible to receive 10% of the pension benefit up to 18 years of age (or 25 if in school). If there are more than 4 eligible children 40% of the member's pension benefit is divided equally among them. If there is no surviving spouse, eligible surviving children would be entitled to share the 60% spousal benefit.
Surviving Dependant	A life annuity with a 50% pension payable upon the member's death if dependants (other than a spouse or children) are surviving.

Indexing of Deferred Pensions

Indexing rules are changing with regard to inactive or deferred members who are not contributing to the Plan but have kept their accrued pension contributions in the Plan, and deferred their pension benefit to some future point in time.

Currently, Indexing is considered to be 'earned' while the Deferred Pension awaits activation or actual retirement, at some later date. This Indexing is accrued and credited to the pension benefit, upon retirement, for the years the Pension 'waited' in the deferral period.

- Effective January 1, 2011, Indexing will no longer be earned in the deferral period. You will retain any and all Indexing earned in the deferral period, up to January 1, 2011. This Indexing will be included in your pension benefit when you ultimately retire.

Who can I talk to about how these changes impact my pension?

Please contact the Nova Scotia Pension Agency at:

Phone: 424-5070 (in Halifax area)

Phone (toll free in NS): 1-800-774-5070

Mail: Nova Scotia Pension Agency, PO Box 371, Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Email: pensionsinfo@gov.ns.ca

Website: www.novascotiapension.ca