

# PENSIONPoints

Member Newsletter | May 2017

## 'Completing Your Pension Options Package' Videos

**Be sure to check out our new web videos!** They will help you complete your pension options package. Our online assistant, Reggie the Registrar, will take you step-by-step through completing the forms in your package. It's like having an ATRF staff member right there with you as you complete your forms page by page and line by line. The video is the perfect audio-visual companion to your pension options package.

This video is the latest addition to the Teachers' Lounge, where members can find interactive tools to learn about their plan and help them make informed decisions about their pension. Also, have a look at:

- Steps to Retirement Video
- Pension Option Selection Tool
- Who Told you That?! Game



## Member Survey

*Thank You!*



ATRF would like to thank all members who took the time to complete the plan member survey in March. The survey focused on how satisfied plan members are with ATRF's customer service, communications, and other tools and services.

*...cont'd on page 2*

## Current Contribution Rates

*will remain unchanged this September*

The Plans' funded status continued to improve in the last fiscal year as a result of good investment returns and additional contributions made to fund the deficits. Unfunded liabilities are coming down and funded ratios are continuing the slow, steady climb to fully funded status, as planned to be reached in 2027. While the results from the last fiscal year are encouraging, the Board remains ever mindful of the many challenges facing pension plans.

Contribution rates were reduced effective September 1, 2016. According to the Plan Actuary, the current contribution rates remain adequate to fund the Plans and will therefore remain unchanged as at September 1, 2017.

To see the contribution rate tables, go to page 2.

**To know more about the Plans' financials, read the 2016 Annual Report available on [ATRF.com](http://ATRF.com)**

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## Member Survey *(...cont'd from front page)*



The survey was sent to over 52,000 plan members, including active, retired and inactive members. We had amazing participation (30.6% response rate) and terrific input, suggestions and ideas that we can put into action.

ATRF conducts regular surveys of plan members to collect feedback to tell us how we're doing. The feedback we receive is used to help us identify areas where we can improve your experience as a plan member. The responses are being evaluated closely and we will provide key findings in the 2017 Annual Report.

If you have a comment or suggestion on ATRF services, you do not have to wait for a survey. We are always interested in feedback from members.

## Current Contribution Rates *will remain unchanged this September*

*(...cont'd from front page)*

Teachers' Pension Plan Contribution Rates	(% of salary)
<b>Teachers</b>	
Salary up to YMPE*	10.74
Salary above YMPE	15.34
Total Teacher Contribution	12.68
<b>Government</b>	<b>11.95</b>

Private School Teachers' Pension Plan Contribution Rates	(% of salary)
<b>Teachers</b>	
Salary up to YMPE*	9.09
Salary above YMPE	12.98
Total Teacher Contribution	10.87
<b>Employer</b>	<b>10.23</b>

\* The YMPE is the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings used by the Canada Pension Plan (\$55,300 in 2017)

## Fun Facts

# 40,000

An average of 40,000 pension estimates are created each year in MyPension.

Teachers who taught in Alberta don't always stay in the province when they retire. ATRF pensions are paid to retired members in **35 countries**.

# 35 countries

# \$14 billion

The Teachers' Pension Plans' assets are over **\$14 billion**; which is higher than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of approximately 58 countries.

## Canadian

ATRF has always invested in Canada. The first investments were three government bonds: a Canada Bond, an Alberta Bond, and a City of Calgary bond.

# Top 10!

ATRF is listed as **# 21 on the top 100** Canadian pension funds by asset size and it was **8th on the top 10** fastest growing pension plans in 2015.\*

\*Benefits Canada 2016 top 100 pension funds report.

## Who Does What?



## ATRF? ATA? ASEBP? ARTA?

### All about your pension plan

[atrf.com](http://atrf.com)



### All about resources for teachers

[teachers.ab.ca](http://teachers.ab.ca)



### All about group insurance benefits for teachers (health, dental, etc.)

[asebp.ab.ca](http://asebp.ab.ca)



### All about resources for retired teachers and group insurance benefits after age 65

[arta.net](http://arta.net)

## How to Increase Your Pension

### *By buying back service*

**Purchasing service increases your pensionable service, which increases your pension.**

You can purchase the following specific types of service:

- Substitute service after May 1, 1971
- Employer-approved leave (including personal and parental leave)
- Previously refunded service
- Disability leave prior to August 31, 1992
- Past private school service
- Reciprocal transfer shortage



***For more information see the Purchasing Service publication on our website. Use the purchase estimate calculator in MyPension to calculate the cost of purchasing service.***

## Pension Options

### *Seven to choose from*

When you retire, there will be up to seven different pension options for you to choose from. There are three **Joint Life** options and four **Single Life** options.

Did you know that, no matter which option you choose, the pension will be paid to you for your lifetime? Your choice will determine the benefits payable, if any, to your spouse and/or beneficiaries following your death.

To know more about the different pension options and benefits payable following your death, read the Steps to Retirement guide and Plan Member guide available on [ATRF.com](http://ATRF.com).

# We're Here for You...

## Personal Interviews

Personal interviews are for plan members who want more information about their pension benefits or would like some one-on-one assistance planning their retirement.

The ATRF Office is on the 6th floor of Barnett House in Edmonton and is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday all year round. Call to arrange an appointment to meet with one of our Pension Counsellors.

ATRF Counsellors are also proud to serve plan members throughout Alberta at various times of the year. Visit [ATRF.com](http://ATRF.com) and click on **Meet with Us** for a schedule of available appointments and to register to meet with a Pension Counsellor. The schedule is updated regularly with new locations and availabilities.

ATRF Counsellors met with over 1,880 plan members last year!

## By Phone or Email

Last year, ATRF staff responded to over 34,000 phone calls and more than 3,400 emails. This is a very efficient way to obtain information about your pension without leaving the comfort of your own home or office.

## Request an Estimate

Interested in seeing what kind of pension you can look forward to in retirement? Request a pension estimate to help you with your retirement planning. A quick phone call or email is all it takes to get the information you are seeking. A total of 47,805 pension estimates were prepared last year!

## Attend a Seminar

ATRF Pension Counsellors are also available to conduct seminars throughout Alberta. They can be held in conjunction with PD Days, staff meetings, or ATA Local meetings.

ATA Retirement Consultants also organize full day Pre-Retirement Workshops. They invite an ATRF Pension Counsellor to present the 'Steps to Retirement' seminar.

These seminars offer a great overview of how your pension works. They have been very successful in many locations and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming sessions.

### Signing up for *MyPension*:

*what it is and what's in it for you*

*MyPension* is the secure online account that gives you immediate access to all of your personalized pension plan information.

You can log in at any time to get your statement information, update any personal information without having to contact ATRF, and get estimates on how much pension you will receive based on your current service or a projected time frame.



**To sign up  
go to  
[ATRF.com](http://ATRF.com)**