



Mepp Matters

MEPP solvency above 100%!

The December 31, 2021 Valuation Report has been approved by the Municipal Employees' Pension Commission (MEPC) and filed with the Financial Consumer Affairs Authority (FCAA).

The results are in! The Commission is pleased to report the Municipal Employees' Pension Plan (MEPP) is very healthy and showed some good gains in 2021. The actuarial value of assets increased to \$3,202.0 million from last year's \$2,925.9 million. Contribution rates will remain stable and all pensions will continue to be paid in full.

↑ Assets
\$3,202.0 M

↑ Solvency
109.0%

↑ Going Concern
110.8%

The health of the Plan is measured by the solvency ratio and the going-concern funding status. The solvency ratio has increased from last year's 95.2 per cent to 109.0 per cent. Because solvency is greater than 100 per cent MEPP is now solvent. The Plan would have enough assets to pay the liabilities if it were to close on the valuation date. This is the first time since 2006 that MEPP has been in a solvent position.

The going-concern funded status increased to 110.8 per cent (with margins) from the previous year's filing of 100.0 per cent (with margins). The going-concern results determine whether the Plan has the resources needed to continue to operate into the foreseeable future.

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Great news – No more holdbacks!

The Plan is greater than 100 per cent solvent. There is no longer a deficiency, nor the requirement for holdbacks on payouts of commuted values. As of October 1, 2022, the holdback rate is 0.0 per cent.

MEPP will payout all existing holdbacks by December 31, 2022.

World-wide paper shortage

There is a lingering world-wide paper shortage since COVID-19. It caused a dramatic increase in the price of wood, supply chain issues, increased transportation costs and job losses.

We are encouraging all members to send us their email addresses so we can begin the switch to digital documents and do our part to save some paper.

Once you provide your email we will:

- keep you up to date on Plan news regardless of where you are;
- give you advance registration options for MEPP workshops in your area;
- send you advance notice when the newsletter is available for viewing online - no more paper piling up on your counter or in the landfill; and
- offer you the security that we have another way to contact you if necessary.

Share your email address with us by phone or email it to mepp@peba.gov.sk.ca. Please include your member number (shown on your member statement) in the body of the message. Use the subject line 'email for digital notifications.'

As the administrator of your pension plan, we promise to only use your email address to send you information about your plan.

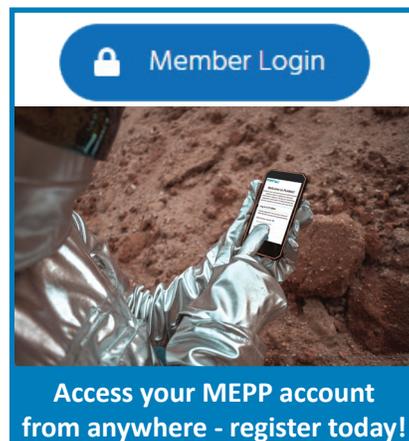
If every member supplied their email for digital documents/ notifications, your Plan and the planet would save about 1,200 pounds of stationery per year and more than \$80,000 in postage costs. Please consider sharing your email and starting the switch to digital documents.



MEPP solvency... continued

Last year's going-concern status reported to members was 123.4 per cent (without margins). For consistency and ease of understanding, the Commission will now report the going-concern status to members using margins. This is the method we are required to use when filing the valuation report with the FCAA. Margins are required by the FCAA to provide additional benefit security.

The Commission uses actuarial valuations to assess the financial health of the Plan. Valuations are performed every year. Every three years the valuation results are required to be filed with the FCAA. MEPP goes above the required standard and files a valuation nearly every year. The December 31, 2021 Actuarial Valuation report is available on our website under About the Fund/Reporting.



Check your address

Member statements will be mailed in the next few months.

If you are an **active** member you can check your address and update it if necessary by signing into your account. Click on the  button on the MEPP homepage and register by entering your member number, birthdate and home postal code.

Once registered you will have unlimited online access to your MEPP account!

One step closer to not-for-profit corporation

In May the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) announced a plan to transition to a not-for-profit corporation to better serve plan members and employers. Announcements to plan members went out in newsletters, plan websites, and social media.



Ashley Stradeski, MEPC Chair

"This will open the door to improvements in our organizational performance. It creates the potential for lower investment costs and for new services for our members," said Ashley Stradeski, MEPC Chair.

The not-for-profit structure offers many benefits including:

- clearer accountability to members through the Commission;
- more flexibility for recruiting and retaining talent in key areas such as investment and pension management to help ensure sound fund management;
- potential to lower investment management costs; and
- more flexibility to offer innovative products and services to members.

The two largest plans administered by PEBA – MEPP and the Public Employees Pension Plan (PEPP), initiated this legislative change. The two plans will jointly control the new not-for-profit corporation.

The Commission has been a steadfast guiding force for MEPP. It is dedicated to serving its members and very excited about this change to the operating structure.

Currently, PEBA is a provincial government agency operating under the Ministry of Finance. It serves more than 900 employers and 100,000 members and manages 12 public sector pension plans (including MEPP) and 13 benefits plans on behalf of public sector employers. PEBA will continue to be based in Regina.

If you have any questions, please visit our website or contact us for more information.

Ohhhhh, the jargon!



The whole concept of pensions can be confusing, let alone all the jargon that's used. Let's try to simplify some of it starting with a few of the first terms you may hear.

Non-vested You are *non-vested* if you have less than two years of employment with a MEPP employer. Non-vested members receive their contributions and interest at termination.

Vested You become vested *after* two years of employment with a MEPP employer. Being vested means you are entitled to receive a pension from the Plan.

Locked in Once you are vested your funds become locked in the Plan. This means the value of your pension must be used for income at retirement. Vesting and locking in happens at the same time.

To understand how these terms impact you when you stop working, please review the *Termination Options* in the Understand Your Pension section of the website. Look for more MEPP jargon explanations in coming issues.

November is Financial Literacy Month

We're excited to celebrate Financial Literacy Month with you. The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada has been supporting initiatives to build financial literacy among all Canadians. This year's theme is [Make Change that Counts: Managing Your Money in a Changing World](#).

Throughout November, we'll be sharing financial literacy tips to help you make the most of your hard earned money. Be sure to read the Insights section on the MEPP website. As well, follow us on Facebook (MEPP.Canada) and Twitter (@MEPP_DC) for financial tips and resources you can use.



It doesn't matter whether you're just starting your career or nearing retirement, financial literacy can lead to better financial decisions – so you can stress less and achieve more.

Workshop webinars

The *Your Path to Retirement* workshops are now in live and virtual formats.

Check the website or log in to your account for a complete listing of all in-person and virtual dates and times.

In-person Workshops for Fall 2022		
PREPARE – full day	Nov. 17 – 8:30 – 4:30	Saskatoon
PREPARE – full day	Dec. 8 – 8:30 – 4:30	Regina
PREPARE – full day	Dec. 13 – 8:30 – 4:30	Saskatoon
PREPARE – full day	Jan. 12 – 8:30 – 4:30	Saskatoon
PREPARE – full day	Jan. 18 – 8:30 – 4:30	North Battleford

Register at: <https://mepp.peba.ca/learning-events/webinars>

Your MEPP Commission Members

	Appointed by...
Ashley Stradeski, Chair	Cities of Estevan, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Swift Current and Yorkton
Janice Wolfmueller, Vice-Chair	Saskatchewan locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
Richard Beck	Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA)
Joe Couture	Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA).
Mark Fedak	Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA)
Wendy Gowda	Rural Municipal Administrators' Association of Saskatchewan (RMAA)
Evan Handley	Firefighters and police officers
Beverley Lawreniuk	Eight regional colleges and seven regional libraries
Glenda Lemcke	Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS)
Bob Moulding	Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)
Marney Robinson	Trade unions other than CUPE, police and fire unions
Rod Quinton	Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO)



Municipal Employees' Pension Plan
c/o - Public Employees Benefits Agency
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Regina SK S4P 4W3
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Toll Free: 1-877-506-6377
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