

CSSB *Connection*

The Civil Service Superannuation Fund

Employee Newsletter • Volume 21 - 2021

In This Issue...

Front Page

- ▶ CSSB Board Member Change
- ▶ Pension Benefit Act Changes

Page 2

- ▶ Forms Required to Start A Pension
- ▶ COVID Update - CSSB Office Remains Closed to the Public
- ▶ Keep your Contact Information Up to Date with The CSSB

CSSB Board Member Change

In January 2021, Mr. Andrew Clarke resigned from his employer representative position with the Board. A search for a replacement is currently in process. The Board would like to thank Mr. Clarke for his efforts and contribution.

Pension Benefit Act Changes

All pension plans in Manitoba, including the Civil Service Superannuation Fund, must comply with the provisions of the Manitoba Pension Benefits Act (PBA) and its Regulations. The PBA and Regulations were amended effective October 1, 2021. Most of the changes to the PBA and Regulations have no effect on the Civil Service Superannuation Fund.

A number of the amendments provide individuals with more options to unlock their pension accounts, however these changes either apply specifically to Locked-in Retirement Accounts or only apply if permitted under the terms of the pension plan. None of these unlocking options apply to the Civil Service Superannuation Fund.

The most significant change that may affect plan members relates to the division of a member's pension due to a relationship breakdown (ie, a marriage or eligible common-law relationship). The change applies to relationship breakdowns where the separation date is on or after October 1, 2021.

Prior to the PBA amendment, three options existed for dividing a member's pension:

- ▶ The pension accrued during the relationship could be split 50/50, or
- ▶ If both parties had a pension, the net difference between the two pensions could be split 50/50, or
- ▶ The parties could waive division of the pension.

These options continue to apply where the separation date is prior to October 1, 2021.

Where the separation date is on or after October 1, 2021, the parties will choose what percentage of the pension accrued during the relationship is to be assigned to the former spouse or common-law partner. This percentage must be between 0% to 50%, and must be specified in an agreement between the parties or by an order of the court made under the Family Property Act.

Forms Required to Start a Pension

It is important to be aware that your pension will not start automatically when you are eligible.

In addition to notifying their employer, retiring employees must make application to the CSSB office if they wish to commence their pension. If retirement forms are not completed and returned to our office before an employee's retirement date, an immediate pension may no longer be available, and certain defaults could apply.

We will only accept forms that were provided with a pension estimate within six months prior to an employee's retirement date. The sooner forms are submitted to our office, the more likely there will be no delay in paying the pension and the more opportunity there will be to address any problems with the forms.

Employees are encouraged to complete their retirement forms online. This feature gives employees the option of printing their completed forms for signature and submission to the CSSB office, or having us print and mail the completed forms to the member for signature and submission. Automatic edits in the online process help reduce potential problems and errors.

Regardless of whether forms are being completed in paper or online, employees are welcome to contact the CSSB office for assistance or with any questions they may have.

COVID Update – CSSB Office Remains Closed to the Public

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Civil Service Superannuation Board office will remain closed to the public until further notice. All in-person meetings and seminars will be cancelled until at least the end of 2021. We'll be happy to continue to assist you by telephone or email.

You can also obtain pension and termination estimates or view an online pre-retirement seminar by logging in to your CSSB Online Services account.

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date with the CSSB

To ensure that you continue to receive relevant information from the CSSB, please remember to keep your Online Services contact information current. This includes keeping your Primary email address and home mailing address up to date using the Online Services Edit my Profile feature.

If your Primary email address for Online Services is your work email, you may prefer to change it to your home email address. This will ensure you continue to receive relevant emails from the CSSB if you leave your employment or will be away from the office for an extended period.

Questions Or Comments?

If you have any question or concerns, please contact:

The Civil Service Superannuation Board
1200-444 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 3T1

Telephone: 1-204-946-3200
Canada Toll-Free: 1-800-432-5134
E-mail: askus@cssb.mb.ca
Website: www.cssb.mb.ca