

# Your member booklet



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All Quebec Employees

# **Canadian Mennonite Brethren Pension Plan**

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## Dear plan member,

To help you\* achieve financial security during your retirement years, Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America has established a group pension plan for its eligible employees and eligible employees of participating affiliates or subsidiaries. We work closely with The Canada Life Assurance Company (Canada Life), a premier service provider for group retirement and savings plans. The more you understand about the plan, the more likely you'll be successful in saving for your retirement.

This member booklet outlines the benefits available to you and contains important information including:

- How much you and your employer contribute to your retirement savings
- What happens to your retirement savings when you retire
- What happens if you pass away before you retire
- Where you can find answers to your retirement and savings questions

Your employer wants to help you have a long and rewarding retirement after all of your years of hard work. So please make sure that you read this booklet, contact Canada Life with any questions you may have, and file it away for easy reference.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this booklet, your rights and benefits as a member of the pension plan are governed by the terms of the plan documents as registered with the regulatory authorities. To review those documents, please contact your plan administrator or Canada Life.

The Church is your plan administrator. As plan administrator we are responsible for the overall operation and administration of the pension plan.

Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America provides this plan to you under the Capital Accumulation Plan guidelines and applicable legislation. These guidelines are a national standard for employer-sponsored savings plans. They help ensure that our plan is properly established and maintained, and that you're provided with ongoing education and information about our plan. For more information on your rights and responsibilities, please see the Additional information section of this booklet.

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\*Note that in this booklet "you" means a person entitled to benefits in accordance with the terms of the registered plan documents.

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## Your retirement plan

Welcome to Your retirement plan. This section will help you understand some basics about your retirement plan including eligibility, how contributions work and more. This section may refer to materials found in the enrolment material you received which you can review for further information.

The enrolment material you received was created by our service provider, Canada Life, to help you make your retirement dream a reality.

If you haven't received a copy of the enrolment material yet, get in touch with your plan administrator.

Let's start by looking at the plan. Your plan is a defined contribution pension plan. Here are a few details you should know about a defined contribution pension plan:

- You choose how much you want to save for your retirement
- You can track how much money is in your account
- You must make contributions to your account at least monthly
- we contribute to your account to help you achieve your retirement goals
- The exact amount of your retirement income can only be determined when you retire

If you'd like more information on the plan rules or how the plan operates, contact us. For any other information, you can contact Canada Life.

## How to get information

You want to keep up to date with your retirement plan and know that you're on track to achieving your retirement goals. We, along with Canada Life, want to help you get that information quickly and easily.

## Statements

Semi-annually, you'll receive a statement from Canada Life showing the activity of your account.

This statement includes information that can help you make informed decisions for retirement. Your statement will include Smart messages, customized information that speaks directly to you and is based on the dynamics of your account.

## **My Canada Life at Work™ – [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com)**

Secure and easy to use, Canada Life designed their website, My Canada Life at Work. with your needs in mind. When you log on to My Canada Life at Work, you can:

- Find your account balance
- Determine your investment personality
- Learn about retirement planning
- Create your own personal retirement goal
- Print statements when you need them
- View and change the investment direction of future contributions and maturing investments
- Transfer between investment options
- Designate and/or change a plan beneficiary

My Canada Life at Work is also the place to find:

- Information on the investment options in the plan
- Rates of return on your investment options

Once you become a member, and you have provided your email address, Canada Life will send you an invitation by email to register for My Canada Life at Work. When you register, you'll be able to create an Access ID and password of your choice, which you can use to access your information online.

## Canada Life — 1-800-724-3402

For information about your account, you can call Canada Life at 1-800-724-3402 to speak with a bilingual client service representative. Client service representatives are available weekdays between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., ET. Call Canada Life to:

- Find your account balance
- Transfer between investment options
- Change the investment direction of future contributions
- Obtain current interest rates and net unit values
- Review one-year gross rates of return

## Eligibility

### Full-time employees

You may join the plan on the first day of any month if you've completed three months of continuous employment with your employer. However, you may join the plan as long as you have:

- completed at least 700 hours of employment with your employer or
- earned at least 35 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings

in the year prior to your joining the plan.

### Part-time employees

You may join the plan on the first day of any month as an employee of your employer, as long as you have:

- completed at least 700 hours of employment with your employer or
- earned at least 35 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings

in the year prior to your joining the plan.

### Maximum pensionable earnings

Determine this year's maximum pensionable earnings by visiting Retraite Québec's website ([rrq.gouv.qc.ca](http://rrq.gouv.qc.ca)) and the Government of Canada's website ([canada.ca](http://canada.ca)) and go to Taxes > Savings and pension plans > Savings and pension plan administration > Annual limits or by contacting your local taxation office.

## How to join the plan

Joining the plan is easy. We'll provide you with an enrolment package and a guide from Canada Life that explains how to enrol as a member of the plan. It has information to help you plan for your retirement.

## Contributions

Contributing to your plan is easy. Your required contributions and any voluntary contributions will be deducted from your pay automatically.

## What you contribute

You're required to contribute five per cent of your earnings (your basic salary including clergy residence allowance and excluding overtime, bonuses, expense allowances, grants, premiums or other special payments).

## Your voluntary contributions

Do you want to increase the amount of your retirement account? Consider making voluntary contributions.

You can make voluntary contributions as long as the total contributions to your plan don't exceed the limits specified under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). Let us know if you'd like more information about these limits.

If you want to make a voluntary contribution, contact your plan administrator or call Canada Life for more information.

Are you unsure if you need to make voluntary contributions to achieve your retirement goals? Review Your planning guide which can be found in the enrolment material you received or by logging on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com).

## What your employer contributes

Your employer will match your required contributions.

### Required contributions

Required contributions are contributions which you must make to the plan. These contributions are subject to the locking-in provisions of the applicable pension legislation. For more information about locking-in, please read the What happens if section of this booklet.

## Transfers into the plan

You can transfer funds from another registered pension plan, a voluntary retirement savings plan or equivalent plan, a retirement savings plan or a deferred profit sharing plan into this plan. Any funds that you transfer to this plan can be withdrawn when you cease active membership.

If these transferred funds are locked-in (cannot be received as a cash payment), they'll continue to be locked-in and will be administered according to the applicable legislation.

## Tax deductions

Since your plan is registered with the CRA, you can deduct required contributions and any voluntary contributions from your taxable income, up to the limits specified in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

## Investment Options

This plan offers different types of investment options. Contributions may be invested in one or a combination of the following:

- A daily interest account
- A guaranteed investment
- A variable fund investment

### Daily interest account

Contributions are invested in a guaranteed account where daily interest fluctuates on a regular basis. Contributions are credited with interest.

### Guaranteed investment

Contributions are invested in a guaranteed investment where the interest rate is guaranteed. Contributions are credited with interest.

### Variable fund investment

Contributions are invested in a variable fund investment where the rate of return isn't guaranteed. Contributions are credited with investment gains or losses.

Your options are listed in your Investment menu which can be found in the material provided by us, which includes the fund facts page for each of the investment options..

We or Canada Life may add or remove investment options at any time. Some investments are more suitable as a long-term investment and Canada Life's ability to quickly respond to your requests can be limited. As a result, there may be times where it is necessary to delay, suspend or restrict contributions, withdrawals or transfers for an investment option. You'll be notified if any of these events occurs.

You'll receive information about the investment returns in the statement mailed to you. You can also access descriptions of the investment options and investment return information by logging on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com) (Manage portfolio > Investments).

You decide where contributions to the plan are invested by selecting from the investment options available under the plan. You can change your investment options by logging on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com) (Manage portfolio > Change your portfolio), calling Canada Life or completing the *Member investment instructions* form, which we can provide to you.

Contributions invested in a guaranteed investment will mature at the end of the month coinciding with, or following, the end of the investment term. For example, if contributions are invested into a one-year guaranteed investment on Jan. 15 of this year, it will mature on Jan. 31 of next year.



At the end of your guaranteed investment's term, it will be reinvested into another guaranteed investment for the same term. If you don't want it to be reinvested, you must inform Canada Life before the end of the term.

If contributions are invested in a guaranteed investment, the interest rate is guaranteed and compounded daily. However, if you withdraw money before the end of the term, a calculation may be done to determine the amount you'll receive and early withdrawal fees may be charged. See the member schedule of fees for more information.

If contributions are invested in a variable investment, neither the principal nor any investment gain is guaranteed.

If you'd like more information, call Canada Life or log on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com). Additional information can be found in the enrolment material you received.

## Frequent trading

Frequent trading is an investment strategy that's detrimental to other members invested in the same variable investment options. Canada Life monitors this activity. If it's determined that excessive trading is occurring, a frequent trading fee may be charged (currently up to two per cent of the amount exchanged) or a transfer may not be allowed in accordance with administrative rules.

## Automatic investment rebalancing

Keep your investments in line with your objectives and investment personality profile so you spend less time thinking about your investments with the Automatic investment rebalancing service. This service automatically rebalances your asset mix\* based on the investment instructions you've provided for future contributions.

To sign up for the Automatic investment rebalancing service, log on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com), call Canada Life or contact your plan administrator.

\*Asset mix is the distribution of your investment dollars among asset classes (e.g., equity funds versus fixed income funds).

## Default investment option

As a member of the plan, you're responsible for selecting the investment options for the contributions, reviewing them regularly and making changes you feel are needed.

If you don't make a decision, we've chosen the Fidelity ClearPath Index Plus Funds as the default investment option. Due to the unique nature of the Target Date funds, your age and a retirement age of 65 is used to determine the appropriate Target Date fund to be applied as the default investment option. If you have not provided your birthdate, Canada Life will use a default date of birth of January 1, 1980 for determining the Target Date fund - please provide Canada Life with your birthdate as soon as possible.

This may be suitable for medium- or long-term investing, but it may not be the right choice for you. The investment return on this fund isn't guaranteed, and with all similar investments, does involve some risk which may not suit your personal risk tolerance and investment goals.

Despite selecting this default fund, we don't recommend any particular investment option, nor do we suggest this default option is the right investment option for every plan member.

Canada Life provides a wide range of tools and information to help you make investment decisions. To find out what type of investments are best for you, complete the *Investment personality questionnaire* in the enrolment material you received or by logging on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com).

You'll receive statements semi-annually. These will be an ongoing source of information on your account and they'll also show which investment option(s) your contributions are invested into. You can find information and make changes at any time by logging on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com) or by calling Canada Life.

## Your retirement

Welcome to Your retirement. This section provides you with information about your options when you prepare to retire.

### When you can retire under the plan

Retirement in this booklet refers to converting your retirement savings into retirement income.

Your normal retirement date is the first day of the month that follows your 65th birthday. However, you can retire early, up to 10 years prior to your normal retirement date. You can also postpone your retirement until Dec. 31 in the calendar year you turn age 71 or any other time or date required by applicable legislation.

If you:

- Reduced your working time based upon an agreement with your employer
- Are within 10 years of your normal retirement age or
- Attained or exceeded your normal retirement age

You may request to withdraw funds from your account to compensate for your reduced earnings for each year covered by the agreement, as permitted by the applicable legislation. Contact your plan administrator for more details.

### The amount you'll receive at retirement

At retirement you'll be entitled to the value of your contributions and the value of the contributions we made on your behalf. These contributions are locked-in.

You can use the value of your voluntary contributions to increase the amount of your retirement income or you may receive it as a cash payment.

### Your retirement income options at a glance

As you approach retirement, you have a number of retirement income options to consider. Remember, it's your choice – and not one that you should take lightly. What you do with your retirement savings and when you do it can have a dramatic impact on your financial situation.

While you can postpone your retirement, you must transfer your retirement savings from the plan into a retirement income option by Dec. 31 of the calendar year in which you turn 71 or any other time or date required by applicable legislation.

#### Locked-in funds

Locked-in funds, unlike money you contribute to your RRSP, must be used to fund a retirement income.

### Receiving a retirement income

**If you have a spouse when you're ready to receive retirement income**, you must use the funds in your account to purchase a joint life and last survivor annuity. This annuity will provide you with monthly payments for your lifetime and after your death, your spouse will receive monthly payments for their lifetime. The payments to your spouse will be at least 60 per cent of the monthly payments that you received.

As an option, if you have a spouse, you may also elect to receive an annuity that will provide you with a monthly pension payable for your lifetime with payments guaranteed for 120 months. If your spouse does not waive the above Joint & Survivor Annuity, in the event of your death before the completion of the 10 year guaranteed period, your spouse will receive 60 per cent of your annuity for life, and your beneficiary will receive 40 per cent of the annuity payments for the remainder of the guaranteed period. You may designate your spouse or another person as the beneficiary of this 10 year guarantee.

If you have a spouse and you choose a different form of retirement income, a spousal waiver form must be completed as required under the applicable legislation. If you have questions about the spousal waiver form, please call Canada Life.

**If you don't have a spouse when you're ready to receive retirement income**, you'll receive the standard form of pension for your plan, which is an annuity that will provide you with a monthly pension payable for your lifetime with payments guaranteed for 120 months, unless you choose an alternative retirement income option.

**Your spouse is the individual who:**

- Is married to you or in a civil union with you
- Isn't married to you or in a civil union with you but has been living in a conjugal relationship with you, whether the individual is of the opposite or same sex :
  - Continuously for a period of not less than three years or
  - For a period of not less than one year if:
    - At least one child is born or to be born of your union;
    - You have jointly adopted at least one child while living together in a conjugal relationship or
    - One of you has adopted at least one child of the other, while living together in a conjugal relationship

A more detailed definition can be found in the Glossary of terms, at the end of this booklet.

## Annuities

An annuity is a retirement income option where, in exchange for a sum of money, you're provided with a guaranteed income that's unaffected by market conditions for as long as you live. Generally, when an annuity contract is purchased, no changes can be made during the purchaser's lifetime.

These payments are made up of interest and principal and may be determined by:

- The type of annuity you purchase
- Your age, and in some cases, your spouse's age
- The interest rates in effect when you purchase your annuity
- The length of time your annuity payments are guaranteed
- The amount of money you used to purchase your annuity

## TYPES OF ANNUITIES

The chart below includes the types of annuities that are available to you and details to help you determine which annuity would be a good choice for you.

Type of annuity	How it works
Life annuity	This annuity provides you with an income for as long as you live. Convenient and practical, a life annuity ensures you'll never outlive your money.
Life annuity with guarantee	With this annuity, you receive a specified income for life and if you die before the guaranteed period ends, payments will continue to your beneficiary until the end of the guaranteed period.
Joint and last survivor annuity	This annuity is payable while either you or your spouse is living. Generally, after the annuitant (the person who purchased the annuity) dies, the survivor continues receiving the same or a reduced income.

Before purchasing an annuity, it's important to understand that you're making an irreversible commitment. If you'd like more information about annuities, call Canada Life.

### Life income fund (LIF)

Like an annuity, a LIF can provide you with a regular retirement income. However, unlike an annuity, you make all the investment decisions concerning your LIF. As a result, your LIF is subject to market fluctuations and the investment choices you make can affect the amount of your retirement income.

Although a LIF offers more flexibility than an annuity, there are annual minimum and maximum limits to the amount of money you can receive from your LIF. Within these limits you can choose your retirement income.

### Not ready to select a retirement income option?

#### Locked-in retirement account (LIRA)

If you're ready to retire but aren't ready to start receiving an income, a LIRA is a locked-in RRSP which contains locked-in funds from a pension plan and the money in the LIRA is allowed to grow on a tax-deferred basis.

You decide when to convert your LIRA into a retirement income option such as an annuity or LIF. However, this must be done no later than Dec. 31 of the year in which you reach age 71 or any other time or date required by applicable legislation.

The decision to convert your LIRA will depend on factors such as your:

- Age
- Need for regular retirement income or for payment flexibility
- Concern about inflation
- Ability and interest in managing your own investments

## What happens if...

Welcome to What happens if. This section provides information on events or milestones that you may encounter as you save for your retirement, including temporary absences from work and other major life events.

## Additional information

In addition to this booklet, you'll receive an information package and forms outlining all of your options when any of the following events take place:

- Retirement
- Your employment or active membership in the plan terminates
- Termination of the plan

### Active membership

Active membership refers to the period during which you contribute to the plan and/or during which your employer contributes to the plan on your behalf.

Your active membership will cease when you no longer meet the requirements for membership, your employment terminates, you retire or die.

If you no longer meet the requirements for membership, you'll be deemed to have terminated employment for purposes of the plan.

## ... you're temporarily absent from work?

### What happens to contributions to the plan

If you're temporarily absent from work due to disability, leave of absence or temporary layoff, all contributions will stop until you return to work.

However, if you take a maternity/parental leave of absence or are absent from work as a result of an accident or sickness where you meet the provisions of the *Quebec Act Respecting Labour Standards*, or are absent due to a work-related injury for which you receive worker's compensation benefits, you may be allowed to continue to make contributions to your account while you're absent from work. If you continue to make contributions, we'll continue to make contributions as well for the period of time determined by the applicable legislation.

There may be other occasions when you'll be temporarily absent from work and you'll be permitted to continue to make contributions. If you continue to contribute, we'll continue to contribute for the period of time determined by the applicable legislation. Contact your plan administrator for additional information.

**If you're a connected person**, as defined by the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), contributions may not continue during a maternity/parental leave of absence. If you're unsure if you're a connected person, please refer to the glossary of this booklet for a definition.

## **Vesting and locked-in quick reference**

In this section, you'll read the terms "vesting" or "vested", and "locking-in" or "locked-in". These terms describe when and how you're entitled to the contributions made to your plan account.

**Vesting** - Vesting refers to the point when you're entitled to the value of the contributions that we made on your behalf. Vesting is determined by legislation. Remember, you're always entitled to your own contributions and to the contributions made on your behalf by your employer, if your employment terminates. Vested contributions are available as a cash payment unless they are locked-in.

**Locked-in** – The term locked-in refers to the point when you're entitled to a deferred pension under the plan. Unlike money you contribute to your RRSP, locked-in funds must be used to provide a retirement income and aren't available in cash.

Voluntary contributions are never locked-in.

## **The value of contributions**

In this section, the term "value of your contributions" refers to your required contributions, plus interest and any gains or losses, and includes any fees and/or adjustments as indicated in your member schedule of fees.

The term "value of contributions we made on your behalf", refers to the contributions made to your account by us plus interest and any gains or losses, and includes fees and/or adjustments as indicated in your member schedule of fees.

## **... your employment terminates?**

### **When are contributions vested and/or locked-in?**

The value of the contributions we made on your behalf is immediately vested and locked-in.

The value of your contributions is immediately locked-in.

## **Transfer options**

Instead of a deferred pension, you can transfer the locked-in value of your account. As permitted by applicable legislation, you can transfer it to another registered pension plan, the locked-in account of a voluntary retirement savings plan or equivalent plan provided you join that plan as part of your employment, an insurance company to purchase a life annuity or a prescribed retirement savings arrangement, such as:

- A LIRA
- A LIF
- Any retirement arrangement stated in the Quebec *Supplemental Pension Plans Act* and registered under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada)

You can use the value of your voluntary contributions to increase the amount of your retirement income or you may receive it as a cash payment or transfer it to the not locked-in account of a voluntary retirement savings plan, a registered retirement savings plan or registered retirement income fund.

If your employment terminates, contact your plan administrator for more information on your options.

Usually, any cash payment you receive from the plan (or any cash withdrawal you make from the plan) is taxable income. Any amount you withdraw from the plan will be taxed in the year you received it and is subject to withholding tax (an amount deducted and remitted to the CRA on your behalf) when you make the withdrawal.

### **Making an election when your employment terminates**

If your employment terminates, your plan administrator will provide you with a statement outlining your options in accordance with the applicable legislation.

You have the following time periods to advise your plan administrator of your choice:

- Within 90 days after the date you receive your termination of employment statement
- Subsequently, every five years from the date your employment terminates, for a period of 90 days from the date of expiry of every fifth year
- At any time if you're within 10 years of normal retirement age or have attained or exceeded that age
- At any other time as permitted by your plan administrator.

Your plan administrator can provide direction on where to obtain further details on the options available if your employment terminates.

## **... you want to withdraw contributions while you're still employed?**

You can withdraw your voluntary contributions at any time. However, unless a withdrawal is required by law, your required contributions and the contributions made on your behalf by us must remain in the plan until your employment terminates, you die, retire or the plan terminates.

If you would like to withdraw online, log on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com) (Manage portfolio > Change your portfolio > Cash withdrawal). If you prefer, you may call Canada Life or complete the *Request for withdrawal* form to make the withdrawal.

Any withdrawn contributions may be subject to adjustments and fees. More information on these fees can be found in your member schedule of fees.

Usually, any cash payment you receive from the plan (or any cash withdrawal you make from your plan) is taxable income. Any amount you withdraw from your account will be taxed in the year you received it and is subject to withholding tax (an amount deducted and remitted to the CRA on your behalf) when you make the withdrawal.

## **... you want to unlock pension benefits?**

Subject to applicable legislation, you may be able to receive your locked-in benefit in whole or in part as a lump sum, under the following circumstances.

### **Small annuity**

If your employment terminates or you retire, your benefit may be received as a cash payment as long as its value is less than 20 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings or an amount determined by the applicable legislation, for the calendar year that your employment terminates or you retire.

Instead of receiving a cash payment, the benefit may be transferred to a registered retirement savings plan or to the not locked-in account of a voluntary retirement savings plan.

In addition, when the above conditions are met, if you don't make a choice within 30 days of receiving a notice from your plan administrator outlining the administrator's intention to pay the benefit, your plan administrator can proceed with your benefit payment in the form of a cash payment.

### **Non-resident**

If your continuous employment terminates and you've been declared a non-resident of Canada for purposes of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) for at least two years, your benefit may be paid in cash.

### **Temporary benefit**

If you're age 55 but are less than 65 years old and your employment terminates or you've retired, you may, before retirement annuity payments begin, choose once a year, to receive a temporary benefit from the plan in the form of a cash payment. You can exercise this option by completing the form prescribed by the applicable legislation and filing it with your plan administrator. Instead of a cash payment, you may transfer the benefit to a registered retirement savings plan or to the not locked-in account of a voluntary retirement savings plan.

The amount of the lump sum payment may not exceed 40 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings in the year of your request, reduced by the annual amount of any other temporary benefit you've received or will receive during the year under a pension plan, from the locked-in account of a voluntary retirement savings plan or an equivalent plan offering temporary variable payments, an annuity contract or a LIF.

### **Payment on or after age 65**

If you're age 65 and the total value of your locked-in entitlements under this plan and any other defined contribution plan, voluntary retirement savings plan or prescribed retirement savings arrangement is less than the amount prescribed by the Quebec *Supplemental Pension Plans Act*, in the year your employment terminates or you retire, you may receive the benefit in the form of a cash payment. You can only do this if the form prescribed by the Quebec *Supplemental Pension Plans Act*, is completed and filed with your plan administrator. Instead of receiving a cash payment, you may transfer the benefit to a registered retirement savings plan or into the not locked-in account of a voluntary retirement savings plan.

Your plan administrator can provide direction on where to obtain further details on the options available to you.

### **... you face a shortened life expectancy?**

If a medical doctor licensed to practice in a province or the place where you reside certifies that your life expectancy is likely to be shortened considerably due to a disability or otherwise as prescribed under the applicable legislation, you may be eligible to receive your benefit in the form of a cash payment, subject to the rights of your spouse.

Contact your plan administrator if you would like more information about your options.

### **... you want to use your benefits as collateral?**

You aren't allowed to use your pension benefits as collateral for a loan.

### **... you go through a marriage breakdown or relationship breakdown?**

If you go through a marriage breakdown, dissolution of civil union or a relationship breakdown, your benefit under the plan may be affected. Consult a lawyer about the laws concerning this situation and the options available.

### **... you die before retirement?**

Your plan beneficiary is entitled to a benefit, as indicated below, as a cash payment and will receive an information package outlining their options.

#### **Your plan beneficiary**

Your plan beneficiary is your spouse. If you don't have a spouse or your spouse has waived entitlement to the death benefit, your plan beneficiary is your designated beneficiary or your succession.

If your plan beneficiary is your spouse, he/she may waive entitlement to the death benefit as permitted under the applicable legislation. Your plan administrator can provide further details.

#### **Designating a beneficiary**

Subject to the rights of your spouse, you may designate one or more beneficiaries to receive all or part of the amount payable when you die.

Your beneficiary designation under the plan continues to apply if you were a member of the plan at the time of plan transfer until you change or revoke the designation. It's important that you review your existing designation to ensure it reflects your current intentions.



To designate a new beneficiary or to confirm your existing beneficiary, complete a *Designation of revocable beneficiary/trustee appointment* form. You can get a copy of this form by calling Canada Life, or contacting your plan administrator logging on to [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com) (Manage portfolio > Change your portfolio > Printable forms). You can also designate or change your beneficiary directly on [mycanadalifeatwork.com](http://mycanadalifeatwork.com). Click on your initials in the top right of the screen and select Your Profile > Beneficiaries and add or change your beneficiary.

Designating a beneficiary will help ensure that your benefits are paid as you wish, if you die before you start receiving retirement income.

If you designate a beneficiary (or if your beneficiary is your spouse, as explained under the *Your plan beneficiary* section above), benefits are paid directly to your beneficiary which avoids the delays associated with processing the succession.

Without a beneficiary, any benefits that aren't payable to a spouse, will be paid to your succession.

If your plan beneficiary is a minor, or a person who otherwise lacks legal capacity, you may also wish to seek legal advice.

## **Benefits payable to your plan beneficiary**

The value of the contributions that we made on your behalf will become vested.

Your plan beneficiary is entitled to the value of these vested contributions along with the value of your required contributions and any voluntary contributions.

For Quebec only, if a death benefit is payable, it will be paid within 30 days after receipt of all supporting documents satisfactory by Canada Life, unless a shorter period has been provided for under the policy.

## **If your spouse is your plan beneficiary**

As permitted by applicable legislation, if your plan beneficiary is your spouse, instead of a cash payment the benefit may be:

- Transferred to a RRSP
- Transferred to a RRIF
- Used to purchase a life annuity
- Transferred to another RPP

As permitted by applicable legislation, if your plan beneficiary qualifies as your spouse or common-law partner under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) but doesn't qualify as your spouse under the plan, the above options are still available to your plan beneficiary.

Notwithstanding the above, if you die during a period of postponed retirement and your plan beneficiary is your spouse, he/she does not have the option of receiving a cash payment. Your spouse must receive the benefit in the form of an annuity.

If your spouse dies after you, but before receiving the amount payable, the amount payable will go to your spouse's succession.

If your plan beneficiary is your spouse, he/she may waive entitlement to the death benefit as permitted under the applicable legislation. Your plan administrator can provide further details.

## **... the plan terminates?**

We expect to continue the plan indefinitely; however, we reserve the right to amend or terminate the plan at any time.

If the plan terminates, you'll be entitled to the value of your contributions and the contributions made on your behalf by us in the form of a retirement income, as permitted by applicable legislation. If any assets remain in the plan after payment of all liabilities under the plan, such assets will be refunded to your employer as permitted by the applicable legislation. Your employer may equitably divide all or a portion of such assets between members affected by the termination

## **Additional information & resources**

### **Your rights and responsibilities**

It's your responsibility to inform yourself about the plan and your rights under it, using tools provided both by us and by Canada Life. You also have the right to request a paper statement of your account, a copy of your application for membership and any other documentation to which you are entitled to receive under the applicable legislation. Some of these rights are also available to your plan beneficiary or another claimant. You're responsible for the investment decisions you make, including any investment decisions you allow others to make for you, regardless of any advice or recommendation that you may have been given by us, the plan administrator or any of our service providers. The decisions you make will impact the amount of money accumulated for your retirement. To help you make those important decisions, you should consider obtaining investment advice from qualified individuals in addition to the information you may obtain from your employer. You are responsible to keep your employer informed of changes such as a change of address or a change in marital status.

Once a year, you, a person entitled to a benefit under the plan or an authorized agent may examine and receive copies of the plan documents as permitted under the applicable legislation.

### **Assuris coverage**

Canada Life is a member of Assuris. Assuris is the not for profit organization that protects Canadian policyholders if their life insurance company fails.

Details about Assuris' protection are available at [assuris.ca](http://assuris.ca) or by calling the Assuris Information Centre at 1-866-878-1225.

## **Legal actions**

Every action or proceeding against an insurer for the recovery of insurance money payable under the contract is absolutely barred unless commenced within the time set out in the *Insurance Act* (for actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Alberta and British Columbia), *The Insurance Act* (for actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Manitoba), the *Limitations Act, 2002* (for actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Ontario), or other applicable legislation. For those actions or proceedings governed by the laws of Quebec, the prescriptive period is set out in the *Quebec Civil Code*.

## **Plan administrator**

The plan is administered by the Church.

## **Administration and investment expenses**

Administration expenses, investment expenses and other reasonable expenses related to the plan and pension fund will be payable by you, unless we pay for all or part of these expenses. For detailed information on the fees payable by you, please refer to the member schedule of fees.

## **Process to make a complaint**

If you have a concern regarding one of Canada Life's financial products or services, please let them know. You can call 1-800-724-3402 or, outside Canada and the United States, 519-432-5281.

You can also contact Canada Life on their website [canadalife.com](http://canadalife.com) under Contact us > Customer satisfaction.

## Contact information

When you want to...	<b>My Canada Life at Work</b> <a href="http://mycanadalifeatwork.com">mycanadalifeatwork.com</a>	<b>Canada Life*</b> 1-800-724-3402	<b>Your plan administrator</b>	<b>Other sources of Information or related forms</b>
<b>Plan for your retirement</b>	✓			
<b>Enrol in the plan</b>			✓	
<b>Transfer between funds/change where funds are invested</b>	✓	✓	✓	• <i>Member Investment Instructions</i> form
<b>Review your account balance</b>	✓	✓		
<b>Create a statement</b>	✓			
<b>Receive investment education and information</b>	✓	✓		
<b>Request a withdrawal</b>	✓	✓	✓	• <i>Request for Withdrawal</i> form • Request an online withdrawal
<b>Change your address</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Find a form to designate or change your beneficiary</b>	✓		✓	• <i>Designation of revocable beneficiary/trustee appointment</i> form
<b>Change the amount of your contributions</b>			✓	
<b>Learn more about other retirement planning topics</b>	✓	✓		

\*To speak with a client service representative, call Canada Life Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET.

# Protecting your personal information

Our service provider, Canada Life, recognizes and respects every individual's right to privacy. Canada Life wants to ensure that you understand your rights as a plan member and encourages you to read and understand the message below which explains how your personal information will be used.

## A message concerning privacy from Canada Life

We recognize and respect the importance of privacy.

### Your personal information:

- We establish a confidential file that contains your personal information like your name and contact and financial information.
- Your information is kept in our offices or the offices of an organization authorized by us.
- You may exercise your rights to view and correct information in the file by sending a written request to us.

### Who has access to your information:

- We limit access to personal information in your file to our staff or persons authorized by us who require it to perform their duties, and to other persons to whom you have granted access.
- In order to assist in fulfilling the purposes identified below, we may use service providers located within or outside Canada.
- Your personal information may also be subject to disclosure to government authorities or others authorized under applicable law within or outside Canada.

### What your information is used for:

- Personal information that we collect *will* be used for the purposes of administering and servicing the products you have with us, and for our internal data management and analytics purposes.
- This may include investigating claims, paying benefits, and creating and maintaining records concerning our relationship.

Your consent will be valid until we receive written notice that you have withdrawn it, subject to legal and contractual restrictions. For example, if you withdraw your consent, we may not be able to allow you to remain in the plan.

From information provided to you on your application form and/or this member booklet, you understand the reasons your personal information is required, and the purposes for which it will be used, and your consent is given explicitly on a member application form or implicitly by your participation.

### If you want to know more:

For a copy of our Privacy Guidelines, or if you have questions about our personal information policies and practices (including with respect to service providers), write to our Chief Compliance Officer or refer to [canadalife.com](http://canadalife.com).

## Glossary of Terms

### Applicable legislation

Applicable legislation refers to:

- The Quebec Supplemental Pension Plans Act
- The *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and regulations
- Any other legislation governing the administration of the plan

### **Church**

Church means the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches. Where any reference in the Plan is made to any action to be taken, consent, approval or opinion to be given, discretion or decision to be exercised by the Church, “Church” means the Canadian Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches acting through its Executive Board or any person or persons authorized by its Executive Board to so act.

### **Connected Person**

You’re considered a connected person if any of the following are applicable to you:

- You own – directly or indirectly – 10 per cent or more of any class of capital stock issued by your employer or any other corporation related to your employer
- You don’t deal at arm’s length, as defined in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), with your employer
- You’re a specified shareholder of your employer according to the *Income Tax Act* (Canada)

### **Continuous**

Continuous, in reference to employment with your employer includes periods of temporary suspension of employment and periods of layoff from employment. Contact your plan administrator for additional information.

### **Earnings**

Earnings means your basic salary including clergy residence allowance and excluding overtime, bonuses, expense allowances, grants, premiums or other special payments. If contributions to your plan continue to be made to the plan while you are temporarily absent from work, your earnings will include a prescribed amount of compensation in accordance with the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

### **Life income fund (LIF)**

A LIF is a retirement income fund that meets the requirements of the applicable legislation. A LIF is an alternative to a life annuity and provides a flexible income.

### **Locked-in**

The term locked-in refers to the point when you’re entitled to a deferred pension under the plan. When the value of contributions is locked-in, you must use them to provide retirement income and the value of locked-in contributions can’t be withdrawn as cash. Any voluntary contributions you make are never considered locked-in.

### **Locked-in retirement account (LIRA)**

A LIRA is a retirement savings account consisting of locked-in funds transferred from a registered plan. A LIRA may only be used to provide an annuity or life income fund as permitted by the applicable legislation.

### **Plan beneficiary**

Your plan beneficiary is your spouse. If you don’t have a spouse or your spouse has waived entitlement to the death benefit, your plan beneficiary is your designated beneficiary or your successors.

### **Prescribed retirement savings arrangement**

A prescribed retirement savings arrangement can be:

- A locked-in retirement account
- A life income fund

or any other retirement arrangement stated in, and registered under, the applicable legislation.

## **Spouse**

A spouse refers to the individual, who, at the relevant time:

- Is married to you or in a civil union with you and isn't living separate and apart from you
- Isn't married to you or in a civil union with you but has been living with you in a conjugal relationship, whether the individual is of the opposite or same sex:
- Continuously for a period of not less than three years or
- For a period of not less than one year if:
  - At least one child is born or to be born of your union
  - You have jointly adopted at least one child while living together in a conjugal relationship **or**
  - One of you had adopted at least one child of the other, while living together in a conjugal relationship

Spousal status is established as of the day payment of your retirement or disability pension, or a pension that replaces it or a bridging benefit begins or as of the day preceding your death, as of the first of such events. In the event of your death without having received payment of such a pension or benefit, spousal status is established as of the day preceding your death.

For the purposes of the second sub-paragraph above, the birth or adoption of a child prior to the period of conjugal relationship existing on the day as of which spousal status is established may qualify a person as your spouse.

Your spouse's right to benefits under the plan is terminated by separation from bed and board, divorce, annulment of marriage, dissolution or annulment of civil union or cessation of conjugal relationship.

Regardless of the first sub-paragraph above, a person who is legally separated from bed and board on the day as of which spousal status is established isn't entitled to any benefit under the plan unless the person is your successor or was named in a written notice sent by you to your plan administrator instructing to pay the pension to your spouse regardless of separation from bed and board.

Such a notice can also be sent when the rights of your spouse are terminated by a divorce, an annulment of marriage, a dissolution or annulment of civil union or, in the case of a spouse under the second sub-paragraph above, by a cessation of conjugal relationship.

## **Year's maximum pensionable earnings (YMPE)**

The YMPE is the maximum amount of earnings on which a member contributes to the Canada Pension Plan/Quebec Pension Plan. YMPE is determined in the late fall and is effective Jan. 1 of each year.

Determine the current YMPE by visiting Retraite Québec website [rrq.gouv.gc.ca](http://rrq.gouv.gc.ca) and the Government of Canada's website ([canada.ca](http://canada.ca)) and go to Taxes > Savings and pension plans > Savings and pension plan administration > Annual limits or by contacting your local taxation office.

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