

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

February 16, 2024 and March 7 – 8, 2024

Victoria, B.C.

The *Meeting Highlights* document is a summary of issues that were considered, or decisions that were made, by the College Pension Board of Trustees (the Board) at its quarterly meeting.

Please note that the official Board *Minutes* record the business conducted by the Board and its decisions. If there are any discrepancies between the *Meeting Highlights* and the official Board *Minutes*, the official Board *Minutes* shall govern. Disclosure of any documents referred to in the *Meeting Highlights* or the official Board *Minutes* is subject to applicable Board policy and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

**Pension Board Matters***Trustee Appointments*

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the [College Pension Plan Joint Trust Agreement](#) for three-year terms and are eligible for re-appointment to successive terms. There are ten trustees appointed by the plan partners. For a list of trustees see [About us Who we are > College Pension Plan > Board Trustees](#) on the College Pension Plan website at [college.pensionsbc.ca](http://college.pensionsbc.ca).

Diane Lianga was re-appointed for a three-year term, from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2027.

*Board Budget*

The Board approved a budget allocation of up to \$1,204,073 for Board expenses, Pension Board Secretariat operating costs, consulting, and other costs for the year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

*2025 Meeting Dates*

The Board approved its quarterly meeting dates for 2025 as:

- Friday, February 14, 2025 – Financial Statements (virtual meeting)
- Thursday and Friday, March 6 and 7, 2025
- Thursday and Friday, June 12 and 13, 2025
- Thursday and Friday, September 11 and 12, 2025
- Thursday and Friday, December 4 and 5, 2025

## *Education*

The Board received an education session on Advancing Reconciliation for Trustee Boards.

## **Reports from Service Providers**

Pension plan administration services are provided by the BC Pension Corporation (Corporation) and investment management services are provided by the BC Investment Management Corporation (BCI) on behalf of the Board. The voluntary unsubsidized post-retirement group benefits plans are provided by Green Shield Canada (GSC).

### *A. Plan Administration – Report from the Corporation*

Pension Corporation provided its quarterly report: *Being productive and providing flexibility* and reported on how the Corporation is working to strengthen quality and efficiency, elevate the member and employer experience, proactively support the evolving needs of the plan, and improve information technology. Highlights included expanded access to online retirement, launch of pilot to offer evening retirement planning appointments, support for member engagement on post-retirement group benefits survey, and implementation of a new cloud-based internet security solution to protect against cyber threats.

### *Administration Services Budget*

The Board approved the service cost allocation of \$5,212,000 for the administration of the College Pension Plan for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, plus a variance tolerance of up to \$52,000 and net GST of \$174,000 for a total of \$5,438,000.

### *B. Plan Investment – Report from BCI*

#### *Management Fees*

The Board approved investment management fees of up to \$36.5 million, excluding external indirect costs, for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

## Investment Returns

The Board reviewed the investment strategy and risk update and the plan's investment performance with BCI. The market value of the fund as at December 31, 2023, was \$7.31 billion. The annualized rate of return for the period ending December 31, 2023, is as follows:

Period ending <b>DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>5 years</b>	<b>10 years</b>
<b>COLLEGE PENSION PLAN PORTFOLIO RETURN</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>BENCHMARK RETURN</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>RETURN OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

The benchmark return is a standard set by the Board to measure BCI's performance relative to the market. The return objective is the expected rate of return assumed by the Plan Actuary in the actuarial valuation of the Plan. While the one-year return as at December 31, 2023 lags behind the benchmark return, it is above the return objective.

The Board takes a long-term approach to investing. While the Plan may or may not outperform its benchmark in a given year, its performance over a longer period that matters. After all, pension benefits are long-term in nature. Over longer periods such as five or ten years, the average return earned by the fund has been above both the benchmark and the return objective.

The Board also received reports on investment strategy and risk, economic and market updates, and information on the plan's performance.

A summary of the pension fund's [investment portfolio performance](#) history is provided under About us > Investments > Portfolio performance on the College Pension Plan Website at [college.pensionsbc.ca](http://college.pensionsbc.ca).

Information on BCI's ESG approach and responsible investing is available on the BCI website at [bci.ca/approach/esg](http://bci.ca/approach/esg).

### C. *Post-Retirement Group Benefits Administration*

The Board received information on the Canadian Dental Care Plan including updates related to eligibility for retired members.

## Committees

The Board has three standing committees: Benefits, Governance, and Communications.

### A. *Benefits Committee*

The Board approved letters consulting the plan partners and the Association of College Pension Plan Retirees (CPPR) on funding issues related to the Inflation Adjustment Account (IAA).

The Board also approved the contribution rates for the Simon Fraser University Teaching Support Staff Union (SFU TSSU).

The Board approved amendments to the Group Disability Plan Approval Criteria.

### B. *Governance Committee*

The Board approved updates to Board Operational Policies, including the Prospective Trustee Observer and Trustee Equipment Expense Policy.

Board policies are available on the plan website:

<https://college.pensionsbc.ca/board-policies>.

### C. *Communications Committee*

The Board approved, in principle, and delegated final approval to the Communications Committee for the publication and distribution of the *College Pension Plan 2023 Annual Report*.

The report will be available in May under “[About us > Reports > Annual Report](#)” on the College Pension Plan website at [college.pensionsbc.ca](https://college.pensionsbc.ca).

The Board also approved extension of the *Communications Strategy 2022-2024* by one year to the end of 2025, with an annual check-in occurring in fall 2024.

## Interplan Committees

College Pension Plan trustees represent the Board on the Interplan Audit Committee and Interplan Trustee Education Committee with the other three BC public sector pension plan boards (Public Service, Teachers’, and Municipal Pension Boards of Trustees), and represent the Board on the Interplan Investment Committee in collaboration with trustees representing the Public Service and Teachers’ Pension Boards.

### A. *Audit Committee*

The Board approved the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, for inclusion in the *2023 Annual Report*, at its meeting of February 16, 2024, for this purpose.

The Board appointed KPMG as its auditors to conduct the audit of the College Pension Plan financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2024, at a cost of \$52,965.

*B. Trustee Education Committee*

The Board approved recommended amendments to the Interplan Trustee Education Committee mandate.

*C. Investment Committee*

There were no items to report this period.

*D. Other Committees*

There were no other items to report for the period.

### **Future Board Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the College Pension Board of Trustees will take place on Thursday and Friday, June 13 and 14, 2024.

### **College Pension Plan Website**

The College Pension Plan website is located at [college.pensionsbc.ca](http://college.pensionsbc.ca). The website contains valuable information about various aspects of the Plan. Among other things, the website provides members with the ability to complete certain tasks online (i.e.: nominate a beneficiary, change an address, make a pension estimate or retire), and provides search functionality.

Also, found on the website are many of the Board's governance policies and documents. They can be found in the [About us](#) section (policies are under [About us > Who we are > College Pension Plan](#)). The web content is updated regularly, and we encourage you to visit the website to learn more.

During the quarter, the following new items were published on the website:

1. [2023 Report to Members](#)
2. [Pension Life – Winter 2024 Newsletter](#)
3. [Board Meeting Highlights – November 30 - December 1, 2023](#)
4. [Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures](#)
5. [College Pension Plan Rules](#)

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