

# TOOLS

ENHANCE YOUR ONLINE EXPERIENCE



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# You've got the power

Imagine taking a sneak peek at your retirement future while waiting for your next class. Or learning how to buy back service to maximize your pension after taking a leave of absence—all while commuting to work on the bus. Or even planning for the biggest life transition you'll ever make in the comfort and safety of your home. With My Account, your portal to your pension, you can do all this and more—anytime and anywhere.

# It's fast, it's easy, it's all online.

Six things you can do at [myaccount.pensionsbc.ca](https://myaccount.pensionsbc.ca)

## 1. Estimate your pension to help make decisions

Are you sitting on the fence about when you will retire, wondering if your pension income will be enough? My Account can do some of the thinking for you to help ease your mind. Try the personalized pension estimator: enter your current and future age and years of service to compare various pension options and monthly payment estimates.

You can even enter different retirement dates and see how working longer—or retiring earlier—will affect your pension.

## 2. Update your spousal information

It's important to add your spouse to My Account and to keep their information up to date. This will make your retirement process go more smoothly. You'll need to provide your spouse's date of birth and a piece of identification, such as a driver's licence. If you're married, you can use a marriage certificate if it includes a date of birth. (Of course, you can also update your own information in My Account, including your name, address and phone number.)

## 3. Take the first big step toward retirement

Ready to retire? With My Account, you can start the ball rolling at your own pace, from wherever you want and whenever you want. You can complete your retirement application in My Account as early as 90 days before the date you want your pension to begin.

## 4. Name a beneficiary and protect your loved ones

Your spouse is automatically your sole beneficiary unless they waive their right to your pension. You should, however, use My Account to name alternate beneficiaries. By naming alternate beneficiaries, you will protect your loved ones in case your spouse dies before you.

If you do not have a spouse, or if your spouse has waived their right to your pension, your beneficiary is automatically your estate unless you assign an alternate beneficiary through My Account. That beneficiary doesn't have to be a person—it can be, for example, a charitable organization. It's up to you.

## 5. Add to your pension by buying service

Back at work and busy after a leave of absence? While your pension might not be top of mind at the moment, now is a great time to learn how to maximize your future pension by buying back service for the time you were away. Sign in to My Account to run an estimate to determine the cost of buying back your service and the potential future benefit.

## 6. View your Member's Benefit Statement

Making some decisions about your future finances? Each year, the plan provides you a copy of your *Member's Benefit Statement (MBS)*—a snapshot in time that shows estimates of your monthly pension in retirement. For your convenience, your MBS is also available on My Account along with all your previous statements. You can view it anywhere, such as your bank or financial advisor's office.



### **Attend a workshop**

*Maximize your pension by understanding how the decisions you make throughout your career can affect your pension when you retire. Our workshops are held at various locations across BC.*

**Register online through My Account.**

Cover and facing page: Grant Eveneshen, Heavy Mechanical Trades instructor at College of New Caledonia in Prince George, with the Consulab Heavy Vehicle Lighting System Trainer.

# Valuation lights up at 106.1 per cent

With a surplus of more than \$300 million, your plan is healthy and has the funds to pay for all pensions now and into the future.

# Valuation signals strong financial position

## A message from the trustees

Great news! Your College Pension Plan's (plan's) most recent valuation shows the plan has a surplus of more than \$300 million, measured as at August 31, 2018. This means the money available for current and future pensions exceeds the projected costs of paying for those pensions. The plan's funding ratio of 106.1 per cent is based on actuarial assets of \$5.2 billion and actuarial liabilities of \$4.9 billion.

### What is the plan going to do with the surplus?

When there is a valuation surplus, we, the College Pension Board of Trustees, use the College Pension Plan Joint Trust Agreement (JTA) to guide our decisions in the use of that surplus.

The JTA is established by the plan partners: the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, the BC Government and Services Employees' Union, the Post-Secondary Employers' Association and the Government of BC. The JTA serves as a governance framework, giving us guidelines on how to manage the plan.

As we announced last year, we are carefully examining the options available to us under the JTA, and we are consulting with the plan partners. It is important that whatever decision we make be sustainable and equitable to all members and employers.

We will notify members and employers when a decision has been made on the use of the surplus.

### Why is there a surplus?

The surplus is mainly the result of investment returns being higher than expected.

### What is a valuation and why is it important?

At least every three years, an independent actuary performs a valuation. (An actuary is a professional with specialized knowledge in finance, statistics and risk theory.) The valuation helps us assess the financial position of the plan and its funding requirements so we can ensure there are enough funds available for the current and future pensions of all members, whether those members are active, inactive or retired.

Getting a regular valuation checkup is just one of the steps we take to ensure the plan maintains its value and remains healthy and sustainable.

To read the full valuation report, visit the *Reports* page under *About us* on the plan website.



### Learn online

Get an introduction to the value and advantages of plan membership in the **free online learning** course *Getting to Know Your Pension*.

# Plan membership and performance

All figures unaudited; all dates as at August 31, 2019, unless otherwise stated

Year at a glance (\$ millions)



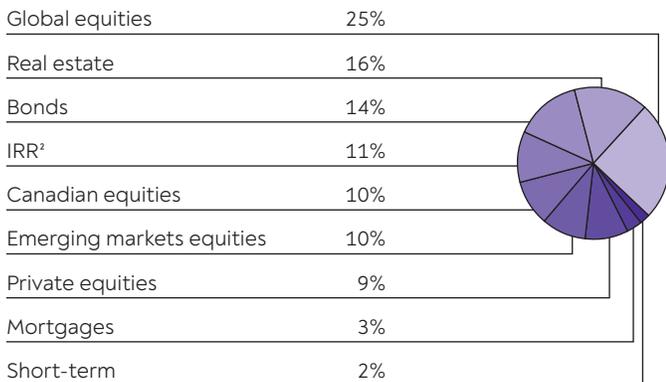
The numbers listed here are unaudited. For full audited information, see the plan website for the annual report, available in May 2020.

On the website, you can also view the College Pension Plan Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures.

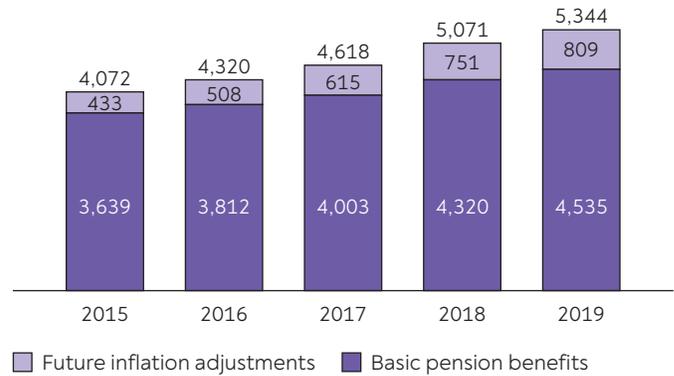
Investment and administration costs<sup>1</sup> (% net assets)

Investment management 0.32  
Benefit administration 0.09

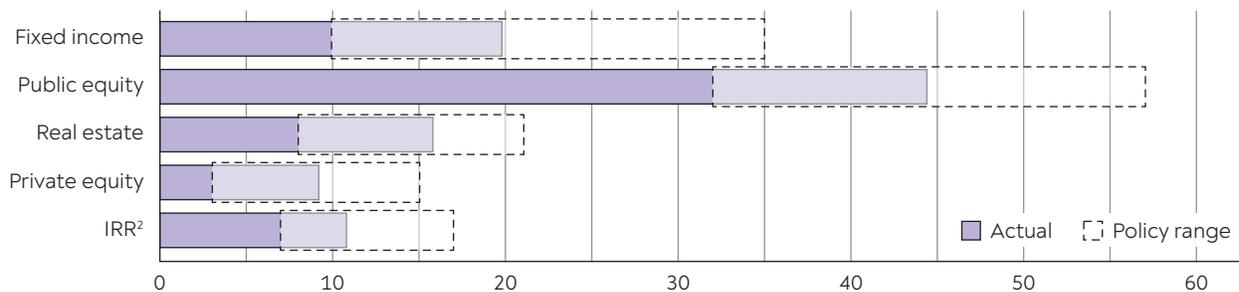
## Investment holdings



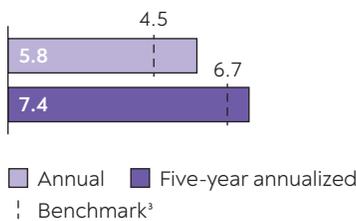
## Net assets available for benefits (\$ millions) as at August 31



## Approved asset range (%)



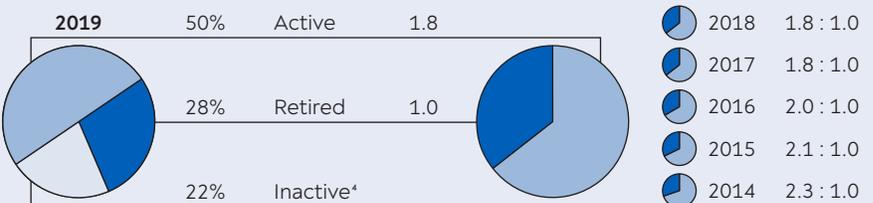
## Return on investments (%)



## Membership

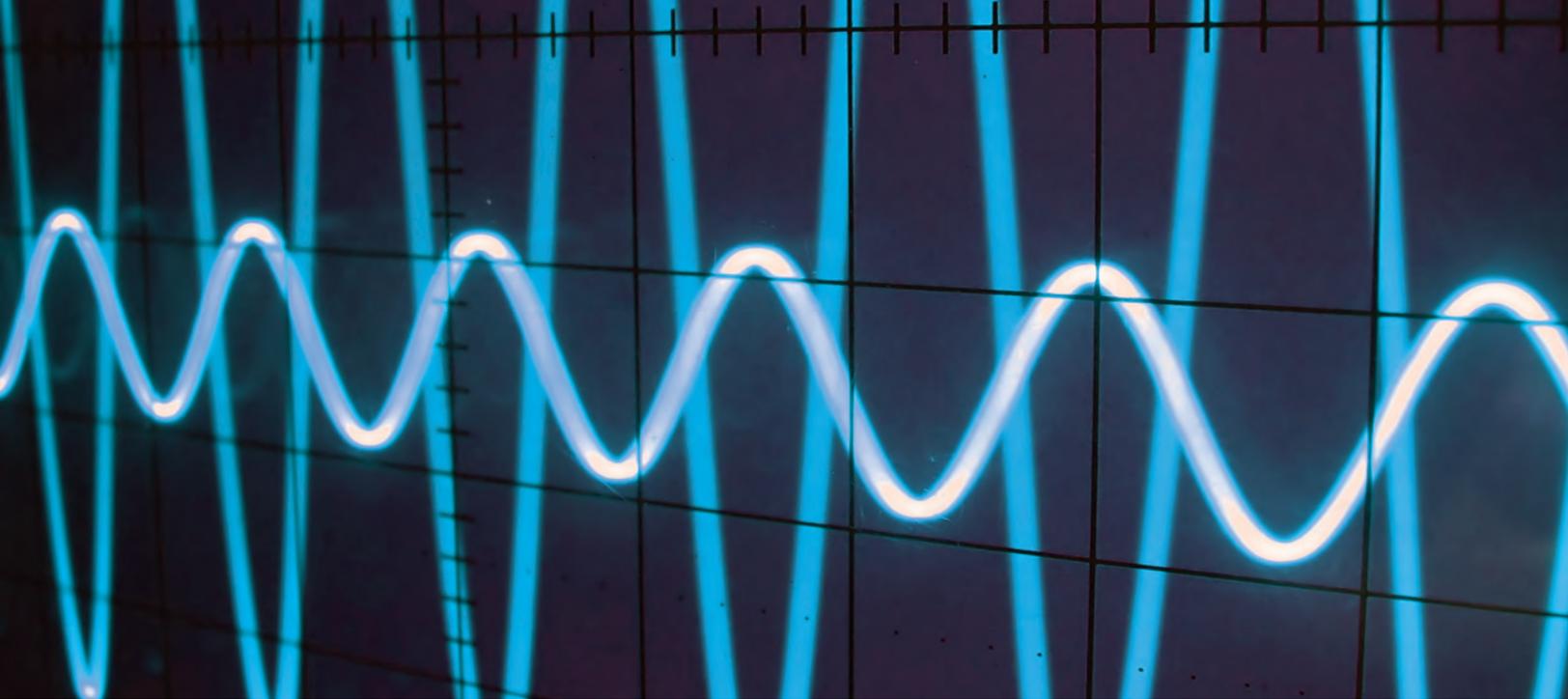
Profile (total 30,050)

Ratio of active to retired



1 Unallocated and external investment management costs of \$7.7 million reduce investment income and are not included in investment and administration costs; they are included in investment management costs as a percentage of net assets  
2 Infrastructure and renewable resources

3 Benchmarks are standards to compare against actual investment returns  
4 Those who have terminated employment but left contributions on deposit in the plan; they may be eligible for a pension in the future



# Optimizing the plan

## Plan rule updates

The following plan rule updates were made effective in 2018, 2019 or 2020.

### Better inflation protection

To strengthen the inflation adjustment account (IAA), member and employer contribution rates increased \$0.90 each for every \$1,000 of salary earned, effective April 1, 2019.

Member and employer contributions, along with investment income, fund the IAA, which is used to pay for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retired members. Yearly contribution increases will continue until the IAA is sufficiently funded for retired members to receive full and ongoing cost-of-living indexing.

COLAs are not guaranteed; however, once granted, they become part of your guaranteed lifetime pension. For more information about COLAs, visit the plan website.

### Employment Standards Act and Medical Services Plan amendments

The plan updated its rules twice to reflect two changes to the provincial *Employment Standards Act*. Both updates included new and expanded types of approved leaves for employees. The first update was approved on December 11, 2018 (retroactive to May 17, 2018), and the second on December 12, 2019 (retroactive to May 30, 2019). Under these updates, members taking a leave of absence due to domestic or sexual violence, a family member with critical illness or injury, or the death or disappearance of a child now have the ability to buy service for the time they were on leave.

The rules were also updated to address the elimination of provincial Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums, removing references to MSP from the post-retirement group benefit rules on June 21, 2019, with an effective date of January 1, 2020.

### Administrative amendments

Effective December 11, 2018, plan rule terminology was amended to ensure consistent use and compliance with the BC *Pension Benefits Standards Act*.

# Planning made easy.

your pension online.  
anytime.

Update your personal information, securely send and receive messages using Message Centre, name a beneficiary, calculate a pension estimate, and apply for your pension ... all in one place.

[myaccount.pensionsbc.ca](http://myaccount.pensionsbc.ca)



Bruce Hamilton, College Pension Plan member

[college.pensionsbc.ca](http://college.pensionsbc.ca)

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