

NOVA SCOTIA PLAN MEMBER ADDITIONAL DETAILS

MEMBER BENEFIT INFORMATION

1. What Can You Withdraw From the Plan?

Pursuant to pension standards legislation, contributions and investment earnings become, with exception, “vested” and “locked-in”.

“**Vested**” refers to employer contributions, and investment earnings generated by those contributions, and means that they belong to you.

“**Locked-in**” means that contributions, and investment earnings generated by those contributions, must be used to provide a retirement income. When something is “locked-in”, it cannot be cashed out.

The contributions your employer makes on your behalf, and investment earnings generated by those contributions, are vested and locked-in as soon as they are made. Your contributions, other than additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) (if your Plan allows for it) are also vested and locked-in as soon as they are made.

2. What Happens When You Terminate Employment?

When you terminate employment, all contributions will cease and you will be entitled to your vested Plan account balances. You will be provided with a package setting out certain options.

Your options are different depending on whether you terminate employment before or after a “retirement date”. The Plan contains two retirement dates – the “**Normal Retirement Date**” is the date of your 65th birthday, and the “**Early Retirement Date**” is your 55th birthday.

If you do not elect to transfer your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it), a life annuity will be purchased for you. For more information on life annuities, please see **Appendix A – Annuities**.

Termination Before the Early Retirement Date

If you terminate employment before age 55:

1. You may transfer your vested Plan account balances [other than your AVCs] to your new employer’s RPP, if that plan accepts such transfers, or to a locked-in retirement account (LIRA).
2. You may use your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to purchase a deferred life annuity.
3. You may transfer your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to an RRSP or a RRIF, otherwise they will be cashed out to you.

Termination After the Early Retirement Date and Before the Normal Retirement Date

If you terminate employment on or after age 55 and before age 65:

1. You may transfer your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to your new employer's RPP, if that plan accepts such transfers, or to a LIRA or a life income fund (LIF).
2. You may use your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to purchase a life annuity.
3. You may transfer your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to an RRSP or a RRIF, otherwise they will be cashed out to you.

Termination After the Normal Retirement Date

If you continue to be employed (and therefore participate in the Plan) beyond age 65, all contributions will cease when you reach age 71. You will then be provided with a package setting out certain options as if you had terminated employment.

1. If you are not yet age 71, you may transfer your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to your new employer's RPP, if that plan accepts such transfers, or to a LIRA or a LIF.
2. If you are age 71, you may transfer your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to a LIF.
3. You may use your vested Plan account balances, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to purchase an immediate life annuity.
4. If you are not yet age 71, you may transfer your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to an RRSP or a RRIF, otherwise they will be cashed out to you. If you are age 71, you may transfer your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) to a RRIF, otherwise they will be cashed out to you.

3. *Who is Your Spouse and Designated Beneficiary?*

Your "**Spouse**" is a person who:

- is married to you (even if the marriage that is voidable as long as it has not been annulled),
- has gone through a form of marriage with you, in good faith, that is void, and you are cohabiting or, if you have ceased to cohabit, have cohabited within the twelve month period preceding the date of entitlement,
- is your domestic partner within the meaning of the *Vital Statistics Act* of Nova Scotia, or
- is not married to you and has cohabited with you in a conjugal relationship for a period of at least three years if either of you is married, or for a period of at least one year if neither of you is married.

A "**Beneficiary**" is a person that you designate on a form provided to you for that purpose.

You do not need to designate your Spouse in order for your Spouse to have entitlements, unless your Spouse has waived his/her rights or you and your Spouse are living separate and apart.

DEATH BENEFIT INFORMATION

1. *What Happens to Your Pension Entitlements When You Die?*

The Recipient of the Pre-Retirement Death Benefit

If you die before you terminate employment, or if you die after you terminate employment and before your Plan account balance has been transferred or used to purchase a life annuity, your Plan account balance will be paid out as a death benefit:

1. To your Spouse, if you have a Spouse from whom you are not living separate and apart and who has not waived his or her entitlement.
2. To your designated Beneficiary or beneficiaries, if you do not have a Spouse, or you have a Spouse from whom you are living separate and apart or who has waived his or her entitlement, and you have designated a Beneficiary or beneficiaries who survive you.
3. To your estate, if you do not have a Spouse, you have a Spouse from whom you are living separate and apart or who has waived his or her entitlement, or you have not designated a Beneficiary or beneficiaries or no designated Beneficiary survives you.

Depending on your circumstances, you and your Spouse may decide that you do not wish the pre-retirement death benefit to be paid to the Spouse. In that case, your Spouse may waive his or her entitlements.

The Form of Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Payment

The pre-retirement death benefit, other than your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) is payable:

1. If to your Spouse, in cash or transferred, as elected by your Spouse, to an RPP in which your Spouse participates if that plan accepts such transfers, to your Spouse's RRSP or RRIF, or used to purchase a locked-in life annuity for your Spouse.
2. If to a designated Beneficiary or to your estate, in cash.

Your AVCs (if your Plan allows for it) are payable:

1. If to your Spouse, in cash or transferred, as elected by your Spouse, to an RPP in which your Spouse participates if that plan accepts such transfers, to your Spouse's RRSP or RRIF, or used to purchase a life annuity for your Spouse.
2. If to a designated Beneficiary or to your estate, in cash.

The Post-Retirement Death Benefit

If a life annuity is purchased, it will be paid in the form selected from the annuity provider, subject to the requirement that it paid as a "60% joint and survivor" if you have a Spouse who does not waive his or her rights.

Upon the purchase of a life annuity, depending on your circumstances, you and your Spouse may decide that you do not wish your life annuity to be paid in the "60% joint and survivor" form. For example, if both you and your Spouse are of similar age, you are both members of an RPP which is likely to generate similar retirement income, and you are both planning to retire at the same time, you may decide that a joint and survivor form of annuity is not warranted. In that case, your Spouse may waive his or her entitlements. For more information on life annuities, please see **Appendix A – Life Annuities**.

UNLOCKING INFORMATION

1. Can Your Pension Entitlements Ever Be Unlocked?

You may receive your vested Plan account balance in cash in certain circumstances.

Small Amount

If you terminate employment and your vested Plan account balance is considered, at that time, to be a “small” amount, subject to the ITA, it is payable to you in cash or you can transfer it to an RRSP or RRIF. A “small” amount is a value of no more than 20% of the YMPE for the year in which you terminate employment.

Shortened Life Expectancy

If a written statement from a qualified medical practitioner is provided to the Administrator that you suffer from a mental or physical illness that is likely to considerably shorten your life, subject to the ITA, your vested Plan account balance is payable to you in cash or you can transfer it to an RRSP or RRIF.

Other Unlockings

If you cease to be a Canadian resident after terminating employment and have not been a Canadian resident for at least two years, subject to your Spouse’s consent, a certification from the Canada Revenue Agency, and the ITA, your vested Plan account balance is payable to you in cash or you can transfer it to an RRSP or RRIF.

For reference, please visit [Pension regulation - Government of Nova Scotia](#)