



Meeting Highlights September 27, 2023 and November 22 and 23, 2023

Meeting Highlights¹ is a summary of issues considered or decisions made by the Municipal Pension Board of Trustees (board) at its latest board meetings.

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¹ Please note: the official Board Minutes record the business conducted by the Municipal Pension Board of Trustees 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 document referred to in the Meeting Highlights or the official Board Minutes is subject to applicable board policies.

Items of note

Executive Director Appointment

The board approved the appointment of Chelsea Kittleson as the executive director of the Municipal Pension Plan, replacing Judy Payne, who is retiring after serving as the executive director since 2014. Chelsea's appointment was announced through a [board communique](#), available on the plan website.

The board also approved Chelsea Kittleson's appointment as the Municipal Pension Plan's representative on the Canadian Public Pension Leadership Council board, rescinding Judy Payne's appointment, effective December 1, 2023.

Trustee Appointments

Donna Lommer will be chair of the board in 2024. Gary Yee was elected vice chair for 2024 and will be chair in 2025.

The board welcomed new trustees Amy Miller and Todd Schierling, replacing Lucas Corwin and Robert Weeks.

The board appointed Chris Rathbone as a director to the BC Pension Corporation pension management board, effective September 27, 2023, replacing Lucas Corwin, and reappointed Gary Yee to the pension management board for another three-year term.

Various trustee appointments and reappointments to the board and committees occurred. More information about the trustees and their appointments can be found on the plan website at mpp.pensionsbc.ca. Click About us > Who we are > [Municipal Pension Plan](#).

2024 Cost-of-Living Adjustment

The board approved a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to regular pensions in pay of 3.8 per cent, effective January 1, 2024. This is the equivalent to the increase in the Canadian consumer price index (CPI) between September 2022 and September 2023.

Annual General Meeting

The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 12, 2023 via webcast. The webcast had over 350 virtual attendees.

Gary Yee, board chair, welcomed attendees to the plan's fourth virtual AGM. Presentations regarding 2022 financial highlights, the board's path to net-zero, investments, the Municipal Retiree Benefit Trust, and what's ahead were delivered, followed by a question and answer session.

A recording of the AGM webcast is available on the plan website [here](#).

The 2024 AGM will be held virtually on October 17, 2024.

Reports from service providers

Administration services are provided by BC Pension Corporation, and investment services are provided by BC Investment Management Corporation. Both agents report to the board at each regular board meeting.

Plan administration – report from BC Pension Corporation

The board received a report from the BC Pension Corporation regarding recent operational activities, including employer portal and website enhancements, the launch of a new online request tracking system for members, as well as an enhancement to My Account enabling members with a marital breakdown claim to use the personalized pension estimator.

Plan investments – report from BC Investment Management Corporation

The board received the pension fund performance and strategy report as at June 30, 2023. The market value of the Municipal Pension Fund as at June 30, 2023 was \$73.5 billion. The annualized return for the total plan fund over the five years ended June 30, 2023 was 6.79 per cent, compared to the benchmark of 5.77 per cent.

The board also received a report from BCI regarding recent organizational developments and an update regarding BCI's business planning for fiscal year 2025-2027.

More information about Municipal Pension Plan investments can be found on the plan website at mpp.pensionsbc.ca. Click About us > [Investments](#).

Committee reports

The board has four standing committees (Benefits, Communications and Advocacy, Governance, Investment and Valuation) and an Appeals Panel.

A. Benefits, Communications and Advocacy Committee

The board approved one new employer application and two employer withdrawal applications.

The board approved its Communications Strategy 2024-2026, which supports the board's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

The board approved amendment no. 61 to the plan rules regarding removal of the excess investment return transfer provision and various housekeeping amendments.

B. Governance Committee

The board approved a budget of \$3.7 million and \$1.7 million for board operations and board office services, respectively, for the fiscal period January 1 to December 31, 2024.

The board approved the *Pension Benefits Standards Act* (PBSA) Triennial Plan Assessment Report for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022.

C. Investment Committee

In accordance with the board's Guidelines for Signing onto Investor Statements and Letters, the board chair approved signing onto the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) coordinated [statement](#) regarding the International Sustainability Standards Board's climate-related reporting at a global level.

D. Valuation Committee

The board approved revisions to the Funding Policy, establishing a funding policy target to the Inflation Adjustment Account (IAA), eliminating excess investment return transfers and incorporating other housekeeping amendments.

In accordance with the Joint Trust Agreement, the board approved transferring \$40 million of employer contributions that would otherwise go to the IAA to the Municipal Retiree Benefit Trust by December 31, 2023, and \$10 million by December 31, 2024, implementing the plan partners' direction to provide additional funding to the MRBT.

The board approved extending the board's contract with Eckler Ltd., for another three-year term.

E. Appeals Panel

The Appeals Panel (panel) met on July 25, 2023 and October 10, 2023, hearing three appeals. The panel confirmed that the plan rules were correctly applied by the plan administrative agent in denying one appellant's request to collect the commuted value amount quoted in a termination selection statement returned outside the guarantee period; another appellant's request to backdate their pension effective date; and the third appellant's request to reinstate a period of former service and purchase a period of non-contributory service.

Interplan committee reports

Municipal plan trustees also represent the board on two standing interplan committees with the other BC public sector pension plan boards (College, Public Service and Teachers' pension boards of trustees); the Interplan Audit and Interplan Trustee Education committees.

F. Interplan Audit Committee

The Interplan Audit Committee helps the four public sector pension boards meet their duties regarding financial administration of the plans.

The board approved the Interplan Audit Committee's 2024-25 funding request to the four pension boards for professional and other expert resources, and for committee education. The amount is to be split equally between the four pension boards.

G. Interplan Trustee Education Committee

The Interplan Trustee Education Committee organizes the BC Public Sector Pension Conference (conference) and provides recommendations for updating the board's Trustee Orientation, Mentoring and Education Policy. The conference is an initiative of the College, Municipal, Public

Service and Teachers' pension boards and held annually to provide training and information of mutual interest to the four boards.

The Interplan Trustee Education Committee approved the dates and location for the 2025 conference.

Future board meeting dates

The next regular board meeting will take place March 13 and 14, 2024.

The next AGM will be held virtually on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Visit the plan website at mpp.pensionsbc.ca for updates on how to participate. Click About us > Who we are > Municipal Pension Plan > [Annual general meeting](#).

Coming up

Issues for board consideration at future meetings include:

- Initiatives related to implementation of [Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#)

For comments or questions regarding this report, please contact the Municipal Pension Board of Trustees:

Phone	250 356-6220
Email	MPBT@pensionsbc.ca
Mail	PO Box 9460, Victoria, BC V8W 9V8