Contribution Rates will be reduced in September 2016

Over the past several years, the Teachers’ Pension Plan has experienced very solid investment returns. Over the four years ended August 31, 2015 the Fund had earned an annualized average return of 12%. These strong returns resulted in a significant decrease in the unfunded liabilities of the Plan and a material improvement in the overall funded position.

As a result, contribution rates will be reduced effective September 1, 2016. Contributions for the Teachers' Pension Plan will be reduced by 1.48% of total teacher salaries; 0.78% for teachers and 0.70% for the Government of Alberta.

The table below shows the current rates and the rates commencing September 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teachers’ Pension Plan Contribution Rates (% of Salary)</th>
<th>Sept 2016</th>
<th>Sept 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Teacher Contribution</td>
<td>12.68</td>
<td>13.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary up to YMPE *</td>
<td>10.74</td>
<td>11.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary Above YMPE</td>
<td>15.34</td>
<td>16.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>11.95</td>
<td>12.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*YMPE is the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings used by the Canada Pension Plan ($54,900 in 2016).

What’s Happening at ATRF?

Requests For Substitute Service

When teachers retire, they have the option to purchase substitute service at a cost subsidized by the Government of Alberta. This accounts for the increase in requests for purchasable service information at this time of the year. ATRF may ask you for a letter confirming a breakdown by school year of substitute service prior to September 1, 1997.

ATRF-CS Training

If you need training on ATRF-CS for a new employee or a refresher, call or email your HelpDesk Representative to schedule a session. ATRF offers TeamViewer, a free and safe web based training tool. We can also arrange training at our office if a personal session is required.

New PC?

If you get a new computer, you may have to re-install your ATRF-CS software. Our IT team is willing to assist with these requests and to provide guidance to your IT team. Please contact your HelpDesk Representative to arrange for IT assistance.

Happy Retirement!

After 19 years of dedicated service to the teachers, employers and retired members of ATRF, on August 31, 2016, Peggy Corner - Vice President Pension Services will be retiring. Our Member Services Group wants to thank Peggy for her leadership, support and commitment to ATRF, and we wish her all the best in her retirement.
Employing Teachers Receiving an ATRF Pension

Our new .6 initiative was a big success! According to the legislation, when a retired member reaches the .6 limit his/her pension must be reduced dollar for dollar (without creating a negative balance) by the amount of salary earned after the limit is reached.

In the past, the adjustments were being made after each jurisdiction completed reporting for the year. However, this was not in compliance with the legislation and it was making the recovery of the overpayments very difficult. The legislation requires that the pension be reduced beginning in the month in which the limit is reached.

Each time your data is loaded into our system, a check is done to accumulate the retired member’s service for the school year. When a retired member has reached .4 of a year of service it triggers a request for an Employer Termination Notice (ERTN). We modified our systems to alert us when a retired member reaches the .6 limit. A process is started automatically to commence the adjustments.

Requesting ERTN’s for retired members allows us to obtain the data earlier in order to avoid having to do all the adjustments at once. It also allows us to warn the retired member ahead of time so that they are prepared for the reduction in pension.

This new process was implemented with great success as a result of your quick responses to our requests!

Special Codes for Working Retired Members

Just a reminder to use the following Special Codes in ATRF-CS when you are reporting working retired members:

- 50 – Superintendent and Pensioner
- 52 – Pensioner Temporary
- 53 – Substitute and Pensioner
- 55 - Pensioner
- 57 – Pensioner Central Office Fee Opt-Out
- 59 – Central Office Staff and Pensioner

June Retirements

The end of the school year also means June retirements.

May and June is when we receive the majority of pension applications. Before we can calculate the pension amounts, we need the final service and salary details and confirmation of the member’s termination date.

You will receive a letter from us requesting an Employer Termination Notice (ERTN). The quickest way to send this information to us is electronically through ATRF-CS. If you are aware of a teacher retiring at the end of the school year, you can submit an ERTN with the employee’s final details before we request it. This will assist us in getting their pension information out to them even sooner.

ATRF is open all summer
Monday to Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Telephone: 780 451-4166
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Fax: 780 452-3547
Website: www.atrf.com
Email: helpdesk@atrf.com