

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

The Savings Account works much like a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) – contributions are deposited into the member's account and the accumulated savings, plus interest, provide future retirement income.

The Savings Account is available to anyone who is retired or is eligible to retire.

Here is how the Savings Account works:

When can I use the Savings Account?

- To use the Savings Account you must be receiving a retirement pension from the Plan and then return to covered employment.

How do I accumulate retirement savings?

- No action is required by you to start the Savings Account once you have applied to start your pension. The pension contributions made on your behalf by your employer are automatically deposited into a retirement Savings Account in your name.
- The savings in your account are credited with interest based on the Plan's overall investment returns.

How can I use my retirement savings?

- The money in your Savings Account is intended to provide you with additional retirement income in the future.
- You may transfer your Savings Account balance to a locked-in RRSP or LIRA. There is a \$150 fee for every transfer and you are limited to one transfer per calendar year. You are not required to transfer your account balance until the year you attain age 71. There is no fee if you wait and transfer your account balance in the year you attain age 71.

Are there any other restrictions?

- Since your Savings Account is funded by pension contributions from your employers, provincial pension legislation applies. This means there are some restrictions on how you can access the money.
- The restrictions vary by province but generally speaking, money transferred from your Savings Account is treated differently from a simple cash withdrawal and you will not be able to spend it all immediately.
- Transfers from the Savings Account are paid only in the third week of March, June, September and December. If you wish to transfer, contact the Administrator approximately 4 weeks prior to these transfer dates.

You may want to speak to your bank or financial advisor for additional information regarding payments or transfers from a locked-in RRSP. If the collective bargaining agreement you are working under has an option to add the pension contribution to your wage, this option is still available to you as long as you meet the requirements outlined in the agreement. If you chose to add your pension contribution to your wages in the past, and you would now like to direct those pension contributions to the Savings Account instead so you can earn additional retirement income for the future, you will need to contact your employer directly to make that change.

Please contact the Fund office if you have any questions.